



School of Education
Office of the Dean

August 24, 2021

Dear School of Education community,

I hope you found time this summer to relax and enjoy the pleasure of the warmer weather with your family and friends and most importantly that you were able to decompress from a harrowing, though not unproductive, year. I am looking forward to easing into this new academic year with you all and am excited to continue our work together in accreditation, school and community partnerships, field and clinical experiences, equity and social justice, admissions and progression policies, faculty research, and more. We have laid a strong foundation last year and our Task Forces provided excellent recommendations for moving forward. I will unpack this during Convocation on September 14th. For now, I would like to simply say “welcome back” and provide you with some information and resources, and a few updates. Apologies for the length!

Health and safety information and resources

Hybrid is the word that characterizes much of our lives today. Even as we transition this fall to an “on campus” presence, much of our work will continue to be both in person and remote. Here are some things to be reminded of -

- All CUNY employees — vaccinated, unvaccinated or undisclosed — are required to follow [the University’s Guidelines for CUNY Fall 2021 Reopening Where Not Everyone is Fully Vaccinated](#).
- Queens College continues to update its guidelines. Please visit this link for updates and information:
<https://www.qc.cuny.edu/community/Coronavirus/Pages/Default.aspx>
- Here is an interesting and important interview on COVID-19 vaccinations with two outstanding CUNY public health experts, Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, Dean of the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy (CUNY SPH), and Dr. Scott Ratzan, Distinguished Lecturer at CUNY SPH, which you can watch at:
<https://rebrand.ly/QAVaccinations>.
- The college has undergone significant facilities improvements over the summer months, including **updated filtration systems and improved fresh air flow**. You might notice air movement ribbons around campus to help detect problem areas.



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Please report any problems or concerns to Building and Grounds by calling 718-997-3520 or email bngweb@qc.cuny.edu.

- The college is encouraging **remote student appointments**. QC Navigate allows students to make appointments with you based on your office hour availability. If you would like to set up your office hours remotely, please follow the instructions here: <https://eab.qc.cuny.edu/help-training-resources/appointment-campaigns>
- The #VaxUpCUNY webpage at <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/#faq> provides resources to help you learn more about the vaccines and your many options for receiving them.
- CUNY joined Governor Cuomo in announcing the CUNY Comeback Program, a plan to erase as much as \$125 million in outstanding tuition and fee balances for more than 50,000 CUNY students who experienced grave hardships during the pandemic. For more information about the CUNY Comeback Program, and a list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit [cuny.edu/comeback](https://www.cuny.edu/comeback).

Remember: Vaccines do not save lives; vaccinated people save lives.

Online/hybrid teaching information and resources

Here are some links that might inspire:

- [How to Prepare for the Next Phase of Hybrid Teaching \(Chronicle of Higher Education\)](#)
- [How to be a Better Online Teacher](#) (Chronicle of Higher Education)
- [Valuable Qualities of Synchronous Online Teaching](#) (Faculty Focus)
- [How to Make Your Virtual Discussions Engaging, Effective, and Equitable in Eight Steps](#) (Faculty Focus)
- [Effective Online Strategies to Improve Your Online Teaching](#) (Faculty Focus)
- If you are teaching in-person and have a student(s) who relies on lip-reading, clear masks are available. Please let me know if you are interested in receiving one.
- Please make sure you are following the **CUNY Zoom protocol**:
<https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/cis/it-resources-for-remote-work-teaching/Zoom-Security-Protocol.pdf>



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- **Policy on Clinical Placements.** CUNY's [Student Vaccination Policy FAQ](#) (under Student Vaccination Policy Definition and Details) has been updated to include a question which clarifies that vaccines are required for those students in required in-person clinical placements.
 - *CUNY's Student Vaccination Policy for in-person or hybrid classes also extends to in-person clinical and field placements (e.g, nursing clinicals, student teaching). CUNY has been notified that some placement sites are requiring students to provide documentation of COVID vaccination as part of the necessary clearance requirements. Verification process will depend on the requirements of the clinical site.*
 - The [Academic Continuity Guidance](#) has also been updated in the 'Clinical/Field Placements: Guidance for Education Programs' section.
 - According to the FAQ and [Academic Calendar](#), students have until 9/14 to upload their vaccination information in CUNYfirst, and on 9/24 WA grades will be assigned for non-compliance.
 - **NYCDOE guidance to date:** The policy for visitors, volunteers, and vendors, including student teachers, field work students, and field supervisors, is being confirmed, and we will share more information as soon as it becomes available. Everyone in schools must wear a mask, and visitors to school buildings will be required to complete a [daily health screening](#).
 - CDC Recommendations for K-12 can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- **Faculty Absences.** On occasion faculty might need to be absent from a class. It is critically important that faculty follow the policies on missing classes: 1) Notify your department chair. 2) Make arrangements for how the instructional time will be made up. 3) Communicate the details to the students. Note: giving an online assignment is NOT equivalent to instructional time.



