

## **2019-J1005**

Senate Resolution No. 1005

BY: Senator GIANARIS

COMMENDING Dr. Gail O. Mellow upon the occasion of stepping down after almost 20 years of dedicated service to LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to take note of and publicly acknowledge individuals of remarkable integrity and character whose endeavors have enhanced the quality of education in this great State; and

WHEREAS, The result of many individual efforts, the excellence and success of LaGuardia Community College is due in large part to the efforts of Dr. Gail O. Mellow; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body is justly proud to commend Dr. Gail O. Mellow upon the occasion of her retirement after almost 20 years of dedicated service to LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, Queens; she will officially step down in August of 2019; and

WHEREAS, Gail O. Mellow earned her Associate of Arts degree from Jamestown Community College, and her Bachelor of Arts degree from SUNY Albany, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa; she furthered her education by obtaining both her Master of Arts degree and Ph.D. in Social Psychology from George Washington University; and

WHEREAS, During this time, Dr. Gail O. Mellow became interested in community colleges and the substantial role they play in our society; she believes they open the doors of higher education to all, create economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy; and

WHEREAS, A recognized expert on the history, development and future of the American community college, Dr. Gail O. Mellow coauthored *Minding the Dream: The Process and Practice of the American Community College* and *Taking College Teaching Seriously: Pedagogy Matters!*, which explores a groundbreaking digital model for improving faculty teaching to increase student success; and

WHEREAS, With over 30 years of experience in the field, Dr. Gail O. Mellow is frequently sought as a commentator on the changing landscape of higher education, strategies for improving the nation's graduation rate and the role community colleges play in strengthening America's economy; she has been extensively quoted in a range of publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *The Washington Post* and has appeared on national radio and television broadcasts on NPR, MSNBC and PBS; and

WHEREAS, Since 2000, Dr. Gail O. Mellow has served as President of LaGuardia Community College; a member of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, LaGuardia is a recognized leader among community colleges for launching programs and teaching methods that have become pilots for the nation; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Dr. Gail O. Mellow, LaGuardia Community College has gained increasing recognition; the College serves more than 57,000 credit and non-credit students each year, with 60% of students born outside the United States representing 148 nations and speaking 90 languages, making its student body one of

the most diverse in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Dr. Gail O. Mellow has tirelessly worked to increase funding, develop cutting-edge practices in the classroom, and formed groundbreaking partnerships with employers and communities; she has truly served as a trailblazer for community colleges throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Dr. Gail O. Mellow was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the New York City Economic Development Council, and currently serves on the boards of The American Council on Education, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences Commission on Post-Secondary Education, and Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning; and

WHEREAS, For her steadfast and unremitting commitment to LaGuardia Community College and to education as a whole, Dr. Gail O. Mellow was the recipient of the 2017 TIAA Institute Hesburgh Award for Leadership; and

WHEREAS, A caring, competent and committed leader, Dr. Gail O. Mellow's character and integrity are the hallmarks of her life and work as an educational leader, a community volunteer and as a person; and

WHEREAS, The Long Island City community is indeed fortunate and blessed to have had such a dedicated and respected educational leader; her wisdom and contributions to LaGuardia Community College have truly made a difference in the lives of those lucky enough to have worked with her; and

WHEREAS, A significant contributor to education in New York State, Dr. Gail O. Mellow has continually demonstrated an impressive dedication, an unparalleled devotion and an unremitting enthusiasm for

the quality of the educational programs and opportunities offered at LaGuardia Community College for the benefit of its faculty and students, as well as for the entire community; and

WHEREAS, In completing her service as President, Dr. Gail O. Mellow leaves behind more than mere bricks and mortar; she leaves behind a legacy to the students of LaGuardia Community College and to the residents of the Long Island City community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Dr. Gail O. Mellow upon the occasion of stepping down after almost 20 years of dedicated service to LaGuardia Community College, and to wish her continued success in all of her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Dr. Gail O. Mellow.