President Richard Guarasci
Wagner College

May 24, 2011

WAGNER COLLEGE

Port Richmond Partnership
Staten Island, NY

- Port Richmond Partnership
- Wagner College
- 18 community organizations
- Wagner College civic innovations
- March 6, 2009

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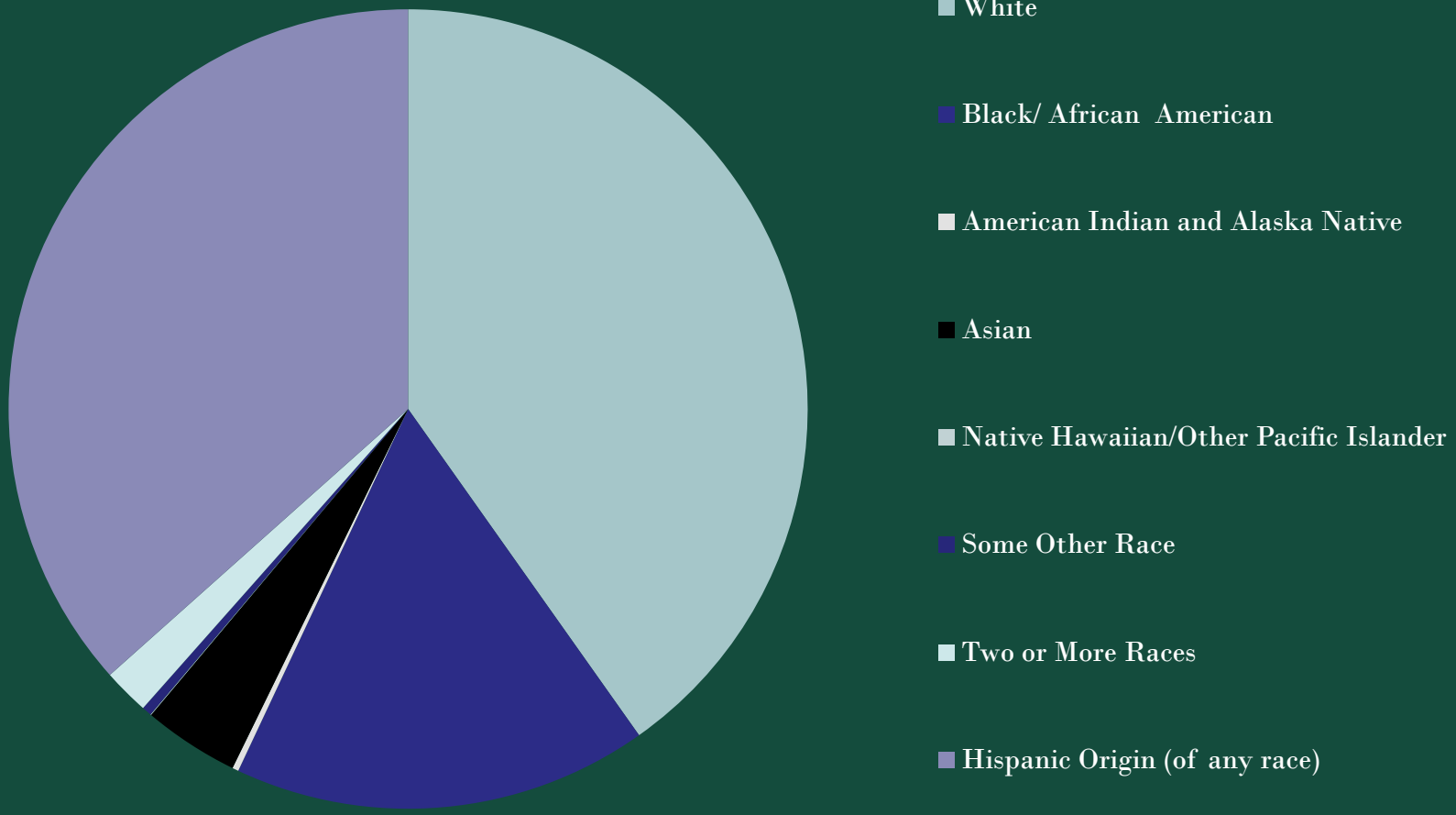
Port Richmond Profile

