Hostos CC QR Fellows: 2016-17 Final Report
Gowun Park, QR Fellow

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Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and assessment of the third year of the Quantitative Reasoning (QR) Initiative at Hostos Community College and serves several purposes. First, it summarizes the major outcomes of the QR fellows undertaken in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 including the participation of public events, and committee work as part of the General Education Committee and the Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council. Second, this report connects the recommendations of last year’s fellows with this year’s activities. Finally, it is meant to offer some guidance how this program can continue to succeed in the 2017-18 academic year.

The report uses the previous End-of-Year reports (the 2014-15 and 2015-16 academic years) as an initial point for discussing the activities accomplished during the 2016-17 academic year. Following the summary of the work of the QR fellows in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, I provide the major outcomes from QR program in details. Finally, some recommendations for the future QR Fellows in 2017-18 are listed, including an Appendix that outlines the steps we took to preserve our QR materials.

Remarks on the 2014-15 and 2015-16 Reports

The previous QR Fellows summarized their activities and made several recommendations for the QR Fellows in the 2016-17 academic year. The Year One of the QR initiatives has created a solid foundation for implementing QR works at Hostos. In accordance with their recommendations, the QR Fellow in 2016-17 were continuing the effort to involve with the
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General Education Committee and Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council. As continuing the work of the QR Fellows in Year Two, the development of the relevant materials also was proceeded to preserve the QR materials that is specialized for Hostos. Particularly, thanks to the QR works undertaken the previous two years, both faculty and administrator at Hostos were very receptive to the QR initiative and it made possible to extend new opportunities for reaching out the Hostos public events in 2016-17.

Discussion of Major QR Activities in 2016-17 Academic Year

During the 2016-17 academic year, Gowun Park (Economics) comprised the Quantitative Reasoning Initiative and worked directly with and Professor Cynthia Jones (QR Coordinator, General Education Committee chair and CTL co-director). The QR Fellow had a designated work space in room A-155 of the Center for Teaching and Learning.

- **Collaborative Work with CTL: Quantitative Reasoning for Social Justice**
  The work of the QR Fellows in Year Three went deeper into the division-wide collaboration that is related to the Center for Teaching and Learning initiative (a.k.a. Hostos Read Project). The faculty, staff, and student at Hostos have been reading, Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson as the Book-of-the-Semester. The project highlights the main theme of the book social justice in learning process across disciplines. QR Fellow used the concept of social justice as a component on implementing various QR skills and introduced the ideas to accommodate real data/example for both elementary and advanced level of classes.

- **QR materials Development and Preservation**
  QR Fellow continued to develop and preserve a website of QR resources and materials, which is available through the Hostos Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), to support Hostos faculty. Similar to the work of the QR Fellows in Year Two, Year three spent several weeks to pull together various materials for integrating quantitative reasoning in learning moment. Furthermore, this year’s work extended to collate information related to teaching and learning with quantitative reasoning at the community college setting. The presentation materials during the 2016-17 academic year also updated on the QR Website to provide a reference for future QR fellows at Hostos.
Faculty Professional Development
QR Fellow developed and hosted the faculty professional development workshop on quantitative reasoning: “Quantitative Reasoning in General Education,” which introduced incorporating QR as a core competency of general education. In this workshop, faculty discussed how to implement quantitative activities in their curriculum and extended their idea to promote critical thinking using QR as an essential part of the teaching process.

Committee Work
QR Fellow participated in the General Education Committee and Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Council. Beside attending regularly scheduled General Education and CTL Advisory Council meeting, QR Fellow, among other endeavors, helped plan the school-wide Earth Day celebration, Math day, Open forums of 2017-22 Strategic Plan Framework, Hostos Teaching Day, Hostos Reads Book Nomination Project, and CTL Professional Development Day (CTL SPA Day). QR Fellow also severed as part of sub-committees of General Education (Outreach and Event Planning) and CTL Advisory Council (Curriculum Development).

