



QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Pre-College, Continuing Education
& Workforce Development

Newsletter | Spring 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

For the Youth: Highlights from Pre-College Programs

Connect2College: New Media Technology certificate program at Mineola High School	02
Innovators' Con at BTECH	02
An Educator's Perspective: Teaching English in China	03
Program Spotlight: QCC Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)-Project PRIZE	04
Port of Entry: Gateway to Success	05

For Adults: Highlights from Workforce Development Programs

Spotlight on Student Success: From Nigeria to QCC and Beyond	05
Healthcare Careers: QCC Career Direct's Partnership with Northwell Health	06

Highlights from Continuing Education Programs

Personal Enrichment Programs	07
Professional Development Programs	07

CONTACT INFORMATION

222-05 56 Avenue
Bayside, NY 11364
(718) 631-6343
www.qcc.cuny.edu/ContEd



222-05 56 Avenue
Bayside, NY 11364
(718) 631-6343
www.qcc.cuny.edu

FOR THE YOUTH: HIGHLIGHTS FROM PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS

Connect2College: New Media Technology certificate program at Mineola High School

Queensborough Community College and the Mineola School District in Nassau County have partnered to offer high school students a 30-credit certificate in New Media Technology. Mineola High School students will enroll in QCC classes that lead to obtainment of this college-level certificate. The Connect2College program is under the auspices of QCC's division of Pre-College, Continuing Education & Workforce Development and is designed to allow high school students to earn dual credits while attending classes at their schools in career and technical education. Students who complete the certificate and plan to attend QCC after graduation can transfer directly into the Internet and Information Technology AAS degree program.

The New Media Technology certificate program introduces students to Internet-based technologies for the design, development, maintenance and support of such digital media as hyperlinked texts; static and moving imagery; audio and video;

Innovators' Con at BTECH

On October 26th, BTECH students participated in Innovators' Con event which celebrated the opening of three laboratories: the Fabrication Laboratory, the Science Technology Laboratory, and the Teacher Professional Development Lab. BTECH is an Early

“Teachers gear us toward creative and innovative thinking, and they inspire us to question “What if?” furthering our understanding and ability to think and not settle for the basic explanation. They encourage us to take an original idea and make it better for the future of our society.” – Tony Jackson, BTECH student.



Mineola H.S. 10th graders entering the New Media Technology certificate program

and the multiple interfaces of media. The program combines instruction in technology, art, writing, programming, database and e-commerce, artistic layout and design and animation.

This past fall, 35 Mineola High School sophomores started their journey in the program. Students in their senior year will attend 2 classes on campus at QCC.

The Connect2College team: Jacqueline Montgomery (JMontgomery@qcc.cuny.edu), Director, Darlene (O'Rourke

College Initiative (ECI) High School in Business Technology which Queensborough Community College developed in partnership with the Department of Education (DOE) and SAP, the multi-national software corporation. The Fabrication laboratory contains

ke dorourke@qcc.cuny.edu), Coordinator, and Dorine Touwsma (DTouwsma@qcc.cuny.edu), Assistant, support the instructors and administrators at Mineola HS and provide the students with opportunities to visit our campus and participate in college level student activities. The Connect2College team are prepared to welcome a new cohort of students each fall and look forward to helping these students easily transition to QCC after graduation.

Connect2College connects you to Queensborough Community College! ■

state-of-the-art equipment such as a 3D printer, which enables students to design and build objects; the Science Technology laboratory, which supports the development of new systems/software; and the Teacher Professional Development Lab, which serves as a

was attributed to Northwell Health's wonderful panel of representatives, (Cheryl Davidson, Director Workforce Readiness, Jason Jacobs, Specialist, Flexstaff and Gisela Belinfante, Specialist, Talent Acquisition), who spoke in depth about the organization, career pathways and responded to students' questions regarding job trends and hiring expectations. This ongoing partnership with Northwell Health will benefit the professional development of students in the Medical Office Assistant tracks. ■



Front row: Jason Jacobs, Gisela Belinfante, Connie Peluso, Kate Wong, Miatta Weisel; Back row: Erica Vega, Briana O'Shaughnessy, Cheryl Davidson, Alexandra Tarasko, Jeffrey Chen

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Personal Enrichment Programs

