



Photo: Dr. Karen Williams

Dear York College Cardinals,

It's my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the Fall 2022 semester! The members of the York College Community care deeply about your academic and professional goals and will do everything we can to support you in achieving them. The mission of this College inspires us to work together to deliver on the promise to enrich your lives and enable you to grow as passionate engaged learners with the confidence to realize your intellectual and human potential. York offers an extensive array of programs and resources to complement the rigorous high quality academic offers. As we adjust to being more fully on campus, we are more committed than ever to ensuring your success here at the College.

I encourage you to learn as much as possible. Check your York email daily and download the Cardinal App to engage with other students and receive real-time information about events and services. Take a deep dive into our website and make certain to read the Student Handbook and Undergraduate Bulletin. Your time here at York will go quickly, so leave no stone unturned. Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved. Join a club, apply for an internship or a campus work study job or even form a study group with you classmates! Don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the faculty and staff if we can assist you during your enrollment at the College. As a member of the Cardinal family, you are surrounded by passionate and enthusiastic advocates for your success. Whether on campus or online, we're here to help you excel. Have a great semester!

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen Williams

Interim Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

New Student Orientation, Fall 2022



Photos from New Student Orientation

York College New Student Orientation (NSO) returned to campus on August 16th, 17th, and 18th. Over 400 new first-semester and transfer students, along with family members, gathered on campus to learn more about the unique programs and helpful resources offered by their new college community. Students heard welcoming remarks from President Eanes and Provost Brazill before receiving some helpful hints about college success from Dean Salnave of Student Development. The program continued with informative presentations from departments such as The Counseling Center, Academic Advisement and The Career Center. A fundamental component for first-year student success is understanding the resources available to them. However, peer-to-peer engagement allows for social skill building and helps cultivate a student's connection to the college. The NSO's student panel offered the opportunity

for participants to hear directly from York College upperclassmen, while breakout sessions, led by student ambassadors, engaged new students with ice breaker activities and campus tours. We also designed a breakout session for family members that included information on supporting their college students, financial aid, scholarships, and academic resources. The NSO program concluded with lunch, raffles and The Cardinal Fair, a tabling opportunity where new students could familiarize themselves with our support programs. Students were encouraged to review the NSO webpage for additional information related to their first year at York College, including First Year Experience workshops, mentoring opportunities and more.

The First Year Experience team looks forward to engaging with the college community this academic year and wishes everyone a wonderful first semester!

Welcome Week Events

Cardinals! Over the next few weeks, York College has scheduled a variety of fun, informative events across our campus. You don't want to miss them.



Check out the Welcome Week event calendar at <https://bit.ly/3xi44Cg>



Image: Weeks of Welcome Poster

SGA President Statement



Photo: SGA President Nish-Hoa Mullings

Welcome Cardinals! On behalf of the York College Student Government Association, I would like to wish everyone all the best this semester. We look forward to having a good balance of fun while being focused on maintaining and achieving our academic goals. While we are still in transition to having fully in-person classes and increasing campus interactions, we look forward to a memorable semester. To do this, we need your help in increasing school spirit and making our college the campus to be. There are a vast majority of clubs and organizations that add to campus life. They represent different majors, cultures, and common interests. We not only hope that not only will you be able to network and gain leadership skills, but also be able to make meaningful friendships that will last forever.

I would also like to encourage you all to be a part of Student Government. We are located in room AC-1G04, which is located right across from the Counseling Center. We are always open to your suggestions and concerns. Our job is to advocate on your behalf and put your best interest as priority. Let us all work together to have a successful semester. Remember that together we are One York!

Sincerely,

Nish-Hoa Mullings

President York College Student Government Association

Get to know the Welcome Center



Photo: (left to right) Natalie Walker, Interim Director of Welcome Center, Welcome Center Staff

Welcome Center

Academic Core Building, Second Floor, Union Hall Entrance

www.york.cuny.edu/welcome-center

The Welcome Center was established in August 2021 and is the gateway to our campus. It is a one-stop resource for prospective, current, and returning students, as well as visitors. The Center provides students with the opportunity to engage with success coordinators who help students navigate the admissions process; clarify enrollment procedures; and explain requirements for financial aid, advisement, and registration.

York's CSD Office is a fun and recognizable force within CUNY!



