Rise and Recover
LaGuardia Community College Foundation’s Annual Report
2020-2021
The 2020-2021 academic year began like no other—amid a global pandemic, almost entirely virtual, and with a new president at the helm—yet, despite these circumstances, LaGuardia looked to the future. Our students are used to overcoming challenges as refugees, as new immigrants learning English, and as New Yorkers supporting their families. When they come to LaGuardia, they are met with a supportive world-class education that changes the trajectory of their lives.

More than 10% of our first semester students selected our nursing program, perhaps inspired by LaGuardia’s consecutive perfect pass rates, ready to face the ongoing needs of their communities caused by COVID-19. LaGuardia became the top producer of STEM graduates among public two-year colleges in New York City. And more than 3,000 individuals earned their associate degree.

Throughout this year, our students have relied on and remained grateful for the support they have received from the LaGuardia Community College Foundation. We evolved to meet our students’ changing needs, which this year included Wi-Fi hotspots and laptops, among other technology-based supports. Additionally, for the first time ever, the Foundation developed scholarship funds for non-degree students enrolled in LaGuardia Division of Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) and for first-semester degree-seeking students.

As we continue to look ahead, we are energized by a challenge presented to us by an extraordinarily generous donor, who has pledged $5 million if we raise another $10 million—our largest gift ever. We launched Tomorrow: The Campaign to Help Our Students and City Rise and Recover to achieve this goal.

With gratitude,

Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz, Esq.
Chair, LaGuardia Community College Foundation

Kenneth Adams
President, LaGuardia Community College
For many students, this could have been a year where their education got sidetracked, but thanks to the Foundation’s support, students were able to receive scholarships, emergency relief funds, and necessary technology to stay in school. Our students and graduates also stepped onto the front lines as essential workers who helped steer New York through the pandemic as nurses, paramedics, EMTs, medical assistants, and other healthcare workers.

After losing my job during COVID-19, LaGuardia was there for me. I got a scholarship from the Foundation and landed a position as an intern with NY Family Doctors. I couldn’t have done it without LaGuardia.”

— Carmen, LaGuardia Alumni

Reflections on the Pandemic

Seeing how sick people are and being the bearer of bad news is a very difficult part of the job…but I’m able to use the skills that I’ve been learning and help as many people as I can.”

— Steven, Paramedic Student Intern
Opening the Doors to Education for All

For the last 50 years, LaGuardia Community College has helped New Yorkers and students from around the world make a better life for themselves. The college opens the doors to an affordable education to thousands of people every year—with over 3,000 students graduating during the 2020-2021 academic school year.

Delivering a Life-Changing Education

At LaGuardia, faculty are training students for jobs in high-growth areas, including healthcare, technology engineering, cybersecurity, infrastructure, business, manufacturing, and more. In addition to our degree programs, LaGuardia offers a wide range of high-quality, short-term certificate programs in most major industries.

Providing Workforce Development to NYC

LaGuardia’s Division of Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) programs provide opportunities for New York City residents—especially immigrants and others whose native language is not English—to learn English, earn a high school equivalency diploma, get job training, begin or advance in a career, or grow their business. ACE focuses on programs that lead directly to employment and have a track record of success in the healthcare, technology, operations, and electrical fields.

Lifting Students Out of Poverty

LaGuardia changes the trajectory of a student’s life, lifting them out of poverty and into the middle class. In fact, 70% of LaGuardia students live at or below the poverty level, and 50% of students work at least 30 hours a week while going to school to make ends meet. But when students come to LaGuardia, they are met with an incredible support network and an array of resources that allow them to stay in school, graduate, and enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year college.

23%

Of all degree-seeking students at LaGuardia are pursuing STEM majors

#1

The LaGuardia Nursing Program is the #1 associate nursing program in New York State

62%

Of the more than 1,000 full- and part-time faculty members at LaGuardia have doctorate degrees

71%

Of LaGuardia graduates go on to attend four-year colleges

$58K

Students earn less than $30,000 annually, but our graduates earn on average more than $56,000 per year

U.S. Ranked #5

A Stanford University study ranks LaGuardia in the top 5 U.S. two-year colleges in moving low-income people to the middle class

15K

Number of students the ACE division trains each year

I emigrated from China to make a better life for myself. The college’s English as a Second Language program helped me so much, and LaGuardia gave me access to scholarships and introduced me to people who mentored me.

At LaGuardia, I graduated with honors and went on to Columbia University. My annual salary in my first job was more than my parents earned in eight years. Now I am a Vice President at Citigroup.

I recently joined the LaGuardia Foundation Board. I am proud to be a donor and give back to the school that gave me so much.
Our Impact: Over the last 18 years, the Foundation has seen tremendous growth, serving more and more students every year. We are proud to report that during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Foundation raised $3.83 million, even in a challenging climate with the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread protests against racial injustice that galvanized the nation.

