

## GRYMES HILL

# Wagner College names new director of P.A. program

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Wagner College announced the appointment of Tracy L. Jackson to direct the physician assistant (P.A.) program beginning Jan. 2.

The Grymes Hill college also announced that the physician assistant program's accreditation has been renewed until 2029.

Jackson has a deep and rich roster of professional affiliations, according to a news release from Wagner College. She currently serves as a member of the Governance and Ethics Board of the Physician Assistants Educators Association. From 2017 to 2018, she served as president of the New York State Society of Physician Assistants.

"I am honored to be joining the Wagner community as director of physician assistant studies," Jackson said. "I look forward to getting to know our students and faculty, and working collaboratively to further the mission of the college and P.A. program."

She will take the place of Gail Tiburzi, who has served as the interim director for the program since August after former director Nora Lowy accepted an appointment at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

"We welcome Tracy Jackson to the Wagner community," said Wagner College president Joel W. Martin. "Ms. Jackson is a highly qualified and impressive medical professional, educator, and leader. Wagner P.A. graduates are playing a critical role in addressing our country's workforce needs in the medical services field. I have confidence that she will energize our well-regarded PA program and help lead our students to success in service to society. I also thank Professor Gail Tiburzi for her excellent interim leadership of the program."

Jackson is currently an adjunct assistant professor at Le Moyne College's physician assistant program, and was the interim dean and program director for the CUNY School of Medicine's P.A. program from 2016 through 2018. Before that, she was clinical coordinator and medical lecturer in the Harlem Hospital P.A. program of the CUNY Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education from 2008 to 2016.



**Tracy Jackson was appointed the new program director for Wagner College's physician assistant program.** *Wagner College*

Her clinic experience as a physician assistant began in 1997 as a pediatrics and adolescent medicine P.A. at the LBJ Health Complex School Health Program in Brooklyn. Since then, she has worked as a senior P.A. in the Harlem Hospital Center Department of Pediatrics School Health Program, from 1998 to 2008, and as a pediatrics and neonatology P.A. at Long Island College Hospital Center from 2009 to 2014.

Jackson earned her bachelor's degree in health science from Lehman College, her physician assistant certificate from the Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center and a master's in health promotion/disease prevention and her Certified Health Educational Specialist certification from the Lehman College School of Graduate Studies.

She is presently a doctoral candidate in educational leadership administration and policy: urban education at the Fordham University Graduate School of Education.

## 200 STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM

Wagner College's physician assistant program, which was created in the mid-1990s, currently has 200 students enrolled. It has more than 40 clinical affiliates in New York City and four international clinical sites.

Ninety-four percent of the students who initially enrolled in the program successfully completed their degrees.

In the last five years, all graduates have obtained employment as physician assistants in their chosen area of clinic interest, according to Wagner.

Since 2014, Wagner graduates have had a 100% overall pass rate on certification testing with the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. In 2018, Wagner's first-time pass rate was 100%, exceeding the national rate.