



**DARE TO DO MORE**

Dr. Gail O. Mellow has served as President of LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens since 2000. A member of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, LaGuardia is a recognized leader among community colleges for launching programs and teaching methods that have become pilots for the nation. An expert on the history, development and future of the American community college, Dr. Mellow co-authored *Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2nd ed. 2014) and the new book *Taking College Teaching Seriously: Pedagogy Matters!* (Stylus Publishing, 2015), which explores a groundbreaking digital model for improving faculty teaching to increase student success.

With over 30 years of experience in the field, Dr. Mellow is frequently sought as a commentator on the changing landscape of higher education, strategies for improving the nation's graduation rate and the role community colleges play in strengthening America's economy. She has been extensively quoted in a range of publications, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg Businessweek and The Washington Post and has appeared on national radio and television broadcasts on NPR, MSNBC and PBS.

A community college graduate, Dr. Mellow is ardent in her work to raise the profile of community colleges. Since she joined LaGuardia, the College has gained increasing recognition, including a series of three New York Times articles that shed critical light on all-too-common obstacles faced by community college students, administrators and faculty. Dr. Mellow received the 2017 TIAA Institute Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence. Named in honor of Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, the award, one of the most prestigious in academia, recognizes outstanding leadership on the part of a college president.

Under Dr. Mellow's leadership, over \$20 million in external funding through grants and contracts is secured each year for workforce development programs and initiatives that support at-risk students. The College was awarded a highly competitive First in the World grant by the U.S. Department of Education in 2014 and a \$3.9 million Tech Hire Initiative grant from the Department of Labor in 2016. LaGuardia was invited to be the anchor college for the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* initiative, which provides entrepreneurs and small businesses with education and resources designed to help them grow and thrive. The College has also received numerous federal and foundation grants to help other colleges incorporate student-developed electronic portfolios (e-Portfolio) into their curriculum as tools to assess learning over time. Non-credit programs at LaGuardia, ranging from high school equivalency preparation to English language programs, have garnered funding support and become national models.

Dr. Mellow pioneered work in developmental instruction methods as co-creator of Taking College Teaching Seriously, with support from the Kresge Foundation and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations. In October 2018, Faculty Guild announced that it had finalized a license with the LaGuardia Community College Foundation for exclusive rights to the research, methods, and other assets of the project and is seeking to bring this faculty development work to colleges nationwide.

In 2015 Dr. Mellow was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the New York City Economic Development Council. She currently serves on the boards of The American Council on Education, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences Commission on Post-Secondary Education, and Friends of the BQX and Change: *The Magazine of Higher Learning*.

Dr. Mellow received an A. A. from Jamestown Community College, a B.A. from SUNY Albany, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from George Washington University.

To learn more about Dr. Mellow, visit: [www.laguardia.edu/gailmellow](http://www.laguardia.edu/gailmellow)

---

**ADDRESS:** 31-10 Thomson Avenue  
Long Island City, NY 11101

**PHONE:** 718-482-7200  
**WEB:** [www.laguardia.edu](http://www.laguardia.edu)