Start your spring celebration with one of several new adult enrichment programs. Want to become more tech oriented? Enroll in the **Streaming Music & Video** course that will give you an introductory course in how to use the internet for music using your MAC computers. Topics covered include the basics of downloading, streaming, navigating, playlists, searching, and playing. If you are interested in expanding your travel horizons, join the interactive workshop **TRAVELS: Journey through the Lands**. The five sessions cover several countries in Asia, North Africa and the Middle East, Europe, and

Central and South America. **You'll be exposed to 29 different ethnic cultures, local cuisines, travel protocols and sites of interest.** Our **Art History Series** is composed of two series, one focused on **The Realist and Surrealist** and the other on **Gertrude Stein & Friends**. Explore artists and their works, such as Edward Hopper and Rene' Magritte and Gertrude Stein, Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse. The **History Series** explores four topics: **The Irish Rebellion – 1916-1922; Red October: The Russian Revolution; A History of New Thought: Positive Thinking in American History;** and **America as Superpower – In**

the 21st Century. Sign up for one or all four. If you are interested in finding your own roots, join the workshop on **Genealogy: Finding Our Ancestors – Finding Ourselves** in which you will begin to build your family tree and learn how to research to keep it growing and informing your family history. Learning toward journalism as a hobby or possible future career? Enroll in the workshop **NEWS: What is it – Why we need it – Are we getting it?** You'll be introduced to the basics of journalism, including news gathering, writing and production, and assigned to write and report stories from your own neighborhood. ■

Professional Development Programs

For those looking toward retirement or who support those moving toward retirement, enroll in the **Protect Your Assets 2017** course offered by Ann Margaret Carrozza, JD, Trust and Elder Law Specialist. **CPA's will be eligible for 1 CEU credit.** This single 2-hour session will review current

estate tax laws and a discussion of strategies to transfer assets to the next generation while maintaining control. And for the professional tax practitioner seeking enrolled agent status, join the **ENROLLED AGENT: Preparation for the Enrolled Agent Exam Course – Part 2: Business and Partner-**

ship. (Part 1: Individual Taxation was offered in the Fall semester and Part 3: Ethics & IRS will be offered in the Summer session.) This course covers topics on corporations, partnerships, estates, trusts, exempt organizations and retirement plans as well as basis, depreciation, and dissolutions. ■

the program. When I was selected as one of the recipients, I knew this was the right track for me!

How was your experience in the program?

My experience in the program was exciting and challenging at the same time. Hemodialysis was new to me. Starting the class was eye opening as I learned classroom work and gained clinical experience through the internship program. The course was very detailed, and we learned about the history of dialysis, kidney functions, dialysis machines, water treatments, health insurance, infection control, the scope of practice as a technician as well as how to operate the dialysis machines properly. We had three instructors who were nurses and chief technicians with vast knowledge and experience in the field of dialysis, and we used additional study materials and textbooks for better understanding. They were patient and helped me understand every topic taught with weekly practice tests to monitor the progress in understanding the topics.

Tell us about your experience with the Job Search process?

While in the program, I worked with the Career Counselor to upgrade my resume and self-marketing materials. The career counselor met with me numerous times for in-depth conversations regarding my past experience and future goals. I then worked with the Job Developer to



Omokafe Ojuola

identify internship opportunities. I obtained an internship position at a dialysis unit in Queens to complete 250 hours of hands-on experience. I was exposed to the real world of dialysis, came in contact with dialysis patients and worked with the technicians and nurses on the floor. Under the supervision of the nurse, I had an opportunity of practicing a dialysis treatment for a patient for the first time. I have since completed the 250 hours of clinical experience required to take the BONENT exam to become a Certified Hemodialysis Technician. After I completed my hours, I was hired by the company where I did my internship training.

What is your current employment? I work at Island Rehabilitative Services as a Dialysis Patient Care Technician. A typical day starts with checking which section I am assigned to work at and what patients are scheduled for each shift in that section. We have to make

sure the machines are running properly, the area is clean, the supplies are set up and then call in my patients from the waiting room, greet and escort them to their chairs. I check their vitals and make sure everything is good then start the treatment after the nurse verifies it is okay to initiate.

What is your plan for the future?

I plan to continue my education to become a Nurse in the future and this program is a huge stepping stone towards achieving that goal!

What advice can you give to students in this field?

