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Racial and Economic Diversity at CUNY Explored on Feb 22, 2013

Macaulay Honors College Students Hold Annual Conference

NEW YORK, New York—January 24, 2013. Students of color face significant challenges at American colleges today. Led by a group of honors students who have experienced these challenges first-hand, Macaulay Honors College will present *Fulfilling CUNY's Promise of a "First-rate Education for All,"* the second annual conference on Supporting Excellence. The event, open to the public, will examine the issues underrepresented students confront and will map out recommendations to augment access to top tier higher education for underrepresented groups. Macaulay Honors College alumni, CUNY faculty and other higher education experts will convene on Friday, February 22, 2013 from 8:30am to 1:30pm at Macaulay Honors College at 35 West 67th Street between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue.

“Our goal is to bring to light issues that are taboo and left in the dark,” commented Macaulay Honors College student leader Shekeima Dockery '13, who held a series of open meetings and worked closely with the Macaulay Alumni of Color Affinity group to bring the conference about. “On many college campuses across the country, students of color too often experience a sense of isolation and are the target of micro-aggressions. These deter students from doing their best. Our aim is to pinpoint how institutions, and CUNY in particular, can plan to combat these problems. We want to create change-makers.”

The half-day conference, which opens with breakfast and registration, will feature a panel discussion with presentations by:

Michele Fine, Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies and Urban Education at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

Vanessa Anderson, Director of Institutional Research and Evaluation at Bard High School Early College.

Eric Hoffman, University Director for Collaborative Programs at CUNY.

Jessica Lee, Macaulay Honors College '09/MBA Candidate at New York University Stern School of Business/ Leonard Wagner Program on Ethics. Jarvis Watson, Senior Counselor/Academic Advisor for the EOP Advancement on Individual Merit Summer Bridge Program at Stony Brook University

Conference Agenda

8:30am – 9:00am: Breakfast

9:00am – 10:45am: Introductions & Keynote Panel

11:00am – 1:15: Luncheon and Breakout Sessions

Population Specific Pedagogy: Finding a teaching style for a changing and diverse student body

Targeted Student Programs: The process of creating culturally-specific programs for students within the CUNY system

Accountability Measures: Evaluating data for student-focused program outcomes and institutional accountability

1:15pm – 1:30pm: Closing Remarks

Keynote Panelist Biographies

Vanessa Anderson is the Director of Institutional Research and Evaluation at Bard High School Early College. Previously she has worked as Research Director at [The Sound Research](#) and Policy Research Analyst at [the CUNY's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment](#).

Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology, Women's Studies and Urban Education at the Graduate Center, CUNY, has taught at CUNY since 1990 after over a decade at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Fine's research has focused on youth in schools, communities and prisons, developed through critical feminist theory and method.

Eric Hofmann, University Director for Collaborative Programs at CUNY. The City University of New York's commitment to the education of all New Yorkers begins long before the start of freshman year. Through its Collaborative Programs, CUNY invests substantial human and financial resources in the service of public school students and out-of-school youth. The work CUNY does with the NYC public schools through the Office of Academic Affairs is known collectively as Collaborative Programs.

Jessica Lee, Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College '09. During college, Jessica Lee founded a study advocacy organization, volunteered in Guatemala and New Orleans to build affordable housing for low-income families, participated in a public policy fellowship at Princeton University, and traveled abroad to India, South Africa, and Argentina to study urban development. Upon graduation, Jessica joined the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) training entrepreneurs. She is pursuing a dual MBA/MPA degree at New York University Stern School of Business/ Leonard Wagner Program on Ethics and will focus on economic development in low-income communities.

Jarvis Watson, Senior Counselor/Academic Advisor for the EOP Advancement on Individual Merit Summer Bridge Program at Stony Brook University.

About Supporting Excellence: Diversity in Higher Education Conference:

In 2012, two Macaulay Honors College students, Shekeima Dockery '13 and Ana Billingsley '13, launched the conference program to create a formal space for discussions about racial diversity and academic achievement in higher education. Now an ongoing student-run organization, Supporting Excellence is made possible by a generous grant from The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation's Scholars Program at Macaulay Honors College. It is organized with the guidance of Andrew Adair, Associate Director of Student Development, Mike Lamb, Ph.D., Associate Director of Immersive and Personalized Education and Vanessa Iaffa, Named

Scholarship Coordinator, all with the Macaulay Honors College of The City University of New York.

About Macaulay Honors College:

Macaulay Honors College offers exceptional students a uniquely personalized education with access to the vast resources of the nation's largest urban university and New York City itself. Selected for their top high school records and leadership potential, every Macaulay student receives a full in-state tuition scholarship available to eligible New York State residents, a laptop and technology support, and a \$7,500 Opportunities Fund to pursue global learning and service opportunities. For more information visit www.macaulay.cuny.edu.