Perhaps you know how Community College Number Nine of the City University of New York came to be known as Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College. Perhaps you also know who Fiorello H. LaGuardia was. But perhaps you don't know just how fitting it is that we carry his name.

Fiorello "the Little Flower" LaGuardia was the 99th mayor of New York City. His career as a lawyer, congressman and mayor was filled with color as well as daring, innovation, and courage. When the college began, its mission was also daring and innovative. We were the first community college in the country to offer an experimental work and study program to all students. That is what cooperative education is all about--studying and then applying what you have learned to the world of work. There are now over 500 junior and community colleges in the United States offering some form of cooperative education.

Mayor LaGuardia knew so well the meaning of both working and studying. He earned his law degree at night at New York University while working by day in a variety of jobs. When he was elected to Congress--the first Italian-American to serve there--he was responsible for the passage of what is known as "Labor's Magna Carta", the Norris-LaGuardia Act which guaranteed workers the right to organize and bargain collectively.

As Mayor of New York, which is a title he held during both the Depression and World War II, he pleased New Yorkers with a relentless fight against the underworld, and he inspired voters with the moral, financial, administrative, and physical rehabilitation through which he put the city government. He was committed to the role higher education should play in the life of the city and is credited with steps which led to national recognition for the city colleges.

When Mayor LaGuardia took office in 1934, there were three city colleges. When Community College Number Nine was named LaGuardia Community College in 1970, it became the twentieth institution of the City University of New York. It was then and still is today a fitting memorial to the visionary man, Fiorello H. LaGuardia.

**These notes are a summary of the remarks made by Dr. Frederick Burkhardt at the Naming Ceremony for Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College**
LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

MISSION

LaGuardia Community College opened in 1971 as the eighteenth unit of the City University of New York. It was established to help meet the educational needs of a diverse population largely poor and educationally disadvantaged. And that remains its task today. The College has developed a unique educational program that is nationally recognized -- one that combines classroom learning and work experience, geared to the needs of the students and those of the business and public sectors.

Located in the heart of the industrial section of Long Island City in Queens, the College has grown from 650 to 7000 students pursuing Associate Degrees in the following fields:

...Accounting
...Data Processing
...Operations
...Programming
...Managerial Studies
...Business Administration
...Business Management
...Associate in Science
...Animal Health Technology
...Dietetic Technician
...Mortuary Science
...Occupational Therapy Asst.
...Associate in Arts
...Education Associate
...Education Associate - Bilingual
...Human Services
...Child Development
...Mental Health

STUDENT POPULATION

LaGuardia's student population reflects that of the City. Its current student body is 37% black, 35% Hispanic, 21% white and 7% other. Most come from Queens, 55%; but also from Brooklyn, 21%; the Bronx, 13%; and Manhattan, 11%. Over 75% of the students come from families with
incomes of less than $15,000 a year. More than 70% of the incoming students need remediation courses in one or more subjects.

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

The cooperative education approach for all students forms the core of the education program at LaGuardia. A two-year program of study includes five quarters of full-time classroom work interspersed with three quarters of full-time internships at jobs of increasing responsibility in fields related to the student's major.

The College has developed a special instructional approach to integrate classroom learning with the work experience called TAR [Teach-Apply-Reinforce]. A special course of study for each major guides the student's learning and includes specific internship assignments related to concepts taught in the classroom. A two-hour seminar every other week while the student is on an internship provides the linkage between formal instruction and work.

LaGuardia cooperates with some 350 potential employers to arrange a variety of internships including:

- American Broadcasting Co.
- Chemical Bank
- Deloitte Haskins & Sells
- Con Edison
- Exxon
- IBM
- Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.
- McGraw Hill, Inc.
- Museum of Natural History
- New York City Health & Hospitals Corp.
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.
- McGraw Hill, Inc.
- Museum of Natural History
- New York City Health & Hospitals Corp.
- Pfizer, Inc.
- Rockefeller Foundation

This cooperative venture between LaGuardia and the private and public sectors has proved to be beneficial to all concerned. The college's curriculum is responsive and reality-based; and many of
the interns are ultimately hired on a full-time basis by the firms and agencies to which they were assigned, benefitting both the employer and the individual.

DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

To assist students in overcoming their educational deficiencies, LaGuardia has established a model Developmental Studies Program that has received national recognition. It has two major aspects. The first is a Basic Skills Program designed to help students improve their skills in five areas: reading, writing, mathematics, speech and English as a second language. Students must achieve a certain level of competency in these areas before pursuing their degree courses. This program has been highly successful with some 70% of the students markedly improving their skills in reading, writing and mathematics. The second aspect is an Integrated Skills Reinforcement [ISR] Project designed to train the faculty to reinforce these basic skills in their specific courses. In addition, the faculty is now giving special attention to the teaching of critical thought skills.

MIDDLE COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

In 1974, LaGuardia Community College, in cooperation with the New York City Board of Education, established the Middle College High School to focus on the serious high school drop-out problem. The LaGuardia cooperative education model was adopted by the High School which currently enrolls 500 students in grades 10 through 12. Despite
the high-risk nature of the student body, about 85% graduate, and of these 80% go on to college at LaGuardia or elsewhere. According to Gene I. Maeroff, education writer for The New York Times, Middle College, "is one of the best examples of a high school and college merging their efforts in ways that cut to the core of each institution."

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Division of Continuing Education enrolls about two thousand individuals each quarter in a variety of programs including: preparation for the High School Equivalency Diploma, family day-care training, an extensive English Language program for a large immigrant population, a Multilingual Small Business Management Program, and an array of programs for the elderly in their neighborhoods and at the College. The Correctional Education Consortium is headquartered at LaGuardia and serves several correctional facilities including the Queens House of Detention and the Rikers Island prison.

A distinctive focus of the Division of Continuing Education has been on serving the disabled. It has developed a range of offerings for the blind and the deaf and is generally considered one of the outstanding centers for service to the hearing impaired in the New York metropolitan area.

SUMMARY

Although its formative years were also those of economic recession and New York City's fiscal crisis, LaGuardia Community
College has distinguished itself in a number of areas:

...It is the only community college in the country which offers a comprehensive cooperative education program for all of its students. It has been designated by the United States Department of Education as the national model for career education in community colleges.

...It has a model Developmental Studies Program that has been recognized as the outstanding program in the country by the National Association for Developmental Studies.

...It established, with the New York City Board of Education, a highly successful public high school that addresses the student drop-out problem.

...It has one of the largest continuing education programs in the metropolitan area. Its 7000 students include high school drop-outs, the immigrant and the handicapped.

...It has a national reputation for serving the disabled through a wide range of credit and non-credit programs.