

January 17, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

A national search for the next President of LaGuardia Community College (LaGCC) has begun. A search committee has been established in accordance with the [CUNY Board of Trustees Presidential Search Guidelines](#). We want to thank the members of the committee who have agreed to take on this important role:

Honorable Charles Shorter, Trustee – Committee Chair  
Honorable Henry T. Berger, Trustee  
Honorable Michael Arvanites, Trustee  
Interim President Berenecea Johnson Eanes, York College/CUNY  
Dean John Mogulescu, CUNY School of Professional Studies  
Professor Vanessa M. Bing, Social Sciences/LaGCC  
Professor Milena Cuéllar, Mathematics/LaGCC  
Professor Gordon Tapper, English/LaGCC  
Ms. Cecilia Briones, Honorary Member, Board of Directors/LaGCC College Foundation  
Mr. Masis Viken Akdemir, President, Student Government Association/LaGCC  
Ms. Casey Larsen, Student Representative, College Senate/LaGCC  
Mr. Shamsul Haque, Alumni Representative

The committee will be assisted by Drs. Shirley Robinson Pippins and Virginia Horvath, Senior Consultants from the search firm Academic Search. Ms. Mahlet Tsegaye, Director of Executive Search/CUNY, will help facilitate the search. Mr. Robert Jaffe, Chief of Staff to the President at LaGCC will serve as the campus search liaison.

As a first step, we want to provide an opportunity for the entire LaGCC community to provide input. Therefore, we are asking the community to complete [this survey](#). Feedback from this survey will be used in the development of the position profile. An [announcement](#) preceding the full advertisement has been placed in various media outlets.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the Trustee members of the committee, Dr. Pippins, Dr. Horvath and members of my staff will be visiting the campus and meeting with various constituent groups. There will also be an open forum. Mr. Jaffe will provide the logistical details for that day when they are finalized. Once your input has been received and the advertisement and position profile have been distributed, the search committee, with the guidance of the search firm, will enter into a “quiet” phase of the search, and spend the better part of the spring semester reviewing credentials and interviewing candidates. In order to generate a strong and deep applicant pool, committee members will be asked to pledge total confidentiality.

We have every confidence that a diverse slate of many strong candidates will be interested in this position. Located in the nation's fastest-growing neighborhood - Long Island City, Queens - LaGuardia Community College is a nationally recognized expert at pioneering innovative programs and initiatives that are adopted by four-year institutions and small businesses alike. The college enrolls over 15,000 students in 60-credit degree programs and another 14,330 in 70 continuing education programs. A recent Stanford University study ranked LaGuardia fifth in the US of two-year colleges in economic mobility.

The college is at an exciting juncture. We look forward to recruiting a leader who will continue to move LaGuardia Community College to even greater success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Félix V. Matos Rodríguez', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Ph.D.  
Chancellor