Photo: ADA BBQ

Students registered with The Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD) have had an active, healthy and vibrant summer. Things kicked off with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) BBQ, a fun day filled with hot dogs, games and conversation. When it came to the York College New Student Orientation (NSO) sessions, CSD students were active and engaged—staffing tables, giving students directions, and handing out handfuls of welcoming candy to incoming Cardinals. However, our work does not stop with on-campus events. First, there was the trip to Connecticut for the Adaptive Water Skiing Event, then fun filled outings to both the Mets and Yankees baseball games, as well as a strong and visible presence at CUNY's

LGBTQI+ Pride event (the first year York College actively participated in the Pride March and activities). Students in CSD, partnered with the allies-friends in Student Government, The University Student Senate (USS), as well as faculty and staff from York and CUNY-wide. Students at York's CSD are becoming more aware of their abilities and rightful place on campus, and less concerned



Photo: CUNY LGBTQI+ PRIDEFEST

with the out dated mindset, which once put disabled students in a corner. This refreshing attitude is witnessed throughout CUNY, and York's chapter of the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) becoming more recognizable in the CUNY-verse. The students registered with CSD are nationally prominent, and locally dominant.

York's CSD Office is a fun and recognizable force within CUNY! (continued)

This semester, there is an interactive 'photo exhibit' in the CSD offices (room AC-1G02), where a collective group of student leaders posed for photos demonstrating their 'personality' through gestures. However, the exhibition is not really about the photos, the concentration is more on the student's accomplishments. Every York student who is interested in participating can do so simply by writing their recent accomplishment (whether it be an A on that biology test or a beautiful poem for English class) on a York Cheerleading flag and place it on the "We Are One YORK" bulletin board outside the CSD office (room AC-1G02). Our York proudly disabled students, and their advocates, across New York State, and the country, are no longer interested living in the shadows; these students are some of the brightest at CUNY. Through continued integration and shared achievements York's campus will continue to promote inclusion and hold firm to its appreciation for diversity. We are ONE YORK!



Top: Adaptive Water Skiing event: Katherine Valdez-Viscaino (Cardinal and CUNY Wheelchair Basketball Athlete) Bottom: Cardinals at the Mets Game at CitiField

The Office of Ombudsman

Savitrie Rampersaud,
Assistant Director/ Ombuds Officer
Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
Room AC-2F01A





<https://www.york.cuny.edu/student-development/ombudsman>


York College's Office of the Ombudsman is an impartial entity, available to all students, which provides a safe, confidential environment designed to assist them in resolving college-related concerns, complaints, or disputes that haven't been solved through traditional channels. We also offer information and clarification on the college's policies and procedures.




New Staff

 **Natalie Walker, M.S.** – Ms. Walker began serving as the interim York One-Stop Manager in the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Division on May 2. With over 15 years of experience at the York College Child and Family Center, Natalie is a York alumnus who earned her B.A. in Psychology. She holds a Master's Degree in Education from Grand Canyon University, where she is also currently pursuing her Doctoral Degree in Organizational Leadership. Natalie will utilize many creative ideas and skills from each department to strategize and organize programs where students will achieve new enrollment goals upon entering the College. From her experience working with public and private organizations, Natalie will provide a safe, informative, and reassuring atmosphere where students will feel a sense of pride and commitment during uncertain and constantly evolving times.


 **Shayla Pruitt, M.A.** – Ms. Pruitt comes to us from LaGuardia Community College with 20 years of Student Affairs experience with a Master's degree in English from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's degree in English Arts from Hampton University. She recently served as the Director of Campus Life, responsible for staff and budget management, strategic planning, student programming and activities, student clubs, leadership program, New Student Orientation, Mentoring, Tutoring, Women's Center/LGBTQIA Safe Zone Hub, and Student Government Association. Ms. Pruitt began serving as a sub for our inaugural Director of First-Year Student Experience starting Monday, May 2, 2022. She will be responsible for a comprehensive summer bridge program, first-year experience program, year-round orientation and transition programs, mentoring programs, and other efforts designed to strengthen the connection between the student and the College.


 **Alejandro Lopez, M.P.A.** – Mr. Lopez comes to us from LaGuardia Community College with 19 years of Student Affairs experience with a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Brooklyn College. He recently served as the Assistant Director of Operations, responsible for onboarding and training of new staff, budget management, operations management, campus-wide event planning, co-curricular planning and management, and strategic planning management. Mr. Lopez began serving as a sub for our Confidential Officer – Manager of Operations starting Monday, May 2, 2022. He will be responsible for administrative support and event planning in the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management suite.