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- **Library's Open Educational Resources (OER) Faculty Fellowship program.** Since 2018 this [Library-led OER initiative](#) has saved QC students more than an estimated \$1 million! Our program is coordinated by Dr. Leila Walker, Digital Scholarship Librarian. Fellows will participate in a four-part seminar that will guide them through the process of finding, creating, evaluating, and implementing open and/or zero-cost materials for a course that will run in Spring or Fall 2022. The Library is also interested in partnering with course leads for those courses with multiple sections and high enrollments to develop high-quality course materials at a lower cost. The fellowship would offer training and a \$2000 stipend for course leads, as well as a \$500 stipend for faculty and adjuncts the first time they teach a section of a course using the zero-textbook-cost materials. For more info: email lwalker@qc.cuny.edu.

Important updates

Please join me in enthusiastically welcoming Dr. Trina Yearwood, incoming Interim Associate Dean in the School of Education.



A product of the New York City public schools, **Trina Lynn Yearwood** received her B.A. in Africana Studies and English from Brooklyn College, her M.Ed. in Education from Cambridge College, and her doctorate in Educational Leadership, Higher Ed Administration from West Virginia University. Dr. Yearwood began her career in education over two decades ago as an English teacher with the New York City Board of Education. She was most recently the Associate Dean of the School of Education at LIU Brooklyn and has taught education courses at Brooklyn College, Hunter College and LIU. Dr. Yearwood's professional interests include teacher preparation, cultural competence, culturally relevant teaching, equity in education and student success. Dr. Yearwood is the Founder of Teachers Ready to Educate, Advocate and Transform (TREAT), an organization dedicated to celebrating the profession and using culture to support teaching and learning. Committed to serving her community, she is an advisory committee member of the UNESCO Center for Global

Education, a member of the United Nations Association of the USA—Brooklyn Chapter, and a diamond life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Delta Alpha Zeta chapter in Brooklyn, New York.

New faculty appointments and other updates

Please welcome to the School of Education community -

- Mara Markinson joins SEYS as an Assistant Professor this Fall



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- Karen Zaino, substitute doctoral lecturer in the Department of Secondary Education and Youth Services
- James Shanahan substitute lecturer in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education
- Kushya Sugarman, substitute lecturer in the Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education
- Congratulations to Leslee Grey who was accepted as a Provost's Fellow this year
- Congratulations to Jacqueline Darvin who received the QC Teaching Awards this year
- Congratulations to Deborah Gruber in ECP for receiving the Teaching Award for part-time faculty

Dean's Office updates

- The Dean's Office opened on August 16th for regular business hours with a 50% staff presence. All appointments with students will continue to occur remotely during the fall semester.
- **Alan Gonzalez** has taken a position as Data Analyst for the Richmond, Virginia School District. Alan Gonzalez joined the School of Education in September 2016. He quickly became vital to the maintenance, training, and operation of our quality assurance system. With his expertise in sociology and statistics, Alan was able to work with the team in the Office of Assessment and Accreditation to implement hundreds of new assessments and procedures to provide data for continuous improvement, which led to a successful accreditation visit in fall 2020. We wish him well in his new role.
- **Chalk and Wire** is now called Anthology. ***All student accounts will be paid for this year by the college this year! Information will be available on the School website. Please make sure students do NOT purchase their subscriptions through the bookstore this year. There are NO reimbursements possible if this happens.***

Faculty Research and IRB

If you conduct research with human subjects, please be aware that CUNY is moving from IDEATE to IRB Manager as the platform for submissions to the CUNY IRB and HRPP. CUNY has provided the following [details](#); more information will be provided as we help navigate this transition.



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Fall Convocation

I hope you can join me on September 14th from 12-1 pm where we will discuss the priorities for the coming academic year and a longer-term strategic planning process:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81482965895>

Taskforce Reports: open for comment

In preparation for engaging in strategic planning, I invite you to read and comment on the three taskforce reports, each offering recommendations and a way forward for deepening and rethinking our curriculum, policies and clinical experiences. Also available is a report from the faculty-led Research Advisory Council. Please review and send along your comments by October 1st. Here is the [link](#).

I would like to extend my gratitude to the following Taskforce members:

- *Clinical Taskforce Members:* Jessica M. Alejandro, Melissa Amster, Edwina Branch-Smith, Michelle Cassano-Repole, Patricia Cooper, Victoria Dell’Era, Dana Fusco (Chair), Soribel Genao, Theresa Gurl, Evelyn Lee, Marissa Matta, Susan McCullough, Michael Perrone, Nathaniel Smith, Suzanne Solomon, Christopher Wagner
- *Curriculum Taskforce Members:* Eleanor Armour-Thomas (Chair), Theodore Kesler, Mara Markinson, Sonia Rodrigues, Line Saint-Hilaire, Jay Shuttleworth
- *Policy Taskforce Members:* Magnus Basse, Bradley Bergey, Matthew Day, Alan Gonzalez, Bobbie Kabuto (Chair), Mary Theresa Kiely, David Laursen, Amy Lui, Ashraf Shady
- *Research Advisory Committee Members:* Bradley Bergey, Eve Bernstein, Salvatore Garafolo, Nakia Gray-Nicolas, Theodore Kesler, Sherrie Proctor, Jay Shuttleworth, Christopher Wagner (Chair)

Here’s to a great start of the Fall 2021 semester. Please email me if you have any questions, ideas, concerns, or suggestions at dana.fusco@qc.cuny.edu.

Best wishes,

Dana

Dr. Dana Fusco
Interim Dean