



Hello York College Family and Friends!

I'm writing to introduce you to our new monthly e-news update, **a new YORK minute!**

Each month, I will highlight exciting announcements, partnerships, and “behind the scenes” activities at York College that help enhance the student experience, one student at a time.

We share this newsletter in the spirit of celebration and collaboration. We are so excited about York College, the future of our campus, our students, faculty and our programs, that we want you to feel a part of the One York Community!

With the return to campus life this semester, the halls have been full of renewed energy. We invite you to visit the campus to share in the buoyance of our students and see firsthand what makes York special. Whether it is our nationally recognized nursing program's simulation lab, our new state-of-the-art Aviation Flight Simulator, to having more than 60 majors from which to choose, York continues to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams. And, if you want quiet contemplation, come and see our remarkable art collection or visit the beautiful Illinois Jacquet Performance Space (a.k.a. Chapel of The Sisters).

So, come and take a walk-about! We invite you to contact our team in Institutional Advancement at advancement@york.cuny.edu or 718-262-3819 to arrange a tour.

I look forward to being in touch with **a new York minute** in the new year. In the meantime, stay well and be safe.

Have a wonderful holiday,

Berenecea J Eanes

Berenecea Johnson Eanes
President



Welcome to York!

I'm thrilled to announce that York's new Welcome Center will be the on-site centerpiece of York's participation in CUNY's new Reconnect initiative, which helps New Yorkers reenroll in college. In fact, York's Admissions team is reaching out to more than 5,000 students who were once part of the College to help them map their route back to York! Special thanks to York student Alexander Lugo, who shared his journey to York at our Welcome Center celebration. Alexander made the life changing decision to reenroll in college after ten years and chose York to pursue his degree in business. To hear more about Alexander's story, check it out on **NY1 Noticias**. Education transforms lives and we are proud to help all students follow their dreams.

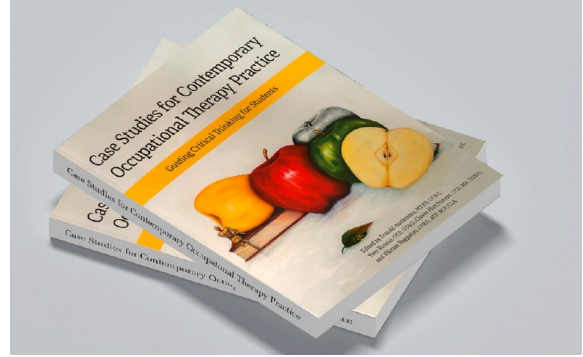


To celebrate our new Welcome Center, I was joined by NY City Council Speaker Adams, a former York student; CUNY Chancellor Matos Rodríguez, Queensboro President Richards, Congressman Meeks, NYS Assemblyman Weprin, students, faculty and community members. We are deeply appreciative to Speaker Adams for making CUNY's Reconnect and York's Welcome Center possible. To find out how you can reenroll or become part of the York family, contact admissions@york.cuny.edu.

A National First – Hot off the Press!

Currently, no occupational therapy (OT) college textbook in the nation features case studies that provide the analytical framework for addressing the impact of cultural and economic health disparities in diagnosis and treatment. Today that changes: 15 York College alumni – all graduates of our OT program and experts in the

field – just published “Case Studies for Contemporary Occupational Therapy Practice: Guiding Critical Thinking for Students.” It is anticipated that this groundbreaking college textbook, which was just published by the premiere American Occupational Therapy Association, will become the standard bearer for OT degree programs across the country.



As OT Chair Donald Auriemma, who co-edited the new publication with York College Professors and alumni Drs. Clover Hutchinson and Vikram Pagpatan, said in the introduction, the text “acknowledges the importance of incorporating the various principles and tenets of diversity, equity, justice, inclusion, and belonging through a contemporary and practice-based interpretation of occupational therapy.”

As we recently witnessed and experienced the grave chasm in care during the pandemic, and knowing the history of disparity in medical care, I’m so proud that York College’s alumni co-authors, including many of whom are currently professors in our OT program, are changing the tenor of national discourse, the depth of learning for students nationwide, and ultimately the quality and equality of care for all.

Congratulations York Alumni Contributing Authors: Tiffany Almonte '16, Donald Auriemma '82, Kerron Blunte '11, Carol Brown-Wassinger '08, Tiffany Cordero-Velez '16, Mary Devadas '11, Bebe Haniff '10, Clover Hutchinson '92, Vikram Pagpatan '13, Susan Quintin '01, Ivy Rentz '98, Eva Rodriguez '83, Paula Stewart '97, Frederick Wolodin '08. The book also recognizes York College class of '99 alumnus Dr. Yves Rosesus, who served as a co-editor and contributing author before passing during the pandemic.

York College OT students pass the National Boards at exceptional rates, including up to 100% passage rates!



The Courage to Believe!

As we close out the year, I want to share some inspiration. If you were told all your life by so many – from teachers to guidance counselors – that you weren’t meant for college, would you go? You would, if you were York’s Dr. Jean Phelps, Director of Student Activities. “When people tell you that, it really hurts your confidence,” says Jean. That’s why her mantra, “if I can do it, you can do it,” is a refrain that she passionately shares with our students and with others across our Southeast Queens community.

Right out of high school, Dr. Phelps started working because that’s what was expected of her. She tended bar, worked in a factory and then was a cab driver. One afternoon when she was handling dispatching for the cab company, one of her coworkers walked in with her York college books and with derision said to Jean, “What are you looking at? Don’t touch those books!” That sparked a fire in Jean and she went straight to a pay phone and called York College. “The

person who answered the phone told me to come right down to the college.” At 33-years old, Jean was concerned about her age, whether she would be accepted and if she could even afford tuition on her \$50 a week salary.

The York admissions counselor listened and allayed all of Jean’s concerns, including telling her she would qualify for student aid. Excited, but still a little nervous, Jean hung up the phone, got in a cab and went straight to York College. “It was intimidating to even believe that I could do it and I really felt like I was too old. I told my sister, ‘I’m going to be almost 40 by the time I graduate.’ She said, “What’s the difference – you are going to be 40 anyway!” Today, the rest is history. Dr. Phelps, the first in her family to go to college, earned her B.A. in Computer Science at York College, her Master’s in Urban Affairs from Queens College, and her Ph.D. in Sociology from CUNY Graduate Center.

Remember, no matter what anyone says, you can do it!



**WINTER
SESSION
2023**

January 03-January 24
Earn Extra Credits in 3 Weeks

Happy Holidays!

YORK
College



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As York College continues to work hard to meet the academic and social needs of its students, your donation will help to provide scholarships, enhance academic programs, recruit and retain faculty, and contribute to many other incentives. By making a gift to York, you express your support to the College, and its continuing pursuit of excellence.



STAY IN TOUCH

I love sharing news about York and I love hearing from you.
Reach out to me at president@york.cuny.edu.

BJE

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Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes was appointed president of York College, CUNY, in 2020 following an academic year as the interim president. To learn more about her visit our [website](#) or review her complete [CV online](#).

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