On December 4th, Vice Chancellor Ginger Waters welcomed the 18th cohort of faculty members selected to participate in the Faculty Fellowship Publication Program ("FFPP"), a CUNY-wide mentoring program administered by the Office of Human Resources Management in support of the University’s ongoing commitment to equal opportunity and increasing diversity among the faculty ranks. Initiated in 1998, the program seeks to cultivate the careers of junior CUNY faculty by assisting them in the design, execution and publication of the scholarly writing projects that are essential to their progress toward tenure. Writing projects range from articles for juried journals to books for scholarly presses.

The FFPP is open to full-time untenured faculty nominated by their department chairs and endorsed by the college Provost. Eligibility requirements include full-time employment for at least one academic year, and an earned doctorate or other qualifying terminal Master’s degree. Three (3) credit hours of reassigned time are given to faculty members selected for the semester-long program.

Those accepted into the program participate in a series of seminars conducted by senior faculty members who serve as writing mentors, facilitators and counselors in selected disciplines. They attend a “Publishers Roundtable” to learn the ropes of getting published. Fellows also work in peer groups to provide each other with constructive criticism, support and encouragement during the writing process.

The new fellows were also welcomed by the FFPP’s new Academic Director, Dr. Shelly Eversley of Baruch College. A graduate of Columbia University and Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Eversley is an Associate Professor of English specializing in 20th Century American and African American literature and culture, as well as gender, sexuality and visual studies. Dr. Eversley is a prolific author, whose newest book is entitled *Integration and Its Discontents: Black American Writing, 1944-1968.*

Also addressing the group was Professor Arlene Torres of Hunter College, director of the Latino Faculty Initiative. Noted Torres, “FFPP is grounded in research suggesting a supportive structure that encourages risk and is undergirded by clear expectations can increase productivity while fostering community among faculty. I use the word ‘risk’ deliberately. We are asking you to take the risk to create community to advance your project in a meaningful and ‘safe’ space.”

Vice Chancellor Waters observed that since the FFPP was established in 1998, more than five hundred faculty members have completed the program. This year’s cohort is comprised of 63 participants representing each of CUNY’s senior and community colleges.

For more information on the Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, contact Maryann.McKenzie@cuny.edu.