

CUNY Congratulates Fernandez & Kirschner for Exemplary Service



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Ricardo R. Fernández became the second president of Lehman College on September 1, 1990.

Two outstanding leaders at The City University of New York — President Ricardo R. Fernández of Herbert H. Lehman College and Dean Ann Kirschner of the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY — are stepping down next year after long and exemplary service to CUNY, Chancellor James B. Milliken announced today.

President Fernández will retire following the conclusion of the academic year after nearly 26 years of leadership at Lehman College.

Dean Kirschner will step down early next year after 10 years as Dean of Macaulay Honors College at CUNY and will assume a new role as Special Adviser to the Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships.

“Throughout his remarkable tenure, President Ricardo R. Fernández has expanded Lehman College’s commitment to educational excellence and access to higher education while establishing a caring and supportive learning environment where individual achievement has flourished. With his exemplary leadership, campus facilities were modernized, programs expanded, and our beautiful Bronx campus became a vital treasure of our state,” Chancellor Milliken said.

The Chancellor praised Dean Kirschner’s outstanding leadership of Macaulay Honors College, noting that “the college went from a program to one of the few degree-granting honors colleges in the country. Applications increased by 80 percent and Macaulay has become one of America’s most competitive honors colleges.” He

added that he looks forward to working with Dr. Kirschner in her new post building partnerships in key sectors of the economy to provide more opportunities for our students and graduates.

Dr. Fernández became the second president of Lehman College on Sept. 1, 1990, and is the longest serving among CUNY’s current presidents. The many milestones achieved at Lehman under President Fernández’s leadership include offering students the opportunity to choose from some 51 majors and 42 master’s programs. The college also has a robust adult and continuing education program on its beautiful and historic campus.

President Fernández oversaw the development and completion of Lehman’s remarkable Science Hall, a \$70 million research and teaching facility with state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, instrumentation, greenhouse and environmentally sustainable technologies. Science Hall, which was dedicated in the fall of 2012 and opened for classes in January 2013, is the largest, single academic investment in Lehman’s history and a campus centerpiece for research and STEM career preparation.

A national search for a new president of Lehman College will begin this fall, consistent with the guidelines of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

Dr. Kirschner became Dean of Macaulay Honors College in 2006. Student achievement at Macaulay soared under her leadership, with more than 73 prestigious fellowships, including two Rhodes Scholars, five Truman Fellows and 36 Fulbrights. Dean Kirschner developed signature leadership programs, such as the Goldsmith Scholars, Revson Scholars, the Kenan Fellows and the Hertog Scholars. Building on her background as an entrepreneur in media and technology, she launched the Macaulay New Media Lab and was awarded one of New York State’s 20/20 grants to develop a digital media incubator and curriculum, in partnership with Hostos Community College and Lehman College.

A national search for a new dean of Macaulay Honors College will begin this fall, consistent with the guidelines of the CUNY Board of Trustees.

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