



## Case for Support

### Introduction

The cost of tuition is a pressing concern for all college students, particularly during these challenging economic times. While tuition at LaGuardia Community College may be less daunting, it has relative impact on our students who also struggle with funding their education. It is for this reason that the LaGuardia Community College Foundation created the Spring Into Action scholarship campaign.

### LaGuardia Community College

For the past 39 years, CUNY/LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC), located in Long Island City, NY, has been helping students of all ages and abilities to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to advance their lives. A catalyst for development in western Queens and beyond, we largely serve native New Yorkers and immigrants from 160 countries through 50 majors and certificate programs, enabling career advancement and transfer to four-year colleges which we do at twice the national average.

### Need

Over two-thirds of our students come from households making under \$25,000, and most require financial assistance even with our tuition being the lowest in the New York area at \$3,500 a year. Additionally, international/out-of-state students, whose tuition is double, are not eligible for financial aid so their need is substantially increased. Tuition assistance not only will make attendance possible and much less challenging, but it will have a huge impact on our students' lives, as data shows that, upon graduation, LaGuardia students' family income increases by 17%.

### Goal

The LAGCC Foundation's Spring Into Action scholarship campaign will provide new and returning LAGCC students with scholarship assistance to supplement the cost of their education.

The campaign seeks to:

- Raise funds during the campaign period, March 1 – May 29, 2009 to award numerous immediate \$3,500 scholarships for degree pursuing students with financial need
- Provide \$3,500 scholarships to students, representing a full year of tuition for in-state students or one semester of tuition for international/out-of-state students
- Engage prospective donors from all areas of the internal and external College community (Foundation board members, faculty, staff, alumni, businesses, foundations, organizations, and friends) in a collaborative effort that will benefit students
- Request gifts at any level that will fund, entirely or in part, individual scholarships of \$3,500
- Provide donors with an opportunity to see their contributions directly impact each student's educational career at LaGuardia

### Summary

The Spring Into Action scholarship campaign will immediately impact the education of deserving students by providing \$3,500 in tuition assistance for one to two semesters at LaGuardia Community College. The initiative also will engage prospective donors from all areas of the internal and external College community in directly supporting the education of degree pursuing LAGCC students with limited financial resources. We encourage and thank you for your consideration, action and vital support for this crucial need.