



March 18, 2015

To: The Hostos Community College Community

From: Vice Chair, Philip Berry *PJB*
Chair, Hostos Community College Presidential Search Committee

RE: Search Progress Report #3

I would like to thank the many members of Hostos Community College for your continuing interest in and support for the process currently underway to select the college's next President.

The Hostos Community College Presidential Search Committee considered dozens of candidates and eventually narrowed the field to nine semi-finalists, who were interviewed by the committee. From this group of highly qualified candidates, the committee has selected three finalists who have been invited to visit the campus.

The Hostos Community College Presidential Search Committee is pleased to announce that the following finalists will visit the campus on three separate days:

Monday, March 23, 2015

[Dr. Luis G. Pedraja](#)

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Antioch University – Los Angeles

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

[Dr. Beverlee J. McClure](#)

President and CEO
New Mexico Association of Commerce & Industry

Friday, March 27, 2015

[Dr. Dario A. Cortes](#)

President, Berkeley College
New York and New Jersey

Each finalist will meet with members of the Faculty, Department Chairs, Student Representatives, Vice Presidents, Deans, Administrative Staff members, Alumni and Community representatives. Finalists will also address a one-hour Town Hall Meeting/Open Forum, to which all members of the community are invited. Following introductory comments by the candidates, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions.

Each of the campus groups selected to meet with the candidates will file a feedback advisory report. The Chancellor will include consideration of these reports in determining which candidate to recommend to the Board of Trustees.

Biographies of each of the candidates are attached. The full curriculum vitae are available as hyperlinks to this announcement and through Ms. Dolly Martinez, who is serving as the campus liaison. She will circulate on campus a schedule for all meetings, as well as the location for each day's Open Forum.

We are very grateful to the CUNY trustees, the presidential representative and the Hostos faculty, students and alumni representatives who served on the search committee with exemplary diligence and devotion to the College.

I would like to thank the Hostos Community College community for your continued involvement and support.

Dr. Luis G. Pedraja



Luis G. Pedraja has been the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Antioch University Los Angeles since July 1, 2011. From 2004 until 2011, Pedraja served as Vice President for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, which accredits colleges and universities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and locations abroad. While at Middle States, he had oversight of more than 90 institutions of higher education. In addition, he developed higher education policy, trained evaluators and led international quality assurance and accreditation efforts. His previous professional experience includes serving as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at Memphis Theological Seminary (2000-2004) and as a professor at Southern Methodist University (1994–2000), where he also served as a Division Chair (1998-2000). He also taught religion and philosophy at the University of Puget Sound (1993–94).

Pedraja, a native of Cuba, has a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Virginia (1994), a M.Div. from Southern Seminary, and a B.A. from Stetson University. His publications include two books, two edited volumes, and numerous articles and contributions to books on Latino religion, postmodernism, and process philosophy. In his scholarship, Pedraja is noted for leading the shift from ethnocentrism, an effort to assert the significance of one's identity, to transculturalism, which uses identity and culture to promote intercultural dialogue and understanding. In addition to his scholarly work, Pedraja has presented and published on various issues in higher education, including strategic planning, assessment, and accreditation.

Among his professional accomplishments, Pedraja is the recipient of several grants and scholarly awards. While at Middle States, he was instrumental in providing guidance to administration, commissioners, and political leaders in response to student protests at the University of Puerto Rico that had shut down ten of the eleven campuses for months. He also led faculty efforts at Antioch that allowed the campus to be the first to offer credits for MOOCs. Nationally, he is an outspoken advocate for greater access to higher education for underserved populations and often sought out by the media to speak on the topic.

Pedraja's professional service includes serving as Co-Chair of the Hispanic American Religion, Culture, and Society group of the American Academy of Religion and as President of *La Comunidad* of Hispanic American Scholars of Religion (1999–2003). He also served as a mentor to several Latino/a scholars. In addition to his work in higher education, Pedraja also cofounded two small non-profits, WellpetUSA and The Crystal Dove Foundation. His community service includes volunteer work with the American Red Cross Disaster Services and as a translator and reserve officer for the Memphis-Shelby County Emergency Management Office. He also served as a board member for the Wilkinson Center in Dallas (1999-2000) and the Hispanic Summer Program (2000-2004).