My advice for students in this field is to be very determined and focused in learning as much as possible from teachers, co-workers and even the patients. Studying a lot helps you broaden your knowledge and pass the exam. Pay attention to details, be punctual, be a good team player and always be alert to the patients and the working environment. Practice proper hygiene and infection control techniques to protect both the patients and yourself. Have a passion for the job because there will be a lot of challenges to be faced, especially being new to the field. Wake up every day with the mindset that you are making an impact in someone's life and giving back to society in your own little way.

Omokafe started classes at QCC in Fall 2016 for Nursing! ■



Hoa Tu, Tia Wright, Tony Jackson, Denise Ward

training center for teachers.

Students are excited about the new possibilities the labs will provide for their education, such as teamwork, sharing ideas, and linking classroom lectures with hands-on experiments. The classroom tables are set up like conference tables, giving the students an opportunity to practice their entrepreneurial, communication, and leadership skills in sup-

port of the overall mission of the school: connecting technology and business with education.

Incorporating all available technology into their lessons, BTECH teachers steer their students to think like scientists. The new laboratories and equipment will allow students to conduct investigations themselves, create and follow procedures, and come up with conclusions.

An Educator's Perspective: Teaching English in China

Dr. Diana Berkowitz is the Director of the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP) and CUNY Start at QCC, as well as the Director for Continuing Education (CE) & Workforce Development ESL and HSE Programs. Dr. Berkowitz started at QCC in 1999 as the Coordinator of CLIP after having taught ESL at the college level for over 20 years and having done teacher training in that area as well. She also participated in designing and implementing a grant-funded pronunciation and communication program for students in the Nursing Department and has worked on special projects for CE such as the grant-funded Hospitality Program for hotel and restaurant workers and the Multiple Repeaters

Workshop for QCC students. In the summer of 2016, Dr. Berkowitz traveled to China to teach English.

Why did you decide to teach in China over the summer?

I had never been to China (or Asia for that matter) but have wanted to travel there for a long time. Especially because there have been so many teaching opportunities there over the years, if I was going to go, I really wanted to combine traveling with teaching to enhance my experience even more.

What was your most surprising and rewarding experience in China?

With respect to China itself, I was

"In the world we live, everything is becoming digitized, everything is 'in the cloud,' and everything is in computers, including the science world. The kind of technology we have in the school is a starter level that will help move our students in the direction of learning more complex programs and become functionally literate in using technology." —Michael Acquotta,

SAP announced an Innovator Awards Competition for students and teachers. The goal is to motivate students to submit a proposal and participate in the implementation of innovative ideas on how to improve BTECH. There will be three \$3,000 prizes awarded in spring, 2017: two for students as voted on by other students and BTECH staff; and one for a BTECH staff member voted on by the school community. ■

pleasantly surprised to see what great importance the Chinese place on aesthetics. For example, riding along major roads one could see weeping willow tree after weeping willow tree strategically planted to create a beautiful effect. Traditional Chinese art creates this same effect. I was also very pleasantly surprised to see how warm and friendly the Chinese are, especially to Americans. They made us feel like celebrities with the special treatment they gave us.

I also found it exciting to be able to share my expertise with the Chinese teachers in my class. It was certainly rewarding to see that my presentation of Western English language

Healthcare Careers: QCC Career Direct's Partnership with Northwell Health

The Career Direct program specializes in assisting current degree students and graduates of Medical Office Assistant (A.A.S.), Business Management (A.A.S.), Office Administration and Technology (A.A.S.), Computer Information Systems (A.A.S.), and Internet and Information Technology (A.A.S.) programs with career

counseling, resume writing and job search strategies. The Career Direct Program partnered with Northwell Health on November 10, 2016, to promote the various employment opportunities within their community to students enrolled in the Medical Office Assistant degree and non-degree tracks. The success of the event



Dr. Diana Berkowitz

could incorporate into their own lessons to some extent. Perhaps the most rewarding moment was when one of my students expressed her sincere gratitude to me for giving her the opportunity to go beyond her comfort zone by participating in a debate in class which boosted her self-confidence greatly.

Was this experience helpful to your programs/position at QCC?

It provided me much deeper insight into the educational systems that many of our CLIP students came out of before coming to the United States. I heard first-hand from their teachers what they were taught and how they were taught back home. I saw what their schools looked like and met many of their teachers and school administrators. In short, I got a little peek into the educational culture of China which is obviously far

more rigid in its approach than is our educational system here. Happily, I learned that the teachers are looking for less rigidity and more creative ideas to bring to their classrooms. And we see that with our students here who are very willing to participate in the American educational approach, as different as it is from what they are accustomed to.

