

Dear Administrators,

In the years since the Dignity for All Students Act was enacted, many schools have struggled with implementation, in part because of lack of resources and support. One element in this struggle, identified by research as well as the 2018 Dignity Act Task Force, is the lack of high quality training for Dignity Act Coordinators (DACs) that focuses on patterns of bullying and effective intervention and prevention strategies.

In response to this, the Queering Education Research Institute (QuERI) at CUNY has designed a research-based DAC Professional Development (PD) module, which is being piloted this spring. The PD module and the pilot will provide participants with a thorough knowledge about patterns of bullying and strategies for addressing them, diversity and discrimination in the classroom, how to create safe and welcoming school culture and climate for all students including marginalized groups, and other issues within the scope of the Dignity Act. The pilot will also help assess the knowledge and skill sets that DACs feel they need most to succeed in their positions.

As part of the pilot, QuERI will be delivering this all day DAC training free of charge at the Finger Lakes Community College on Thursday, March 21 from 8:30-4:30. Lunch will be provided. CTLE clock hours will be awarded upon completion of the training.

We encourage you to support your DACs in attending this training. The results from this pilot will be used to improve the PD module and to help create standards for DAC training that will improve consistent Dignity Act implementation. After completion of the pilot, we hope to be able to offer PD for DACs free of charge throughout the state.

For more information about the training, please contact Jacqueline Tiermini at Finger Lakes Community College by sending an email to Jacqueline.Tiermini@flcc.edu or calling (585) 785-1557. Individuals can RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/nEfvLfrnXBowlakq1>.