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**The LaGuardia Community College Foundation Launches
"Spring Into Action" Scholarship Campaign**

\$3,500 Covers A Student's Tuition for One to Two Semesters in 2009-2010

Long Island City, NY – March 1, 2009—The LaGuardia Community College Foundation launched "Spring Into Action," a fundraising campaign designed to award numerous, immediate \$3,500 scholarships to new and returning students. A gift of \$3,500 covers the tuition costs of an in-state student for academic year 2009-2010, or an international or out-of-state student's tuition costs for a semester.

From March 1 through May 29, the Foundation will engage prospective donors from all areas of the internal and external College community -Foundation board members, faculty, staff, alumni, businesses, foundations, organizations and friends -to award scholarships for degree pursuing students with financial need. Donations may be made online at: www.laguardia.edu/springintoaction A printable pledge form is also available on the website.

"The 'Spring Into Action' Scholarship Campaign calls upon every member of our community to make a LaGuardia Community College education accessible to students," said LaGuardia Vice President of Institutional Advancement E. Ramone Segree. "By eliciting the support of corporations, foundations and individuals who care about higher education, we are not only investing in a student's life, but the future of our community."

The cost of tuition is a pressing concern for all college students, particularly during these challenging economic times. These challenges are heightened for many students who attend LaGuardia Community College.

Over two-thirds of LaGuardia students come from households making under \$25,000, and most require financial assistance even though the College's tuition is the lowest in the New York area. 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 the students' lives. Data shows that, upon graduation, LaGuardia students' family income increases by 17%.

Since its inception in March 2003, the LaGuardia Community College Foundation has made it easier for LaGuardia students to pay for their college education; over 330 scholarship recipients have graduated with Foundation support. In addition to scholarship support, the Foundation also provides funding for state-of-the-art facilities within the college to prepare the future leaders of tomorrow. Foundation board members, donors and friends are involved in many aspects of College activities, including mentoring students, serving on advisory boards, and speaking to student groups about their professions. Visit www.laguardia.edu/lagfoundation to learn more.

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. www.laguardia.edu.

