2019 Community College Research Grant
Faculty Development Workshop

**Keynote**

**Dr. Thomas Brock**, Director, Community College Research Center, Teachers College, Columbia University

Thomas Brock became the director of the Community College Research Center in September 2018, bringing more than 25 years of experience in education and social welfare research to CCRC. He is also a research professor at Teachers College.

From 2013 to 2018, Brock was the commissioner of the National Center for Education Research (NCER) at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). As the leader of NCER, Brock spearheaded a comprehensive research program around improving educational outcomes for students of all ages while focusing more of the center’s work on postsecondary research. He also planned and launched several national research centers and networks dedicated to topics such as college completion, developmental education, and career and technical education.

In January 2017, former Education Secretary John King delegated to Brock the duties of director of IES. Brock served in the role for more than a year, overseeing IES’s centers on research, evaluation, and statistics and the release of several major reports, including the National Assessment of Education Progress.

Prior to his work for the U.S. Department of Education, Brock spent nearly a decade as the head of the postsecondary education division of MDRC, capping more than 20 years at the independent social policy research organization. At MDRC, he was involved in evaluations of major community college reforms, including the Opening Doors Demonstration and Completion by Design. He worked closely with CCRC on several large-scale initiatives, including the IES-funded National Center for Postsecondary Research and an evaluation of the Achieving the Dream initiative.

**Breakout Session Leaders**

**Sharon Avni**, Associate Professor, Academic Literacy and Linguist, BMCC

Sharon’s scholarship examines the teaching and learning of Hebrew in the American context, and the ways in which different communities mobilize Hebrew for social and educational goals. She has published in a wide range of academic journals. Currently she is finishing a co-authored book manuscript on Hebrew usage at American Jewish overnight summer camps, and completing a Spencer Foundation-funded study on a Hebrew-English dual language program in a New York City public school.

**Maryam Bamshad**, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Lehman College

Maryam Bamshad completed her Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst where she researched the neurobiology of social monogamy. She moved to Atlanta, GA in 1993 where she completed two postdoctoral fellowships to investigate the neurobiology of social communication and the neurophysiology of obesity. She has been an associate professor at the Department of Biological Sciences of Lehman College since 2013. Her research focus is the neurobiology of bonding in socially-monogamous rodents, and she teaches courses in endocrinology and the human body and brain. She has served as the department’s undergraduate adviser for the past decade, and has been the chair of the department’s curriculum committee since 2016. As the curriculum chair, she has facilitated collaboration of faculty across departments to develop interdisciplinary courses using open educational resources, and she has redesigned the biology curriculum to provide interdisciplinary exposure.
Tara Coleman, Assistant Professor, English, LAGCC

Tara Coleman is Assistant Professor of English at LaGuardia Community College. She teaches composition courses and works on programs promoting students' multilingual identities. She has studied and taught in Shanghai and Hong Kong and has research interests in comparative poetics, world cinema and translation studies. Her PhD in Comparative Literature is from Rutgers University.

Maria Entezari, Associate Professor, Natural Science, LAGCC

Maria Entezari holds a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Tehran Medical University and completed her postdoctoral training at Feinstein Biomedical Research Center and St. John's University. She currently serves as Associate Professor of Natural Science at LaGuardia Community College where she teaches both introductory and higher levels of biology courses, for both science and non-science majors. One of Dr. Entezari’s key areas of research interest is the scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL) where she is required to identify how to mix teaching and research effectively to promote students’ learning. Since 2012, she actively engaged in SOTL on topics such as problem-based learning, course-based undergraduate research and flipped classroom.

Eric Hofmann, Assistant Dean for Teaching & Learning, LAGCC

Eric oversees programming in LaGuardia’s Center for Teaching and Learning that introduces and supports innovative strategies that advance student learning, such as ePortfolio practice, culturally-responsive pedagogies, and developmental advising. He is a member of the college’s Assessment Leadership Team and supports the implementation of LaGuardia’s Operational Effectiveness Framework. A former composition instructor, Eric received an M.A. in English from Georgetown University, where he helped launch the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship (CNDLS) and managed a national Scholarship of Teaching & Learning project in Humanities fields. Previously, he was University Director of CUNY Collaborative Programs, with a portfolio of large-scale college access and success programs that strengthened partnerships among campuses, high schools and community-based organizations. He has written about professional development around college prep academic programs and co-edited a volume on dual enrollment for New Directions in Higher Education.

