

Academic Affairs Update

YORK COLLEGE

President Keizs Takes York Priorities to Capitol Hill

On March 17, 2011, York College and CUNY federal budget priorities were articulated in the “halls of Congress.” York College President Marcia V. Keizs and Earl Simons, Director of Government and Community Relations, met with members of New York’s Congressional delegation to discuss continuing federal funding opportunities for York, especially with the elimination of earmarks. The meetings in Washington, DC, coincided with a special meeting of more than 31 college and university presidents who convened in Washington with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for a federal briefing on higher education issues pending in Congress.



L.-r.: Congress Member Gregory Meeks, Legislative Assistant Michael Cox, Earl G. Simons, President Marcia V. Keizs

President Keizs met with Congress Member Gregory Meeks and senior higher education advisors to Senators Kirstin Gillibrand and Charles Schumer. During each meeting, President Keizs provided updates on the York College/U.S. Food and Drug Administration Partnership, the Aviation Institute, the new Facilities Master Plan and the proposed Academic Village and Conference Center and current state-related

budget challenges.

In addition, President Keizs briefed the members on the recent \$250,000 awarded to the Small Business Development Center at York College for a Global Trade Export Initiative in Queens. The funding was allocated through the Federal Jobs Act.

President Keizs also discussed the need for Congress to fully fund the Pell Grant. The bill, proposed by the House of Representatives, would reduce the Pell Grant Scholarships to students from \$5,500 to \$4,705. The call to fully fund the federal Pell Grant was echoed throughout the day by college and university presidents during meetings with their respective congressional delegation members.

Master Plan and Budget Update for Elected Officials

In late February, South East Queens elected officials convened at York College at the invitation of President Marcia V. Keizs, to hear the good

news about the recently-approved Master Plan. In an unprecedented show of support for the college, there was outstanding participation in

the meeting. The legislators present were New York State Assembly Members Vivian Cook, Barbara Clark, Michelle

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Special points of interest:

- York alum pursuing Princeton Ph.D.
- Women in Math conference
- Physician Assistant Program reaccredited
- History major to Law School

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Social Work Club goes to Albany



Students posing with President Keizs and Prof. Rodgers during their visit to Albany

The Social Work Club at York College sponsored its annual trip to Albany for Social Work Legislative Action Day on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. This is an important opportunity for social work students at York to be involved in advocacy efforts toward social change.

The Club organized 23 students from the Social Work Program to attend Lobby Day. They were led by Dr. Selena Rodgers, Professor Crystal George-Moses, and Dr. Rebecca Rivera-Maestre, faculty advisor the Social Work Club.

In Albany, students met with key New York City and State Legislators, including Assemblywoman Vivian E.

Cook, Senator Shirley L. Huntley, Assemblywoman Michele R. Titus, and Council Member Rubin Wills. The legislative action agenda items included:

- Support for allowing higher education to meet TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) work requirements at 4-year colleges;
- Funding for The Safe Harbor Act – legislation to provide housing, legal, educational, and other services for commercially sexually exploited youth. Students advocated for funding to build safe houses for these victims;
- Funding for the York

College Academic Village Center. On behalf of the student body at York, students thanked Assemblywoman Cook and Senator Huntley for their generous support for the College. Students called for continued funding support to build the new Academic Village Center at York

A special thanks to President Keizs for meeting with the students in Albany and listening to them share their experiences. Students greatly valued this learning experience and look forward to the opportunity to engage in future advocacy efforts with President Keizs.



NEW CD!

Embellishments: The Q & A Project., starring Mark Adams and featuring Jonathan Quash.

This is the fourth solo project by pianist Mark Adams and the third collaboration with Jonathan Quash.

The album also features Jazz vibraphonist, Roy Ayers.

Heal the Village, Sustain the Pillars, and Strengthen the Academic Collaboration

Heal the village! Rochdale Village: “The Jewel of Jamaica” is the second largest housing cooperative in the United States and a cornerstone located in the heart of Jamaica, Queens. Since 1963, Rochdale has been home to 25,000 cooperatives.



Dr. Rodgers addressing Rochdale Village residents

On March 20, 2011, Dr. Selena Rodgers was one of the invited distinguished guests and presenters at Rochdale Village’s *Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Women’s History 3rd Annual Forum*. Approximately 175 seniors along with many other Rochdale Village residents attended the event.

Dr. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Social Sciences Department) pre-

sented her research findings about African-American adult survivors sexually abused as children. The information was very well received and also regarded as especially timely in view of the recent outpouring of disclosures by sexual abused victim-survivors.

Considerable time was devoted to offering recommendations to help the village heal from scars that extend from childhood into adulthood. Rochdale Village Board President Janine Cross has invited Dr. Rodgers to participate in future forums focusing on raising awareness about sexual abuse and the healing process.

Sustain the pillars! Rochdale Village and York College are pillars in the Jamaica community. This year’s projected financial cuts to social services and public education has implications. For the past seven years York College Social Work Program’s partnership with Rochdale’s NORC’s has afforded countless undergraduate students field practicum opportunities. Rochdale Village

Social Services, Inc. is the parent agency for two senior citizen programs including NORC and Rochdale Village Senior Center. The social work interns engage with individual clients and families to provide clinical assessments, case management services and support counseling. Also as part of their internship assignments, students facilitate weekly support groups, conduct weekly program outreach into the buildings and network with various agencies and community partners.

It is urgent that these two pillars, Rochdale Social Service programs and York College, work together through the economic crisis to sustain the legacy and the village for our seniors and emerging student leaders.

Strengthen the Academic Collaboration! The number of transfer students arriving from LaGuardia College who enroll in York College’s Social Work Program has increased significantly over the years. Dr. Rodgers is an Assistant Professor of Social Work and Director of

Social Work Field Education at York College (CUNY).



L.-r.: Elder Tarsha S. Baston (Women Impacting Next Generation of Sisters), Dr. Selena T. Rodgers (York College Social Work Program, Department of Social Sciences/School of Health and Behavioral Sciences) and Elder Dr. Michael A. Baston (LaGuardia Community College, Office of Academic Affairs)

During the Rochdale Village forum, she had the opportunity to engage in a productive discussion with Elder Dr. Baston, the Acting Vice President of Student Affairs at LaGuardia Community College (CUNY) concerning the need to strengthen the collaboration between the two CUNY colleges.

