



# LaGuardia Community College

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## LaGuardia Community College, Mayor Bloomberg Celebrate Graduation of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Class

*Mayor Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein Cite New York Small Businesses as Engines of Growth, Job Creation*

**Long Island City, NY—May 25, 2011** – LaGuardia Community College today hosted the graduation of 30 New York entrepreneurs from the Goldman Sachs *10,000 Small Businesses* program. LaGuardia Community College was the first community college in the country selected for the program, which has now expanded beyond New York to Los Angeles, Long Beach, New Orleans and Houston.

For the last 20 weeks, graduates studied accounting, human resources, negotiation and marketing. The program also included one-on-one mentoring, accounting workshops and pro bono legal advice from Goldman Sachs professionals. These graduates come from all five boroughs and represent industries ranging from technology to manufacturing to services. The graduation was hosted by LaGuardia Community College President Gail Mellow, who was joined by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein.

“New York’s vibrant small business community is a major reason why New York has weathered the national recession better than the rest of the country,” said **Mayor R. Bloomberg**. “Programs like Goldman Sachs’ *10,000 Small Businesses* help provide our small businesses across all five boroughs with the resources they need to create jobs and lead our recovery.”

“LaGuardia Community College has served the New York City small business community for decades,” said **LaGuardia Community College President Gail Mellow**. “Goldman Sachs’ 10,000 Small Businesses program has given us the opportunity to do that on an entirely new scale, reaching businesses from across the city with a practical, world-class business curriculum that can’t be found anywhere else in the region.”

“Today’s graduates embody the ambition, diversity and sense of community that is the American dream,” said **Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein**. “Through *10,000 Small Businesses* we aim to provide the skills, capital and mentoring small businesses need to grow, create jobs and build more prosperous neighborhoods.”

The inaugural class of *10,000 Small Businesses* graduated from LaGuardia in September of 2010. Of those graduates, more than 50% report double-digit year-over-year revenue growth, and more than 75% report having hired new staff.

Graduates will remain engaged in the program in a number of ways. Some have elected to apply for capital through the *10,000 Small Businesses* partnership with Seedco Financial



Services, a national nonprofit organization that provides affordable financing and comprehensive technical assistance to nonprofit and for-profit organizations situated in economically-distressed and traditionally underserved communities. All will continue to receive mentoring and access to networking opportunities. And their revenue and employment growth will continue to be tracked to measure the impact of the program.

To date, more than 300 business owners have participated in *10,000 Small Businesses* through partnerships with community colleges, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and community organizations in New York, Los Angeles, Long Beach, New Orleans and Houston.

LaGuardia Community College has long been a leader in the local small business community. It is home to a Small Business Development Center that has for nine years provided entrepreneurs with free, one-on-one professional counseling for existing and start-up businesses in English, Spanish, Korean and three dialects of Chinese.

LaGuardia Community College located in Long Island City, Queens, was founded in 1971 as a bold experiment in opening the doors of higher education to all, and we proudly carry forward that legacy today. LaGuardia educates students through over 50 degree, certificate and continuing education programs, providing an inspiring place for students to achieve their dreams. Upon graduation, LaGuardia students' lives are transformed as family income increases 17%, and students transfer to four-year colleges at twice the national average. Part of the City University of New York (CUNY), LaGuardia is a nationally recognized leader among community colleges for boundary-breaking success educating underserved students. At LaGuardia we imagine new ideas, create new curriculum and pioneer programs to make our community and our country stronger. Visit [www.laguardia.edu](http://www.laguardia.edu) to learn more.

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