Michele Piso Manoukian, Associate Director, Scholarship and Publication and Co-Coordinator, The Humanities Alliance, LAGCC

Michele Piso Manoukian, Editor of In Transit, The LaGuardia Journal on Teaching and Learning, facilitates professional development seminars on the scholarship of teaching and learning for the LaGuardia Center for Teaching and Learning at LaGuardia Community College, and, in partnership with the CUNY Graduate Center, serves as coordinator of the Mellon-funded Humanities Alliance. She regularly teaches project-based courses in Critical Thinking, the most recent theme of which was problems with public-housing. A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, she holds a doctorate in film studies from the University of Oregon.
Holly Porter-Morgan, Associate Professor, Natural Sciences, LAGCC

Holly Porter-Morgan is a Professor of Biology and Director of the Environmental Sciences Program at LaGuardia Community College, CUNY. Dr. Porter-Morgan has been working with community organizations for the past seven years to document water quality at a local Superfund site, Newtown Creek. As faculty lead for STEM Advising at her college, she is at the forefront as part the Advising 2.0 team that is developing new advising technology and redesigning advising, with a majors-centered approach.

OER Roundtable

Shawna M. Brandle, Associate Professor, Political Science, KBCC

Shawna M. Brandle is an Associate Professor at Kingsborough Community College. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Her research areas include human rights, media coverage of human rights and refugee issues, and Open Educational Resources in higher education. She is the author of Television News and Human Rights in the US & UK: The Violations Will Not Be Televised (Routledge 2015) and the Faculty Leader for OERs at Kingsborough. She spends her spare time making art with her family. She can be found far too frequently at @ProfBrandle on Twitter.

Dr. Emral Devany, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, KBCC

Emral Devany is an Assistant Professor in Department of Biological Sciences at Kingsborough Community College where she teaches General Biology and Human Anatomy and Physiology courses. She holds PhD in Biochemistry from City University of New York – Hunter College. She worked in clinical research labs in Berlin, Germany and in Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York and taught Chemistry and Biology classes in three colleges (Hunter College, College of Staten Island, Kingsborough Community College) and a high school (The Beekman School) in New York. She is the lead faculty adopting OER with a digital platform (Waymaker from Lumen learning) for General Biology I course and has trained several faculty members to incorporate Waymaker into their course curriculum. She received CUNY Collaborative Open Educational Resources in STEM award in 2018 and is currently doing research on the effectiveness, student satisfaction, performance and retention.

Ann Fiddler, Open Education Librarian, Office of Library Services, CUNY Central

Ann Fiddler is the Open Education Librarian for the Office of Library Services at CUNY. She oversees the OER Initiatives CUNY-wide.
Stacy Katz, Assistant Professor and Open Resources Librarian-STEM Liaison, Lehman College

Stacy Katz is an Assistant Professor and Open Resources Librarian-STEM Liaison at Lehman College. As an Open Educational Resources Research Fellow, she is currently researching how and why faculty adopt OER for their classes, as well as understanding of how students access and learn with open resources. She has published about OER in The Relevant Library.

Andrew McKinney, OER Coordinator, Office of Library Services, CUNY Central

Andrew McKinney is the OER Coordinator for the Office of Library Services at CUNY Central. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology from the CUNY Graduate Center. Before coming to CUNY Central, he worked in a variety of teaching, faculty development, and educational technology positions over the past 10 years at Baruch, the Graduate Center, City Tech, and Kingsborough.

Dhipinder Walia, Lecturer and Undergraduate Advisement Coordinator, Lehman College

Dhipinder Walia is a full-time lecturer and the undergraduate advisement coordinator at Lehman College, CUNY with a specialization in English Composition and Asian-American literature. Her research/teaching interests include: Asian and Asian-American literature, and creative writing, digital composition, English acquisition post-trauma, quantitative writing, and democratic grading processes. She has received her MFA in fiction from Adelphi University and is currently working on a MA in Women and Genders Studies from CUNY's Graduate Center. Walia has published a piece on diversity in the workplace for the Chronicle of Higher Education.