

GNYC! Academy –June 1, 2012 – Guest Speakers

Sarah McConnell – Sarah is the Assistant Director of the MGI/GEAR-UP program at CUNY and helps to oversee program activities across the various CUNY campus sites. The Middle Grades Initiative (MGI) is a school/college collaborative program that works with the 6-year federal GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant program at increasing the number of low-income student to enter and succeed in college. The MGI program model follows a cohort of students, starting from either 6th or 7th grade, and supports them through high school graduation. Currently, the program serves approximately 2,200 students in 12 NYC secondary schools in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Queens, which are affiliated with 5 CUNY campuses and is overseen by program administrators in CUNY's Central Office. Sarah has been with CUNY for more than eight years.

Rosanne Proga – Rosanne is the Data Manager in the Office of Academic Affairs at the City University of New York and oversees the database and technology needs for a wide range of programs within CUNY's OAA that address not only college success, but also early childhood education, applied theater, language and literacy, GED preparation, parents with young children and workforce development. Prior coming to CUNY, Rosanne worked as a project manager at AllianceBernstein and JP Morgan Chase developing computer applications to manage pension funds and endowments for both businesses and non-profit organizations. She has also taught mathematics and computer science, developed curriculum and managed the evening division program, and has written three books in developmental mathematics: Basic Mathematics, Arithmetic and Algebra and Math for the Anxious. Rosanne has been with CUNY for three and a half years.

Alex Taveras – Alex is the Research Associate for CUNY's ASAP program and is responsible for conducting data analysis, surveys, focus groups, and other methods to measure program performance and student satisfaction. ASAP (Accelerated Studies in Associate Programs) is designed to help motivated community college students complete their degrees with a goal of graduating at least 50% of its students within 3 years. Program features including block schedules, small class sizes, comprehensive advisement and career development support services, and financial incentives help to support students in achieving these goals. All six CUNY community colleges run ASAP programs with a team of ASAP program and support staff, and is overseen by program administrators in CUNY's Central Office. Currently, the program serves approximately 1,200 students. Before coming to CUNY, Alex served as a NYS Community Mobilization Trainer and as an Information Specialist for a NYC-based community coalition. He has been with the ASAP program for three years.

Elizabeth Wilson– Elizabeth is the Director of College Now at Hostos Community College and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the campus' College Now program. College Now is a collaborative program between CUNY and the NYC Department of Education. College Now at Hostos CC motivates and prepares South Bronx high school students for college by offering opportunities to take college-level courses and earn college credits while still in high school. Currently, the CN program at Hostos is partnered with 40 high schools in the Bronx and enrolls approximately 1,000 students annually. Before coming to Hostos, Elizabeth worked in the youth development field at Asian Americans for Equality in NYC and in schools in Oakland, CA. She has been with the College Now program at Hostos for five and a half years.



Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and in collaboration with CUNY Collaborative Programs, the *Graduate NYC! Academy for Transition Program Professionals* workshop series provides an opportunity for NYC-based organizations to work collectively to find solutions to increase their capacity to use student data to support and improve programming.

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