



January 5, 2024

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dear KCC Community,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Suri Duitch as interim president of Kingsborough Community College. A two-time CUNY alumna, Dr. Duitch worked for more than 12 years in the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs and at our School of Professional Studies, before more recently serving as dean and vice president for academic innovation at the Tulane University School of Professional Advancement.

At Tulane, where she has served since 2016, Dr. Duitch led a major transformation of the School of Professional Advancement, working with faculty, staff and students to develop a vision of academic excellence and responsiveness and overhauling the school's programs, student services and operations to realize that vision. This included the reevaluation of the school's mission and constitution and the establishment of degree programs that required an increase in full-time faculty, the improvement of online and hybrid courses and the development of initiatives aimed at supporting underrecognized populations.

Prior to her time at Tulane, Dr. Duitch worked in CUNY's Office of Academic Affairs for 10 years, including serving as the university dean for education and workforce development and deputy to the senior university dean for academic affairs. In this role, she oversaw programs that enrolled 50,000 students annually, and she helped significantly improve employment outcomes for students and graduates. Her accomplishments included the launch of CUNY Service Corps, a paid experiential learning program that addressed the needs of city communities after Superstorm Sandy, and the acquisition of large grants from leading private foundations including JPMorgan Chase and the Ford Foundation.

At CUNY's School of Professional Studies, she was the director of program development and a member of the school's start-up team. She oversaw planning, conceptualization and implementation for degree and non-credit programs, and helped create initial action plans for areas that included the school's academic governance and strategic planning.

I am confident that Dr. Duitch's extensive experience in higher education and public service, as well as her deep institutional knowledge of CUNY, will be valuable assets to Kingsborough's campus community during this time of transition.

Dr. Duitch has a B.A. from Columbia University, an MSW from the Hunter College School of Social Work; and a Ph.D. in Urban Education from the CUNY Graduate Center. She is a member of the New Orleans Workforce Development Board and Tulane's Downtown Capital Planning and Academic Integration Committee. She was named a 2019 Woman of the Year by the New Orleans CityBusiness newspaper.

I also want to again extend my heartfelt gratitude to outgoing President Claudia Schrader for her enthusiastic leadership, which has helped guide the college's trajectory in definitive ways. We are pleased that she has taken on the position of interim president at York College.

We will launch a national search for KCC's next permanent leader, in accordance with the University's [Guidelines for Presidential Searches](#) and the bylaws of the Board of Trustees. Please know that I am here to support you during this time of transition. In the meantime, I know that your college will be in good hands under Dr. Duitch's leadership.

She will begin work at Kingsborough on Monday Jan. 29, and the appointment is pending approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees. Until then, Dr. Joanne Russell, KCC's senior vice president of academic affairs and provost, will act as the officer in charge.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Dr. Duitch and best wishes to President Schrader. We thank them both for their passion and commitment to CUNY.

Sincerely,

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chancellor