- Staten Island: pop. 500,000

2010 Census Tracts - Port Richmond

Staten Island, New York



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Examples of PRP Partnership Courses

- **Journey to a Different World-***Spanish language students are working on ESL initiatives with youth and adults at El Centro in Port Richmond*

- **Nonviolence to Violence: The Quest for Justice-***Wagner College students brought the Generation Citizen curriculum to Port Richmond High School, where they worked weekly with high school students to explore issues around social justice. At the end of the course, all students participated in a variety of projects, including a food drive and a panel discussion with local officials which explored rising bus fare charges.*

- **Professional Project Seminar-***Dr. Margo Governo's graduate students broke into several work groups and brought their health care expertise to Project Hospitality's Health Heart Initiative (created bilingual consumer brochures and games for school children), El Centro and the CYO (created healthy recipe books and counseled residents on nutrition) and helped Meals on Wheels conduct health surveys to underscore the need retain city funding of feeding programs for homebound elderly.*

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Port Richmond Partnership

Thursday, March 19, 2009 Staten Island Advance Page A-4

Wagner College starts Port Richmond Partnership

Program places school's students in a single community for internships and community work

By **STEPHANIE SLEPIAN**
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Wagner College launched its Port Richmond Partnership yesterday, a program designed to place its students in a single community for their internships and community service activities.

President Richard Guarasci signed a five-year agreement with a number of its community partners, including Project Hospitality, the Catholic Youth Organization, El Centro del Inmigrante, Make the Road New York, St. Mary of the Assumption R.C. Church, Port Richmond High School, United Activities Unlimited and the Northfield LDC during a ceremony in his office yesterday.

"The president was really interested in harnessing all the energies of the students onto the needs of a single community, where the college can realistically expect to make an overall difference in the quality of life," said Dr. Cassia Freedland, Wagner's director of the Center for Leadership and Service.

A steering committee formed last year identified education, health care, economic development, youth obesity, racial and ethnic tension, youth violence, the exploitation of undocumented immigrants and illiteracy as target areas for Wagner students and their professors.

The students are already at work with their partners.

At Port Richmond High School, they are planning a "community asset mapping" project," interviewing local youth, discussing local traditions and talking to civic associations and businesses that serve the community. They are also tutoring students and planning Saturday programs.

Nursing students are in place at the CYO working on ways to combat childhood obesity.

"We looked at issues we could apply relatively quickly and where we could measure some kind of change," Dr. Freedland said. "In the larger view, it's a way of connecting our students to the community and allowing them to see they can make effective changes."

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Gathered at Wagner College's signing ceremony for its new Port Richmond Partnership, from the left, are Dr. Devorah A. Lieberman, Wagner College; Dr. Richard Guarasci, Wagner College president; Dr. Cassia Freedland, Wagner College; Gonzalo Mercado, El Centro del Inmigrante; Tim Gannon, Port Richmond High School principal; the Rev. Michael Flynn, St. Mary of the Assumption Church; Patricia Tooker, Wagner College; Michael Accornero, Northfield Community LDC; Gayle Murphy, Catholic Youth Organization, and the Rev. Will Nichols, Project Hospitality.

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Wagner College

- 2,200 students
- 1,800 undergraduate, traditional
- 80% residential
- 45 states
- Civic Engagement a major identity

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PR Partnership Practice and Goals

- Health Care on North Shore
- Education
- Economic Development
- Leadership Development

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Partnership Challenges

- Emphasizing community assets as well as problems
- Moving from Wagner centric
- Strategic Planning
- Measurable outcomes
- Project identities

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