Dr. Beverlee J. McClure



Dr. Beverlee J. McClure is the president and CEO of the New Mexico Association of Commerce and Industry (ACI). ACI serves as the statewide chamber of commerce and serves as a policy think tank for business-related issues. In this capacity, Dr. McClure is working to facilitate positive change in the laws and regulations that govern business and industry.

Dr. McClure also serves as the director for the New Mexico Center for Economic Gardening. The Center works to help second-stage growth companies realize their full potential by generating increased revenue and expanding employment.

Previously, Dr. McClure served as New Mexico's first cabinet secretary of higher education, a position she held for almost two years. In this position, she created the department and championed such causes as a \$100 million endowment in the College Affordability Fund to help meet the financial needs of low-income students. Under her leadership, the department conducted the first-ever study of faculty and staff compensation in an effort to garner support for parity with peer institutions.

Dr. McClure came to New Mexico as the president of Clovis Community College. During her presidency, the college became a Title V Hispanic-Serving Institution, and created the award-winning Center for Student Success. Additionally, she started the Cultural Arts Series, positioned the college to be a leader in economic development efforts, and increased the amount of revenue from private donors.

While serving as president, she was appointed by Governor Bill Richardson to serve on the State Board of Education that governed K-12 and as the vice-chair of the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education, and the Chair of the Governor's Education Transition Team.

Previously, Dr. McClure was provost of the St. Augustine Campus of St. Johns River Community College in Florida, and the Assistant Vice President for Student Services and University Center Operations for University of Arkansas, Fort Smith.

Dr. McClure is the Chair of the board for YES Housing, the chair of the New Mexico Early Childhood Development Partnership Advisory Council, and the Treasurer of the New Mexico Community Capital Board. She serves on the Rio Grande Water Fund Advisory Board, and the Unidos Council. She is a member of the New Mexico Women's Forum and the New Mexico Amigos.



Dr. Dario A. Cortes

Dr. Cortes is a forward-thinking leader and visionary who has consistently conceived and introduced new programs, policies and academic initiatives to support student success and enable higher education access to first-generation college students. He is a strategic thinker with sharp business acumen and talent for implementing new structures to enhance organizational operating efficiencies, and increase enrollment and revenues in a fiscally responsible manner. Dr. Cortes' exceptional relationship-building skills have resulted in demonstrated success in cultivating private, business, community and government partnerships to achieve fundraising goals and institutional objectives.

A scholar in Latin American Studies, Dr. Cortes is a product of New York City and CUNY schools. He emigrated to the United States and New York City at the age of 14. During his junior year at Queens College in New York, Dr. Cortes received a note from his professor, Dr. Eugenio Chang-Rodriguez, asking the young Cortes if he was considering attending graduate school. With Professor Chang-Rodríguez's guidance, he was accepted to the University of Virginia's Latin American Studies program. Dr. Cortes credits that life changing moment to a professor who took the time to believe in his potential. This experience, which Dr. Cortes refers to as the magic of teaching and learning in transforming lives, has had a constant impact on Dr. Cortes' commitment to serving students.

Dr. Cortes fosters a mission-driven environment of cohesive leadership, creativity and collaboration. He is an architect for transformation, bringing education to the forefront at the intersection of business and local and global communities. He has consistently expanded the international presence and urban footprint of the institutions he has served.

Dr. Cortes was appointed President of Berkeley College in 2008. Prior to joining Berkeley College, Dr. Cortes held several senior level administrative positions including the President and Executive Director of the American School Foundation, Mexico City; Vice President for Academic Affairs at the Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY); Dean at Fairleigh Dickinson University; and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Dr. Cortes earned his Doctorate degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, a Master's degree from the University of Virginia, and a Bachelor's degree from Queens College, City University of New York. He has completed post-graduate work at Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. In 2008, he was named a Klingenstein Fellow at Teacher's College of Columbia University.

Active in many community, civic, and professional organizations, Dr. Cortes was appointed Commissioner of Middle States Commission on Higher Education and was on the Middle States committee that revised the Standards in 2014. He serves on the Executive Committee of the New Jersey Presidents' Council; the Corporate Advisory Council of the Morris County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; the Board of Directors for Hispanic Education Technology Services (HETS); Latino Leadership Alliance of NJ; and the Board of Directors of One to World, a non-profit organization responsible for coordinating Fulbright programs for the greater NY area.

Dr. Cortes is an accomplished author, lecturer, and conference leader. He enjoys soccer, reading, travel and spending time with his two daughters, Sherry and Natalie. He resides in New York City.