



LEHMAN
COLLEGE



PROVOST AND SENIOR
VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND
STUDENT SUCCESS

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Dear colleagues-

I am pleased to announce that President Fernando Delgado has approved the appointment of Richard Finger as the interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, effective Friday, April 1, 2022. As you probably know, Dr. Reine Sarmiento, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Associate Provost, has been named University interim Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management, effective April 1, 2022.

Mr. Finger joined the division of Enrollment Management in 2009 as founding Director of the Office of Special Academic Sessions, and currently serves as Senior Director, Division of Enrollment Management and Director of Graduate Studies, a position he has held since 2016. As the interim Vice President, he will serve as Chief Enrollment Officer, provide leadership and oversight for the seventeen (17) units within the division, and work with campus and external stakeholders to advance our access and opportunity mission in furtherance of our 90x30 challenge to increase educational attainment in the Bronx.

As Senior Director for Enrollment Management, Mr. Finger served as the principal deputy in the division and provided leadership and oversight for 7 departments. In this role, he led all aspects of enrollment and retention that include admissions (undergraduate and graduate), academic advisement, community college relations, graduate studies, enrollment communications, scholarships, strategic persistence and student success initiatives, and testing, among others. Throughout the division and in cross-divisional committees, he has promoted an environment that fosters innovation in a judgment-free zone, which has resulted in \$600,000 in grant funding for student success since 2018.

As Director of Graduate Studies, he led initiatives to engage the graduate committee regarding academic policy renewal and outreach. The impact of this work includes a 7 percent increase in persistence and a 6 percent increase in graduation rates. As Director of Strategic Initiatives, he led special academic sessions resulting in Summer and Winter increases in enrollment (22 percent and 330 percent respectively) over five years.

Mr. Finger has also actively promoted shared governance in his role as elected senator in our College Senate for 6 years, partnered with program faculty to develop accelerated Bachelor to Master opportunities in six-degree programs, and currently serves on the planning committee for the new School of Business. Mr. Finger is also an adjunct instructor, teaching classes in the department of Economics and Business for the past 10 years.

Selected conference presentations highlight the broad work and expertise Mr. Finger brings to the field of Enrollment Management. He has presented at convenings of the following groups: Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), Hawaii International Conference on Education, Noel Levitz National Conference on Student Recruitment, ACE Women's Network New York/ Long Island Region, and EDUCAUSE. He has also published *Presenting Post High School Options to Students* in the Experiential Activities for Teaching Career Counseling and for Facilitating Career Groups (Volume III) published in 2011 by the National Career Development Association (NCDA).

Before coming to Lehman, Mr. Finger served for six years as Director of Career Services, Academic Advising, and Alumni Relations at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, New York. Prior to his career in higher education, he oversaw several multi-million-dollar consulting projects with clients, including Verizon, WorldCom, Goldman Sachs, and Deutsche Bank.

Mr. Finger received his Bachelor of Science in Management from St. Francis College, a Master of Science in Organizational Behavior from Polytechnic University, and a Master of Business Administration from Touro College, and will be completing his Doctorate in Healthcare Administration in August 2022. He is a 2nd generation Italian American, the first in his family to graduate from college, and a native New Yorker, who has dedicated over 16 years supporting charities in his local community.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Finger in his new role. I know that his diverse background and span of experience will continue to serve Lehman well as we work together to advance our important mission of educational attainment in the Bronx and beyond. I am also positive that he will have the support of our entire campus community of teachers, scholars, learners, advocates, and activists.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation and that of the entire campus community to Dr. Reine Sarmiento for her leadership of the division of Enrollment Management since 2014, and for her steadfast commitment to student success and our external partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a wonderful pleasure to work with her as a thought partner and I look forward to continuing together this important work of transforming lives and igniting new possibilities for our students at the system level. Her call to the Central office to serve as interim Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management is a recognition of her work at Lehman, and the unique contribution she is now positioned to make to further drive access and opportunity throughout CUNY. I know I speak for President Delgado and the entire campus community in wishing her well in her new role, and in saying a big THANK YOU to Reine for her contributions to strengthening our institution's health. She will remain with us for the month of April to assist with transition. We plan to conduct a national search for a permanent Vice President for Enrollment Management should she decide not to return to her role at Lehman after one year.

Remain well and stay safe.

-P

Peter O. Nwosu, Ph.D.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success

Herbert H. Lehman College