New high school opens at college this fall

A new high school designed to combat the high dropout rate among non-English speaking youth was inaugurated at the college this fall.

"The college, in cooperation with the New York City Board of Education," said President Shenker, "will use both the college's ten-year experience with Middle College and our skills in teaching English to create a new kind of institution geared to serve immigrant children with major language skills problems."

The new high school, which is being called Middle College II until a more suitable name is selected, will combine techniques which have so successfully motivated students in its namesake institution with an academic program stressing language skills as the key to the mastery of the entire curriculum.

"The creation of this school," said Vice President Martin Moed, "recognizes that New York has become a truly international city. To meet this challenge, we want to replicate Middle College to serve a different kind of 'high risk' student."

To enable these students to succeed, class size will be limited to 20, and the normal school day eventually will be extended by two hours to permit students to participate in special enrichment programs, including school plays, a student newspaper and magazine, community history projects and volunteer public service internships.

The heart of the instructional program will be English language training introduced directly into the study plans of all content areas.

"Most high schools offer English as a second language training as a separate instructional period," said Ms. Cecilia Cullen, who serves as principal of both the new school and Middle College High School, "or they place students in bilingual programs where subjects are taught in the student's native language—with no emphasis on learning English. As a result, continued on page nine"

Deaf Program hosts Cuomo

The college's Programs for Deaf Adults has received $150,000 under the Governor's executive budget, marking the first time the college has received direct state funding to offset the high cost of educating the deaf.

Commenting on the Governor's action, President Shenker said: "We are extremely pleased that Governor Cuomo has given us a special allocation for our Deaf Program which will allow us to strengthen this effort and to expand our services."

For the past ten years, according to the President, the college has depended solely on state vocational education grants and the college's own resources to maintain the program.

"It is a wonderful gift," said Program Director Fern Khan. "It will insure that specialized support services for students in both credit and noncredit programs will be stabilized. Students will know that LaGuardia is truly a place where they can come because services are here."

LaGuardia is presently the only college in New York City that provides all the support services required to make the full range of credit and noncredit programs available to deaf students.

The program will use more than half of the money for interpreter services, which is the single largest financial expense Continued on page nine
Cuomo: deaf program is education 'at its best'

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associated with deaf education.
The college now spends $8,000 to pro-
vide a single deaf student an in-class
interpreter for one year.

Ms. Khan noted that the funding will
also permit the program to hire additional
full-time instructors who in the past have
been funded by state grants, including an
academic instructor to teach basic skills
to students entering the credit program, a
counselor responsible for advising both
credit and noncredit students, and 20
part-time tutors.

The state’s response to the college’s
fundraising effort comes at a time when
the college is facing a sharp increase in
deaf student enrollment. Its students are
among the hundreds of youngsters who
were born deaf as a result of the rubella
epidemic of 1963-65 and who are now
emerging from high school to seek a col-
lege education.

The number of deaf youths graduated
from high school in June of 1984, for
example, jumped by nearly 70 percent
compared to 1982, according to Gal-
laudet College in Washington, D.C.

The college’s deaf program, which is
celebrating its tenth anniversary, currently
enrolls 160 students in both credit and
noncredit programs, the largest popula-
tion of deaf students on any campus in
New York.

Governor Cuomo announced his sup-
sport during a visit to the college last
March. Speaking before an audience of
100 deaf students, the Governor de-
scribed the college's program as a suc-
cessful demonstration of how effective
government can be.

As an interpreter signed his words, the
Governor declared that “this college
reflects education at its best. The college
is doing the job of removing impediments
and doing it marvelously well.”

President Shenker, during the Gover-
nor’s visit, praised his sensitivity saying:
“Governor Cuomo is the first governor in
this nation to respond to the special
needs of this silent majority, the thou-
sands of deaf adults who want equal
access to higher education.”

President Shenker with Governor Cuomo
during visit to Programs for Deaf Adults.

ESL is curricular focus

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these students often fall behind or do not
get enough academic work.'

"By combining study in all subject area
classes with intensive English as a
second language training," she continued.
"Middle College II students will advance
at a good rate in an environment which
allows them to learn English while gaining
high school credit."

Ms. Cullen noted that another built-in
feature of the school is an integrated
learning center where instructors proficient
in the student’s native language are
available to help students overcome spe-
cial problems.

Students are recruited from junior high
schools throughout the city. To be eligible,
they must have lived in this country for
not more than four years, scored below
the 21st percentile in New York City's
standardized test measuring English
competency, and been recommended by a
guidance counselor. Total enrollment
for the school will be 450 students.

Planning for the new high school began
"a year and a half ago, when college and
high school administrators met with edu-
cational consultants to design a proposal
for the school.

"Our goal from the start," explained Mr.
Eric Nadelstein, the school’s assistant
principal, "was to develop a program that
would provide students with an opportu-
nity to acquire a level of English language
proficiency that would enable them to
graduate from high school and to con-
tinue on to college without further ESL
remediation."

To further develop the program, the col-
lege invited a panel of experts in the field
of teaching recent immigrants to a one-
day conference in April.

"The overall objective of the gathering,"said Dr. Janet Lieberman, who was a
planner of the new high school and a
founder of Middle College High School,
"was to learn about the best research and
practice in teaching this special student
population."