Rise and Recover
LaGuardia Community College Foundation’s Annual Report 2020-2021
A Message from Our President and Foundation Board Chair

We are pleased to share our 2020-2021 Annual Report with you and are very thankful for your generosity and commitment to LaGuardia Community College.

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

LaGuardia Students on the Front Lines

126+ Nursing graduates

100+ EMT graduates

100% Of LaGuardia nursing students passed their licensing exams on their first try for eight quarters in a row—all of 2019 and 2020
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 56% of students work at least 30 hours a week while going to school to make ends meet. 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.
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
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.

Who We Serve

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

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

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

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— Desiree, LaGuardia Student
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 Students’ Voices

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.

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The Campaign to Help Our Students and City Rise and Recover

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 a new talent pool for New York City employers.

—Kenneth Adams, LaGuardia Community College President

How Can the Tomorrow Campaign Help Ensure a Brighter Future for LaGuardia Students?

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.

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$50,000+ Goldman Sachs Foundation*, Robin Hoag
$25,000-$49,999
Priscilla Alexander
Thomas A. Jeffords II Foundation* The Sleven Initiative, administered by the Albany Institute
Erwin van Simon and Naomi Seligman
The Donald and Barbara Zucker Family Foundation
$10,000-$24,999
Expenses and Data* Building Skills NYC*
The Foundation for New York City Trust Foundation, Inc.
Toppeta Family Foundation
$5,000-$9,999
Anonymous
Bethpage Credit Union
AST
Anonymous
The Art of Life, Inc.
Godelieve Samson-Schepelreiter Foundation
Frederick M. Goldenson Foundation
Manuel A. Pérez
Kevin C. Jeppesen
Michael A. Rosenblum
The Pinkerton Foundation*
$1,000-$4,999
Mary Lee Abkemeier
The Overbrook Foundation
Second Chances, Inc.
$500-$999
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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

#### Board Members

**Kenneth Adams (President)**

**Priscilla Alexander (Executive Director)**

**Charles E. Boyce**

**Marlene Debel**

**Joel Glasky (Vice Chair)**

**Sunil Gupta**

**Russel Horwitz**

**Gail Landis**

**Nicolas Nicolaou**

**Henry Saltiel**

**Suzie Scanlon Rabinowitz, Esq. (Chair)**

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**Marilyn Skony Stamm**

**Eric Slovin**

**Larry F. Solomon**

**William J. Toppeta**

**Ernest M. von Simson (Treasurer)**

**Donald Zucker (President)**

**Priscilla Alexander**

**Ernie von Simson**

### 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 an endowed 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 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.

#### Donate to help us meet our goal and support our students.

### 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*, which started 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 Hotel, and Solar Capital have all hired LaGuardia students as interns.

#### Ernie von Simson

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### 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: 170,899
- Program Services: 699,589
- General and Administrative Expenses: 138,128
- Total Expenses: 1,042,304
- Total Net Income: 874,044

**Total Expenses**

- Change in net assets from operations: 874,044
- Donated Services: 1,042,304
- Total Expenses: 4,108,682

Note: Surplus in net assets roll over to fund student programs.

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