

Retiring Wagner College president to give keynote speech at commencement

Dr. Carin Guarasci, founder of New Educators mentorship, professional development program, will also be honored

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Wagner College President Dr. Richard Guarasci, who is set to retire from the school in June, will be the keynote speaker at Wagner College's 2019 commencement.

The event will take place on May 10 at 9:30 a.m. under the tent on the Sutter Oval on the Grymes Hill campus.

Wagner College will also honor Dr. Carin Guarasci, the founder of the New Educators at Wagner mentorship and professional development program.

Guarasci announced he would be retiring in June as president of Wagner College after spending 22 years with the college. He served first as provost, and then as president since 2002.

He began his education career as a professor at St. Lawrence University, and then served as a dean of Hobart College, according to Wagner College's announcement.

He became provost at Wagner College in 1997, in which he led faculty in a major curricular reorganization that produced the Wagner Plan for the Practical Liberal Arts.

When Wagner College President Norman Smith announced his pending departure in 2002, Guarasci was tapped as his successor by the university's board of trustees.

Since becoming president, Guarasci has reinforced the college's finances and its campus, according to Wagner's announcement. In 2010, Wagner opened its first new residence hall in 40 years, Foundation Hall. Two years later, the university completed an exterior renovation of Main Hall.

To address significant challenges within the Port Richmond community, enhance student learning and raise civic awareness, Guarasci initiated a partnership between Wagner and a coalition of businesses,



Wagner College President Dr. Richard Guarasci speaks at last year's graduation.
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schools, churches and non-profits in the neighborhood.

This led to a college preparedness campaign called 30,000 Degrees, which united Wagner College with St. John's University and the College of Staten Island to work with local public schools to generate an additional 30,000 college degrees among Staten Islanders within 10 years.

In addition to his education career, he was involved in the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, New American Colleges & Universities, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities and Campus Compact. He currently serves as board chairman of the Association of American Colleges & Universities. Guarasci grew up in Flatbush, Brooklyn, and earned a bachelor's degree in economics at Fordham University. He enrolled in the graduate economics program at Indiana University Bloomington, where his interest in public policy led to a Ph.D. in political science.