What are you most proud of in your work?

I am very student-centered, not only in my teaching, but also in the way I approach the administration of academic or developmental programs. When I have to choose between two ways of doing things, I tend to opt for the way which most benefits the students. After that, my next priority is the teaching staff. And everything else comes after those two priorities. ■

teaching techniques was something that they could adapt to varying degrees in their own classrooms to enhance their teaching of high school students. I was pleased that they found the warm-up activities, songs, and jazz chants, among other activities, to be things they felt they

Program Spotlight: QCC Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP)-Project PRIZE

The Liberty Partnerships Program is included in New York's Statewide Plan for Higher Education as a grant funded strategy to maximize the successful transition of middle and high school students, who are at risk of dropping out of school, into graduates fully prepared for the rigors of higher education and the competitive demands of a fluid workplace in a global economy. The Queensborough Liberty Partnerships Program is one of 40 Liberty Partnerships Programs across New York State and one of 18 Liberty Partnerships Programs in the New York City metropolitan area. All partnerships are between colleges and universities and middle schools and high schools.



years the college has facilitated Project PRIZE with all the support for middle and high school students enrolled in the Saturday and Summer components as well as those attending the after school component at our partner schools to experience college life. Currently Project PRIZE has five high schools and two junior high schools.

Project PRIZE has been hosted by Queensborough Community College for the past 27 years. Throughout these

Students who participate in the Project PRIZE program receive mentoring, counseling, grade transition,

common core instruction, service learning experience, leadership skills, college and career readiness, recreational activities, exposure to arts, educational trips, conferences, panel discussions, participation in the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, Pathways to Nursing, and additional intervention and educational services.

Students who attend Project PRIZE graduate from HS ready to enroll in CUNY, SUNY, or private schools. Upon college graduation, those students go on to meaningful employment. Some of our alumni give back to Project Prize by volunteering in different areas of the operation, such as being workshop leaders in the areas of their majors or helping as peer mentors. ■

Port of Entry: Gateway to Success

The Port of Entry Program was established in 1980 as a unique intensive language development program designed to provide international students and new immigrants with the language skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to succeed in higher education and professional careers in the United States.

Two of the most inspiring POE stories involve Eun Jung Shin and Hyo Jung Shin, sisters from South Korea who immigrated to the U.S. in 2011, and began working at Port of Entry Program shortly thereafter. They later graduated from Queensborough Community College as chemistry majors in 2014 and 2015. They successfully transferred to the Honors Program at Queens College and worked part-time for the Port of Entry Program. Both excelled in their studies and have conducted many prominent research projects and presented their findings in science conferences at Columbia and Yale Universities. Hyo Jung Shin was



Eun Jung Shin & Florence Tse



Hyo Jung Shin

a recipient of the 2015 Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarship, one of 10 recipients selected from more than 2000 applicants worldwide. Through this scholarship, Hyo received \$7,500 to pursue her baccalaureate degree, becoming the first student at Queensborough to receive this highly prestigious award. Both Shin sisters were awarded the Finch

College Alumni Association Foundation Trust (FCAAF) scholarship and selected based upon each student's academic achievements. Eun Jung Shin graduated from Queens College in Spring 2016 and was accepted into the competitive Physician's Assistant Program at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine in Ohio. ■

FOR ADULTS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Spotlight on Student Success: From Nigeria to QCC and Beyond

Omokafe Ojuola is a recent graduate of the Hemodialysis Certification Prep training program.

Tell us about your history and background:

I was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. I received my high school and college degree in Nigeria. I was a science major in high school and Chemistry major in my undergraduate studies at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. I moved to the United States in 2012 and I wanted to continue my education.

What led to your decision to enroll in the program?

My first job was a Home Health Aide where I took care

of the sick and elderly in their homes. I enjoyed my job and became interested in the healthcare field. I enrolled in the Certified Medical Assistant program at Queensborough Community College and completed the program in 6 months. I also completed an externship at a medical office, but it was still challenging getting a job as most of the jobs required at least a year of experience. At first it was discouraging, but I didn't give up. I decided to enroll for another program at the school for the Hemodialysis Certification Prep. I was hesitant at first due to the tuition cost, but I was eligible to apply for a scholarship called the Helena Rubinstein Foundation scholarship, which covered about 90% tuition for