



# SPOTLIGHT on Adult Education Rose-Marie Mills, Superintendent

## A Dynamic Day with Danielson!

One hundred teachers, principals, and assistant principals had the opportunity to meet and work with Charlotte Danielson during a full-day professional development session on Election Day. The day began with a welcome address by Deputy Superintendent Valena Welch-Woodley and an enlightening hour-long presentation by Ms. Danielson. Her lecture was followed by an informal question-and-answer session and the morning's events ended with a

book signing, during which, each participant received a copy of her *Handbook for Enhancing Professional Practice*. Two concurrent afternoon sessions, one for administrators and another for teachers, focused on the application of the Danielson Framework and offered participants the chance to work more closely with colleagues.



Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching is being used to evaluate teachers in grades preK-12 by the New York City Department of Education. Currently, for adult education teachers, it is not being used as an evaluative tool, but rather to guide and deepen instructional practices.



Ryntha Henderson-Amare, Principal of Region 5, receives her autographed copy of the Handbook from Ms. Danielson.

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology Reaches Queens Adult Learning Center



Superintendent Mills, Assistant Principal Carine Davis, Principal Yvonne Neal, and Assistant Principal Dolores Jefferson celebrate the new Queens Adult Learning Center (QALC).

nology skills they need to compete for 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers.

After a keynote address by Chancellor Walcott, Deputy Chancellor for Equity and Access Dr. Dorita Gibson and City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer spoke to the students and staff. Principal Neal recognized that this could not have been accomplished without their support. Ms. Neal also pointed out that the student body reflects the diversity found in New York City, and was excited that students finally had the high-quality facilities that they deserved.

The opening of the long-awaited state of the art home for QALC was celebrated November 18<sup>th</sup> by students, staff, and local politicians.

The new home is a tremendous upgrade from the former leased space that had been utilized. The over 5,000 students served by QALC, many of whom are working towards earning their high school equivalency diploma, can now learn in an environment designed for learning. Smartboards, high-speed Internet, and computer centers will give students the tech-



Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, Superintendent Mills, and Deputy Chancellor for Equity and Access Dr. Dorita Gibson view the "QALC Mission and Vision Speaks" video, created by QALC students.

## Under-21 to Adult Ed: A Seamless Transition for Students



### Pathways to Graduation

Preparing for high school equivalency and beyond

The rebranding of the GED Plus sites to “Pathways to Graduation: Preparing for high school equivalency and beyond” was announced at the Alternative Education Complex, December 5. The Pathways to Graduation sites and the five new Adult Transition Centers—one in each borough—will work in partnership to improve students’ access to and understanding of the DOE’s alternative education services and programs.

The speakers included Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Chancellor for Equity and Access Dr. Dorita Gibson, Senior Superintendent Dr. Laura Feijoo, District 79 Superintendent Dr. Timothy Lisante, and OACE Superintendent Rose-Marie Mills.

#### A MILESTONE REACHED

Dr. Gibson began by thanking Chancellor Walcott for this long-term vision and support of this pathway, dating back to his years as Deputy Mayor for Education, which has allowed us to reach this historic milestone.

Chancellor Walcott invited D79 student Malik Peterson—who earned his high school equivalency diploma that



Malik Peterson, celebrates his recently earned high school equivalency diploma, with Principal Marie Polinsky.



From l to r: District 79 Superintendent Dr. Timothy Lisante, Chancellor Dennis M. Walcott, Deputy Chancellor for Equity and Access Dr. Dorita Gibson, Senior Superintendent Dr. Laura Feijoo, and OACE Superintendent Rose-Marie Mills at the unveiling.

week and has plans to attend community college—to join him at the lectern. The Chancellor said that we have to make sure that we continue to have students like Malik be our ambassadors of what is important: to be high school ready, graduate high school, and be career ready.

The speakers, joined by Malik and Deputy Superintendent Robert Zweig, then unveiled the new name for the program.

Dr. Lisante went on to congratulate the over 1,300 students who earned their HSE diplomas in D79 and recognized the value of the counselors who have been supporting these students. The Pathways program will allow students to transition from under-to-over 21, while working with the same counselors, in the same building.

#### KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Superintendent Mills underscored Dr. Lisante’s sentiments: “We’re keeping it in the family; the family being the Dept. of Education’s under-21 alternative pathway and 21-and-over Adult and Continuing Education Program. What better way to keep it in the family than to find that bridge? We will embed the 21-and-over classrooms in the same buildings so it becomes seamless.”

Superintendent Mills stated how very proud she is of this partnership: “We embrace it and we look forward to continually building upon the D79 family. This is a commitment to making everyone a life-long learner; whether you are under 21 or 21 and over.”

Dr. Feijoo closed by exhorting the audience to keep thinking, keep planning, keep stretching, and to keep furthering these programs: “This really represents the work that brings the whole city together as a community.”