Participating Public Events
In addition to giving QR workshop, QR Fellow participated in several college-wide public events in an effort to reach out to faculty and students about the QR initiative. QR Fellow distributed fliers with enlisted help from CTL during the third Annual Adjunct Open House. QR Fellow also gave a presentation to students as part of the annual Math Day, titled “How to Overcome Math Anxiety,” drew upon unique experiences of QR Fellow. The fellow took part in State of the College Event in Fall 2016, which was a showcase the notable achievement of faculty and staff in the Division of Academic Affairs.

Recommendations for the 2017-18 academic year
I have listed some recommendations mainly as a starting place for the QR initiative during the 2017-18 academic year. In order to support a long-term vision of QR initiative at Hostos, future QR Fellows should assist faculty who want to further align their lesson using QR pedagogy. Hostos Community College is a great place to pursue opportunities to develop quantitative reasoning presentations and activities in terms of own professional interests. With a wonderful
guidance of Cynthia, I believe confidently that the incoming cohort will find unique places at Hostos and continue to make a contribution as QR Fellows.

1. **QR Fellows should continue to play in active role in the General Education Committee and CTL Advisory Council.** The task of QR Fellows is working with faculty from across disciplines and assessing student learning outcomes that are related to quantitative reasoning skills. Interacting directly with faculty who is members of these committees will provide a great opportunity to align their need using QR pedagogy. Under the supervising of Professor Cynthia Jones who is General Education Committee chair and CTL co-director, QR Fellows should continue to work in tandem with both General Education Committee and ATL Advisory Council.

2. **QR Fellows should be trained with QR materials.** The training with QR Materials is an important starting point since it will be an opportunity to enhance the understanding of QR such as a concept, best practices, and activity ideas. Also becoming familiar with the work undertaken by the previous QR Fellows will provide a better sense of how QR Fellows can be part of Hostos community and make a contribution.

3. **QR Fellows should continue to collate new materials and resources to the CTL website.** Maintaining the QR web page through the CTL website has been one of the most important tasks of the QR Fellows at Hostos. This QR page is as much an archive of the previous QR works as it is a space of QR resources that is specialized for Hostos.

4. **QR Fellows should continue to develop presentations for faculty development workshops.** The main role of QR Fellows at Hostos is to introducing quantitative reasoning across disciplines. Developing and implementing faculty development workshop is an important way to raise awareness about the QR competencies into course curriculum.

5. **QR Fellows should continue to raise their profile by advertising their services and participating the public events at Hostos.** Participation and presentation in college-wide public events are a crucial way to attract attention about the QR initiative at Hostos, and in many instances, individual faculty consultations have been a direct result of an encounter at a public event. In addition to participating in college-wide events, QR
Fellows in next year might consider developing a newsletter or submitting an article to Touchstone or distributing flyers in the beginning of each semester.

6. **QR Fellows should continue to provide department-based consultations and collaborations.** For assisting faculty in providing the QR instruction in their classroom, the outreaches to departments via email or flyers would be a great way to start and engage in conversation with faculty. Based on the previous contacts, I recommend the following faculty for primary consideration: Clara Nieto-Wire (Mathematics), AJ Stachelek (Mathematics), Kate Wolf (Psychology), Sarah Hoiland (Sociology), Lisa Tappeiner (Library), and Sandy Figueroa (Business Communications).

**Conclusions**

The success of Year Three of the QR initiative at Hostos is attributed to a harmony of the solid foundation laid by the previous QR Fellows and great mentoring and support from the General Education committee, CTL advisory council, and the Office of Academic Affairs. Especially, the welcoming atmosphere and trusting freedom allow the QR Fellow to be part of Hostos community and explore the opportunities to innovate. Indeed, the devoted faculty to relevant pedagogy and supportive administration make Hostos one of the best campus within CUNY system. The recommendation above stems from such an idea and it is our sincere hope to pass the great culture of pedagogy to the next QR Fellows.

Sincerely,

Gowun Park

Year Three Quantitative Reasoning Fellow at Hostos
Appendix. List of QR Fellows at Hostos Community College

- **Year One (the 2014-15 academic year)**
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  Andrew Lucchesi, alucchesi@gradcenter.cuny.edu

- **Year Two (the 2015-16 academic year)**
  Devora Geller, dgeller@graduatecenter.cuny.edu
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- **Year Three (the 2016-17 academic year)**
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