



# LaGuardia Community College

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## **Community College Education Expert to Deliver Keynote Address at The Colleges Ontario Conference on February 21**

*LaGuardia Community College President Dr. Gail O. Mellow  
To Address over 400 Canadian Educators and Government Officials*

**Long Island City, NY—February 19, 2009--**Dr. Gail O. Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College, and a nationally respected expert on community college education, will give the keynote address to over 400 Canadian educators and government representatives at the Colleges Ontario 2009 Conference on February 21 at 1 p.m. at the Westin Harbour Castle Conference Centre in Toronto.

Building on the conference's theme, "Knowledge is Power: Advancing Competitiveness in Changing Times," Dr. Mellow will discuss how colleges are shaping the social, economic and demographic landscapes of the United States. Dr. Mellow will be joining some of Canada's leading experts on the economy to discuss the challenges ahead for educating and training the province's workforce. The conference features Jim Stanford, Canadian Auto Workers economist; Paul Jenkins, Bank of Canada senior deputy governor; Jayson Myers, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters president; and Patrick Sullivan, Workopolis president. Other presenters include Michael "Pinball" Clemons, CEO of the Toronto Argonauts.

Visit [www.laguardia.edu/gailmellow](http://www.laguardia.edu/gailmellow) to learn more about Dr. Mellow's expertise and her role as a passionate advocate for community college education.

As co-author of *Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College*, Dr. Mellow is viewed in academe as an expert in the history, development and future of the American community college, and has been invited to speak at a host of international and national conferences. Most recently, Dr. Mellow presented the keynote address at the Colleges Ontario 2009 Conference in Toronto. During 2008,



Dr. Mellow addressed members of the nation's higher education community from the Montana State Higher Education System, the Minnesota State System, the Nevada League of Community Colleges, as well as the American Association of Women in Community Colleges' (AAWCC) annual conference in Oregon.

The Rector of the Universidad Central of Santiago, Chile, invited her to speak about the community college as a pathway to social justice and economic development in Chile, before an audience of academics, government officials and leaders of the Chilean business community last December. Following her speech, the two institutions signed an agreement to establish the first community college in Chile. Under the agreement, LaGuardia will provide its expertise in creating a community college in all academic and administrative aspects as well as an exchange of students and professors between LaGuardia and Universidad Central. She also participated in the Council of Europe's higher education forum held in France.

A social psychologist with extensive experience in higher education, Dr. Mellow was appointed president of LaGuardia in 2000. The Long Island City institution is one of the most ethnically diverse campuses in the nation, with more than 50,000 students from over 160 different countries. Under her leadership, LaGuardia was named one of the Top Three Large Community Colleges in the country in 2003. It was the recipient of the 2004 Hesburgh Award, given by TIAA-CREF, for its innovative faculty-training programs. The college received over \$6 million to establish NY Designs, a business incubator that nurtures businesses in the design industries.

*About LaGuardia Community College:*

Located in Long Island City, Queens in New York City, LaGuardia Community College, part of the City University of New York, is a nationally recognized leader among community colleges. Founded in 1971, LaGuardia Community College has been recognized as an innovator in educating students who are under prepared for college work and/or are not primary English speakers. A catalyst for development in western Queens and beyond, LaGuardia serves New Yorkers and immigrants from 160 countries through 50 majors and certificate programs, enabling career advancement and transfer to four-year colleges at twice the national average. Visit [www.laguardia.edu](http://www.laguardia.edu) to learn more.