## Building Internal Capacity in Best Plus Training

In October, twenty OACE staff members began the rigorous process of becoming certified BEST Plus trainers. On November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, an enthusiastic group of instructional facilitators, case managers, and assistant principals from each of OACE's eight regions participated in a two-day training session held at the Brooklyn Adult Learning Center. Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) staff members Bryan Woerner and Miriam Burt, Man-

ager of Adult ESL Projects, facilitated the full-day sessions.

The cohort was assembled to respond to the high demand for BEST Plus training. All ESL students must be assessed using BEST Plus, which measures their English language proficiency. OACE serves over 9,000 ESL students with a dedicated staff of 63 full-time and part-time teachers.



*Cohort members Karlene Shadeed, Lloydia Braham, Luckisha Amankwah, and Deputy Superintendent Valena Welch-Woodley review materials from the Center for Applied Linguistics.*

## Fall 2013 Professional Development: A Success

We have reached the end of a very successful October–December professional development season in which 187 teachers have logged into MyLearningPlan and attended a variety of PD sessions. The vast majority of feedback from session evaluations has been positive.

Sessions were designed and delivered by OACE central staff as well as content area experts from the Literacy Assistance Center. Topics for BE, ESL, CTE, and nursing teachers, as well as case managers, have included:

- Best Plus Training
- Common Core, Parts 1 & 2
- Applying the Danielson Framework, Parts 1 & 2
- Writing Instruction: Mnemonics and Graphic Organizers
- Identifying Core Concepts Behind Math Skills

- Eight Standard Mathematics Practices
- Technology Skills Needed for the TASC
- Excel Skills, Parts 1 & 2
- NRS Data: Automatic Assignment of Primary NRS Goals
- Creating Effective Contextualized, Work-Based Curricula for ESOL and ABE Classes

The launch of MyLearningPlan, a web-based Professional Development Management system, streamlined the registration process, and has also allowed teachers to track their OACE professional learning participation.

January–June offerings will be announced soon. Suggestions from teachers are helping to determine the range of offerings. Look for an e-mail early in the

new year. Remember that OACE staff can view a short tutorial on using MyLearningPlan in the OACE Google Drive:

O.A.C.E. Teachers → Training/PD → MyLearningPlan Videos & Presentations.



*Region 8 teachers Kenneth J. Schebendach (math) and Jay A. Rasin-Waters (Learning Laboratory) attend the "Eight Standard Practices of Mathematics" PD session at BALC.*

## Our New and Improved Website Now Live!

Timed for the roll-out of the TASC high school equivalency assessment, we have updated the look and feel of our website, added many TASC resources, and transformed the site into a repository of all OACE public resources.

Resources include information for prospective students as well as links to Common Core resources, information

and resources for the TASC, and valuable technology sites (BrainPop, BTOP Learner Web, GCF Tutorials, Khan Academy, and others).

Exploration of the new site will be integrated into all OACE Technology professional development sessions in the spring of 2014. Explore the site at <http://www.oacenc.org>.



### Upcoming Conferences

Members of the OACE professional development team will be presenting at the Family Literacy and COABE conferences this spring. Visit the workshops when you attend.

For more information on professional development opportunities, please contact Valena Welch-Woodley:

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### We're on the Web:

<http://www.oaceny.org/>

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## Step into the Spotlight!

If you would like to contribute articles or photos to the OACE *Spotlight on Adult Education*, please contact:

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## OACE Election Day Professional Development in Action



*Vernon Kellman, Director of Data Management and Accountability, leads an ASISTS II session at MMALC.*



*Alyson Lurie-Abraham, Region 8, explores the OACE webpage during the Case Manager session.*



*Peter Romani, Regions 4 & 5 Basic Education and Distance Learning Teacher, reviews a Consensogram during the Election Day Danielson session at BALC.*



*Rosemary Matt, NYS Dept. of Education Director of Accountability, leads an Election Day session on NRS at MMALC.*

## Over 250 OACE Students Pilot the TASC

In collaboration with CTB McGraw Hill, we conducted a pilot at OACE to assist in the norming process of the TASC, the new High School Equivalency Assessment. Our students had an opportunity to get a feel for the computer-based version of the assessment and a get look at some of the question types and structure. Starting in 2014, up to 20% of the test will be administered via the computer and this percentage will continue to ramp up through 2017.

In preparation for this, we have structured our programs so all BE and ESL classes will

have the opportunity, through scheduled rotations, to access a computer lab setting to improve the computer literacy of all our learners. In addition, labs in our 4 Adult Learning Centers have been configured for TASC computer-based testing.

Please visit <http://www.tasctest.com/> to learn more about the TASC HSE assessment. During our pilot:

- QALC tested 107 students
- BALC tested 64 students
- BxALC tested 27 students
- MMALC tested 54 students

## A Final Thought from Nelson Mandela...

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

*The Administration of OACE would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!*