Our Mission: The LaGuardia Community College Foundation’s mission is to raise and distribute funds for the college in support of its deserving students. Incorporated in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) private, not-for-profit organization, the Foundation provides critical support for students to continue their education and graduate so they can build a better future for themselves, their families, and their community.

About LaGuardia Community College Foundation
Our Students’ Voices

“Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, my parents were unable to work, and I have had to assist them financially...The Foundation scholarship helped me pay household bills, which alleviated my financial burden and allowed me to focus on my studies.”
— Camila

“As an international student, I have less access to financial aid and other opportunities, and your generous support is the oxygen which makes me able to breathe.”
— Ei

“Thank you for showing us that hard work and determination can make things possible; that regardless of what situations we might encounter along the way, there will always be a ray of light that will help us...My scholarship was that ray of light.”
— Dayana

One of the Most Diverse Student Bodies in the Country
LaGuardia opens its doors to one of the most multiracial, immigrant communities in the country. The college has the largest English as a Second Language program in all of New York City, and our students are uniquely positioned to help any organization meet their diversity, equity, and inclusion goals as they change the fabric of our city’s workforce.

A Lifeline for Students
About 70% of LaGuardia students live below the poverty level. In fact, students who receive aid from the Foundation are three times more likely to graduate than general students, and they go from earning less than $30,000 a year to joining the top 20% of wage earners in the U.S.

LaGuardia’s student body is:

- 48% Hispanic
- 23% Asian
- 18% Black
- 11% White

Countries represented by LaGuardia’s student body: 145

Languages spoken by LaGuardia students: 77

LaGuardia didn’t just help me academically, but with my whole life. I got full financial aid to cover my tuition and even got an emergency grant to help pay for rent and feed my daughter. I’m excited to graduate, and I know that it is the support I received from LaGuardia that got me through one of the hardest years of my life.”
— Desiree, LaGuardia Student

Who We Serve

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Our Students’ Voices

“I learned to say, ‘yes’ to every opportunity, and I feel now like I can do anything!”
—Shah, Graduated from Columbia and is currently a physics doctoral student

“I had the opportunity to meet people and learn amazing new skills, and see that I can be part of a bigger world!”
—Gabriela, Transferred to NYU and is studying communications

“President’s Society has connected me to mentors who made a real difference in my life.”
—Christian, Continuing his studies in the social sciences at Brown University

Our Commitment to LaGuardia Students

The Foundation provides critical support to our students in a number of different ways.

Scholarships
Each year, the Foundation awards over $1 million in scholarships to students based on financial need and academic performance. In the 2020-2021 academic school year, we awarded nearly 1,000 scholarships to deserving students.

Emergency Funds
Last year, the Foundation’s emergency funds became a literal lifeline for students, providing them financial assistance for their most pressing needs, such as putting food, rent, utilities, transportation, and healthcare, and covering college expenses like tuition or textbooks.

Workforce Training Scholarships
This year, the Foundation implemented a new scholarship program in support of LaGuardia’s Division of Adult & Continuing Education (ACE), making LaGuardia one of the few community colleges to award scholarships to students in non-credit workforce training programs. Inspired by the unprecedented economic hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic on Queens residents, ACE scholarships provide students with opportunities to learn new skills, acquire industry-recognized credentials, and transition into well-paying career paths.

Internships
The Foundation helps ensure students are ready to enter the workforce by providing access with stipends to exciting internship opportunities that offer invaluable real-life experience. Students get the opportunity to intern at an impressive array of corporations, including NBC, UBS, MOMA, The Lowell Hotel, Boyce Technologies, and many more.

President’s Society
LaGuardia students are smart and hardworking. They have character and grit. What they don’t always have are the opportunities, the communication skills, and the social and cultural capital needed to succeed in today’s competitive environment. The President’s Society aims to level the playing field by giving some of our best and brightest students the skills, connections, and confidence they need to take their place as leaders in our society. The President’s Society also has an environmental chapter generously funded by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. The program provides students with opportunities to engage in environmental justice issues through grassroots activism and hands-on projects.
Tomorrow Campaign

We’re aiming high with this ambitious fundraising campaign because of the urgent need to help New Yorkers get back on their feet. The $15 million will transform the lives of LaGuardia students and create a new talent pool for New York City employers.”

—Kenneth Adams, LaGuardia Community College President

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a great toll on our students and city. Now more than ever, we need to write a new chapter for New York City. We launched the Tomorrow campaign to meet this moment and help our students and city rise and recover. The campaign will help New Yorkers who lost their jobs or faced other hardships during the COVID-19 pandemic to get back on track through higher education and access to the training they desperately need.

A generous donor has pledged to commit $5 million to LaGuardia for the Tomorrow campaign. To unlock these funds, we need to raise another $10 million. Imagine what $15 million will do to transform the lives of LaGuardia students and create new talent for New York City! To help us succeed, pledges of up to four years will be counted toward our goal.

The Campaign to Help Our Students and City Rise and Recover

Donations to the Tomorrow campaign will provide students with:

• Scholarships for all, especially for immigrants, undocumented students, and students in workforce training programs who are not eligible for federal aid.

