



**Dr. Gail O. Mellow**

Dr. Gail O. Mellow is President of LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens. A member of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, LaGuardia is a two-year institution serving over 50,000 students from 163 different countries that speak 119 different native languages.

Since Dr. Mellow joined LaGuardia in 2000, the College has won numerous awards, among them the prestigious 2006 MetLife Foundation Community College Excellence Award for Service to Underserved Students, and was named one of the Top Three Large Community Colleges by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement in 2003.

Under Dr. Mellow's leadership, over \$16 million in external funding through grants and contracts is secured each year for workforce development, initiatives that support at-risk students and initiatives to help low income individuals transition to work and to education.

Most recently, Dr. Mellow is co-creator of Global Skills for College Completion (GSCC), a collaborative, \$3.6 million Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation funded project in which LaGuardia, League for Innovation in the Community College, and Knowledge in the Public Interest, will develop a breakthrough curriculum and improve instruction in the teaching of math and writing basic skills. The project is part of a larger Gates-funded effort to increase community college students' graduation rate.

As the co-author of *Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2008), Dr. Mellow is nationally recognized expert on the history, development

and future of the American community college. She is in demand as a speaker both here and abroad, and has shared her expertise with educators and public officials in several countries, including Chile, Greece, France and China. On a national level, Dr. Mellow has received numerous awards, sits on various boards and has presented to audiences throughout the country on the vital role that community colleges play in educating students for a global economy and spurring job creation.

Dr. Mellow signed an agreement with Chilean Minister of Education Monica Jimenez de la Jara in 2008 creating a pilot community college in Chile under the auspices of the Universidad Central with guidance from LaGuardia that will enhance social mobility in Chile, while also serving to spotlight the vital role community colleges play in educating the 21st century global workforce. The college will enroll its first cohort of 800 students in March 2010. Dr. Mellow has been elected to the college's board of trustees and will speak about the partnership before the North American Chilean Chamber of Commerce in 2010.

In 2009, Dr. Mellow was elected to the board of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. She serves as a commissioner on the Business Roundtable's Springboard Project with business leaders, labor experts, academics, foundation heads and former policymakers who offer recommendations to strengthen the American workforce by highlighting the important role community colleges will play in our economic recovery.

Dr. Mellow received an A. A. from Jamestown Community College, a B.A. from SUNY Albany, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from The George Washington University in Social Psychology.

To learn more about Dr. Mellow's expertise on community college education and job creation visit: <http://laguardia.edu/gailmellow/>