

# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

**YORK** College

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## York Approved for Start-Up NY



Governor Andrew Cuomo

It was an exciting summer for York College. During the break, the College received great news on two fronts. First, the Empire State Development approved the College's Start-Up NY Campus Plan, which enables businesses to now apply to New York State to participate in Start-Up NY, and, if accepted, to apply to York

College to participate in the College's Campus Plan.

The College was also excited to learn that it has been selected to participate in Governor Andrew Cuomo's first round of the NY-CUNY 2020 Challenge Program, a \$55 million initiative. York College will be a partner with Queensborough Community College, Queens College, the School of Professional Studies, and CUNY Law School in a \$10 million grant to establish a teaching clinic in Northern Queens. That program will provide jobs and healthcare

services to the community.

According to the Office of Governor Cuomo, over a three-year period, nearly 700 graduates of healthcare programs from the partner institutions will find employment as a result of this initiative. Start-Up NY will also bring additional economic benefits to the Greater Jamaica community.

As part of the Start-Up NY initiative, York College's campus will bolster a growing economic hub where businesses can establish their companies as tax-free

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## New CUNY Chancellor Visits York

CUNY Chancellor James "J.B." Milliken saved York for ninth on the system-wide tour of his new domain of 24 campuses, and loved it. Arriving at York on the morning of July 22, the Chancellor, his wife,



Chancellor Milliken addressing York students during his campus visit

Nana Smith and Chief of Staff, Doris Suarez, spent time meeting with the constituencies of York – administrators, faculty and students. As a new chancellor the tour has been more about

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### Special points of interest:

- **Human Resource Management chapter launched**
- **New Faculty profiles**
- **Student Research & Awards**
- **Provost Lectures**

## Harvard MLE Institute Reflections

by Holger Henke, Ph.D.

The month of June saw splendid weather in Boston and Harvard's Graduate School of Education hosted a splendidly organized and executed Institute for Management and Leadership in Education (MLE). The annual professional development event was a superb opportunity to take a few moments to reflect with the help of theory, research-driven lectures and conversations, and practical exercises on what we do on a daily basis as we work at a university or college – teaching, researching, and managing and leading the administrative aspects of the venture called higher education. What are the foundations of our vision, imagination, organizational skills and how can administrators self-consciously understand and enhance these?

There are of course always a few who will cynically opine that administrators don't have a clue or are not of great relevance in the scheme of higher education and that "it" all just happens in the classroom, the "field", the library, or the laboratory. However, this is of course not so, and with more intense assessment and federal and state

regulation, tightening accreditation standards, as well as close scrutiny of the tax- and tuition-paying public, college administration and leadership actually becomes more and more a critical function for institutional and student success.

The Harvard MLE provides a space where enthusiastic, accidental, and more reluctant administrators get an opportunity to reflect on current issues in higher education, and develop tools to better cope with those and actually become leaders in their respective areas. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to participate in MLE and learn from and with various higher education thought-leaders, practitioners, and fellow administrators from around the nation, as well as countries such as Australia, Canada, Denmark, India, and New Zealand.

This year's two-week program offered numerous lectures, conversations, workshops, and opportunities for formal and informal conversations pertaining to issues such as understanding different dimensions of leadership, collaboration in groups, college budgets and financial sustainability, strategic planning and

development, diversity issues, internationalization, and the emergence of new formats and institutions of learning. The various sessions were steered by distinguished Harvard faculty such as Robert Kegan (MLE director), Bridget Terry Long, James Honan, Daniel Wilson and Justin Reich, and equally accomplished "adjunct" faculty such as Lee Bolman (University of Missouri), Kent Chabotar (President, Guilford College), Carlos Cortés (Univ. of California), Judy Jackson (University of Kentucky), Tamar March (Arden Seminars), and Laura Palmer Noone (President emeritus, Univ. of Phoenix).

Focused plenary conversations with two very successful college presidents – Lawrence Bacow (President emeritus, Tufts University) and the charismatic and visionary Freeman Hrabowski (President, University of Maryland – Baltimore County, who was accompanied by his VP for Institutional Advancement, Gregory Simmons) – rounded out the intense program by giving MLE participants an opportunity to apply and probe some of the knowledge



Asst. Provost Henke (2nd from left) and fellow members at this year's MLE Institute



MLE members during a break

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gained in the lecture and workshop sessions. Dr. Hrabowski – like the previous CUNY Chancellor, a mathematician – coined one of the most memorable blunt phrases issued during this year's MLE, when he unapologetically stated with regard to underserved and minority students such as those served by his Baltimore-based institution: "We don't know how to deal with America's geniuses. That's why we're ending being a\*\*holes."

Almost each session was guided by extensive reading that had to be prepared in advance. The

multiple sessions led by Robert Kegan required reading in his (and Lisa Lahey's) book *Immunity to Change* and Lee Bolman's lectures were to be prepared by covering his book (with Joan V. Gallos) *Reframing Academic Leadership*. Numerous themed lunchgroups, social gatherings, a harbor cruise, and a last-night New England Clambake allowed participants to exchange experiences and network among themselves. Social networking was also encouraged by exercises that extend beyond the Institute itself.

The fact that the Insti-

tute was accompanied by two weeks of sunshine only helped to cement and positively reinforce the lessons of this transformational professional development opportunity. I have no hesitation recommending the MLE to colleagues who embrace the pursuit of academic leadership and seek ways to improve their managerial sensitivities and leadership skills in an environment of supportive colleagues and guided by nationally-acclaimed scholars, practitioners, and thought-leaders.



## Congratulations !

**Dr. Basdeo Mangru (Assoc. Professor, Dept. of History & Philosophy, School of Arts & Sciences), recently published his edited book *Colonial Emigration from the Bengal Presidency* (London: Hansib Publications Ltd., 2014.)**

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essor Emerita Laura Fishman sent a statement, which was read aloud. Other tributes that were likewise read were from Drs. Dolores Sandoval and Barbara McCloud, Glennette Tilley Turner, Tommy Davis, William

White, and Flora Jones.

Jonathan Quash and Mr. Mark Adams provided an additional musical interlude and closing selection. Finally, Dr. Parmet noted that guests could remember Clarence Irving by sending a dona-

tion to the York College Development Department payable to the York College Foundation with a notation directing it to the Black American Heritage Music History Archive.

*On the Move*

York College  
Office of the  
Provost

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**The deadline for submissions to the October 2014 issue of Academic Affairs Update is September 26, 2014.**

*All items should be submitted in MS  
Word*

*via email to:*

*AcademicUpdate@york.cuny.edu*