• Gap Grants for nontuition costs like books, MetroCards, and childcare.

• Internship stipends for working students.

• Emergency relief funds to help students pay for groceries, rent, and healthcare.

Donate to help us meet our goal and support our students.
Recognizing Our Donors

We are incredibly thankful to our donors for their generous support. Our donors don’t just give financially, they open up their lives to our students by mentoring, advising, and guiding them. It is these special relationships that make giving to the Foundation such a unique experience.

$50,000+ The Selz Foundation
$25,000-$49,999 Barnes & Noble College Booksellers, Inc.
$10,000-$24,999 The Alice M. & Thomas J. Tisch Foundation, Inc.
$5,000-$9,999 The Leo Model Foundation
$1,000-$4,999 Samsung Electronics America, Inc.
$500-$999 The Ford Foundation

Our Donors

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Wesley G. McCain, Ph.D., CFA
Jerome Levy Foundation
Goldman Sachs Gives
City Parks Foundation
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Marilyn Skony Stamm
Raybin Q. Wong Foundation
The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation
Robin Hood
Robert Rauschenberg Foundation
Nick and Lynn Nicholas
James and Sarah Lightburn
Leon Levy Foundation
Eugenia and David Ames
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The members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors are business and community leaders hailing from a broad range of fields, including finance, law, and engineering. The Board leads the Foundation’s fundraising efforts and invests funds to support LaGuardia’s students, build student success, and inspire initiatives that embody LaGuardia’s pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit.

### Our Board of Directors

**Kenneth Adams (President)**
- President, Athena International

**Louisa Bartowicz (Executive Director)**
- Executive Director, LaGuardia Community College

**Ernie von Simson (Treasurer)**
- Founder, von Simson and Associates

**Nicolas Nicolaou**
- Founder, Nicolaou Associates

**Henry Saltiel**
- President, Ability Entertainment

**Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz, Esq. (Chair)**
- Partner, Gardiner & Rabinowitz

### Ways to Give

**Make an Annual Gift**
Your gift each year ensures that we can offer vital support for our students via scholarships, emergency aid, enrichment programs, and other essential college resources like books, laptops, and internet access for online classes.

**Name a Scholarship Fund**
A gift of $50,000 or more can establish a named scholarship fund that will provide support for students during an academic year.

**Name an Endowed Scholarship Fund**
A gift of $500,000 or more can establish a scholarship fund in perpetuity. The principal gift remains in the fund while the interest and earnings are awarded to students each academic year.

**Make a Tribute Gift**
Make a gift in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. A notification of your gift will be sent to the individual or family of the honoree.

**Make a Planned Gift**
A planned gift is a wonderful way to secure your legacy to provide future support for our students, perhaps benefiting your family.

**Make a Corporate Matching Gift**
Many companies will match your gift, doubling or sometimes tripling its value if they participate in a matching gift program. Check with your employer to see if they participate. Then obtain your employer’s matching gift form and return it to us with your gift.

### Financial Statement

**Revenue**
- Contributions: 3,940,422
- Donated Services: 1,042,304

**Total Revenue**: 4,982,726

**Expenses**
- Scholarships: 1,667,494
- Emergency Aid: 170,899
- Stipends: 143,878
- Student Payroll: 143,878
- Program Services: 699,589
- General and Administrative Expenses: 4,108,682

**Change in net assets from operation**: 874,044

**Total Expenses**: 4,108,682

**Total Net Assets**: 874,044

Note: Surplus in net assets rollover to fund student programs.

### Donor Spotlights

**Donald Zucker**
- is an early tech industry guru, advising visionaries like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. He is a tech industry investor and the author of *Limits of Strategy*. Donald Zucker has also established an endowed scholarship fund at LaGuardia, and he runs master classes for select LaGuardia students to encourage tech entrepreneurship.

**Priscilla Alexander**
- is a legendary name in the travel industry. After she sold her company, Protravel, she turned her energies to philanthropy. Priscilla joined the LaGuardia Board in 2016 and, in addition to supporting scholarships and emergency aid, she created an internship program. Thanks to Priscilla, companies like The Mark Hotel, The Taj, Hyatt Hotels, and Solar Capital have all hired LaGuardia students as interns.

**Ernie von Simson**
- is an early tech industry guru, advising visionaries like Steve Jobs and Bill Gates. He is a tech industry investor and the author of *Limits of Strategy*. Ernie von Simson is a tech industry investor and the author of *Limits of Strategy*. Ernie started an Endowed Scholarship Fund at LaGuardia, and he runs master classes for select LaGuardia students to encourage tech entrepreneurship.

**Cecilia Briones**
- is a renowned real estate developer and philanthropist. She and her wife Barbara have often visited LaGuardia students on campus and funded a program employing thousands of on-campus students.

**Lisa Selz**
- is a renowned real estate developer and philanthropist. She and her wife Barbara have often visited LaGuardia students on campus and funded a program employing thousands of on-campus students.

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July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

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