 **Charmaine Townsell, M.A.** – Ms. Townsell comes to us from the City University of New York's Central Office with 14 years of Student Affairs experience with a Master's degree in Urban Affairs and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Political Science, both from Queens College. She recently served as the University Manager of Inclusive Student Engagement, responsible for strategic planning, budget management, student support and development, event planning, training and development, and CUNY-wide initiatives focused on the management and support of LGBTQI+, Disabled Students, and Veterans. Ms. Townsell began serving as a sub for our Senior Director for Student Wellness and


New Staff (cont.)


Resources starting Monday, May 9, 2022. She will work as the Director of the Center for Students with Disabilities while providing visionary leadership for the Health Center, the Counseling Center, the Women's Center for Gender Justice, Veteran's Services, the Food Pantry, and other Resources that serves as a locus for addressing student wellness, including physical and mental health intervention as well as, prevention, support services, advocacy, and education.

 **Roosevelt Smith, M.S.** - Mr. Smith comes to us from LaGuardia Community College with over 10 years of higher education experience with a Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership from Fordham University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Nyack College. He recently served as Senior Academic Advisor where he provided specialized academic advisement and guidance to a caseload of 600 part-time and full-time students. Mr. Smith began serving as the Interim Assistant Director of First Year Experience as of Monday, July 2022. He will be responsible for overseeing mentorship programs such as the Mentoring Collective and York College's Black Male Initiative, creating and coordinating community outreach activities that will recruit males from underrepresented communities to the college, and assisting with first-year experience activities designed to successfully transition and support first-year and transfer students entering York College.

 **Shane Parawan, B.S.** - Mr. Parawan started as the Career Technology Support Specialist for Career Services in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management in July, 2022. With over 15 years of experience in CUNY, he has worked at Brooklyn College as an Information Technology Specialist (Computer Lab Technician), York College as both an IT Service Delivery Unit (IT Administrative Assistant) and the Percy E. Sutton SEEK Program as a IT Academic Technology Coordinator. Shane has a Bachelors in Business Management and Finance from CUNY Brooklyn College. He will be responsible as the lead technology professional for advising staff members on who to best utilization our online management system and all other tech related student interfaces, as well as assist with other student services related support areas; counseling, workshops and program activities.

 **Nichole Acevedo, B.A.** - Ms. Acevedo comes to York most recently from a startup that helped distribute emergency funds to students. Prior to that she served as the Single Stop and emergency funds manager at John Jay College. She holds a BA in International Development from City College and has over five years of experience working with students and other populations in social services, as well as, higher educational settings. Ms. Acevedo started in July 2022, serving as an Interim Student Life Specialist focusing on resources and services as part of our Hungry for Knowledge Food Pantry and food access initiatives. Ms. Acevedo serves as an advocate for the student community seeking assistance navigating food access, transportation, public benefits, emergency grants, and more.

 **Silvia Nava, B.S.** - Ms. Nava comes to us from LaGuardia Community College with three years of Student Affairs experience with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Design from New York City College of Technology and an Associate Degree in Computer Information Systems from Queensborough Community College. She recently served as the Events Assistant for Campus Life responsible for event coordination, administrative, purchasing, and program support. She managed the departmental social media accounts and created graphic design work as the department's Marketing Ambassador. In July 2022, Ms. Nava began serving as Interim Administrative Coordinator in the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management where she will provide administrative and program support.

 **Joery Francois, B.A.** - Mr. Francois joined the Office of Student Activities as the Interim Administrative Coordinator within the Division of Student Affairs in July 2022. A graduate of the Florida State University, he holds a B.A. degree in Social Sciences and Public Policy. Joery brings 12 years of experience in student development in the areas of experiential learning, fraternity/sorority life, and undergraduate research as a 2-time AmeriCorps Program Alumnus with the Center for National & Community Service. He facilitated programs across Brooklyn and Queens in New York; supported award winning Greek lettered organizations in Florida and New York; and is an award winning Essayist and two-time Finalist/Presenter at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Mr. Francois will support the office with the development/facilitation of program initiatives and community service opportunities. Mr. Francois formerly served as the Site Manager for Jumpstart and most recently as Director of Programs at the Urban League.

Division of Student Development Directory



To view the Division of Student Development Directory, visit <https://bit.ly/sd-directory>

Division of Student Development Newsletter Production Team:

Dr. Karen Williams, Dr. James Salnave, Silvia Nava, Alejandro Lopez, Savitrie Rampersaud, Nicholas Jones, Corynne Corbett

