**About the Faculty Challenge**

Graduate NYC’s goal is to create dramatic increases in the number of students who earn college degrees. Through this challenge grant, GNYC seeks to leverage insights from those who work most closely with college students—college faculty—in an effort to increase student success on campuses throughout New York City. Faculty applicants are encouraged to think creatively and take risks with regard to proposed project ideas. While these ideas may or may not be successful in the first instance, they serve as important learning experiences for thinking about how to improve students’ success on their path to graduation.

Any CUNY faculty member is eligible to apply for a $5,000 award by answering a few brief questions about a program, service, or activity that s/he would implement on their campus in order to support students in their goal of college graduation.

Applications are due by Friday, June 8th.

Challenge applicants are asked to address the following question:

**What program, service or activity would you like to implement at your college, or in your classroom, during the fall 2018 semester that would support students in their goal of college graduation?**

Why Focus on College Completion?

The resolute focus on college readiness and access in New York City has yielded impressive results: immediate college enrollment has increased to 77% among the city’s public school graduates. However, far less emphasis has been placed on persistence and graduation efforts. Currently, only 23.2% of students entering CUNY colleges earn an associate degree in four years, and only 54.8% earn a bachelor’s degree in six years. Moreover, half of the students at CUNY four-year colleges enter as transfer students, a group that traditionally has lower rates of degree attainment. For more information on college readiness and degree completion as it pertains to New York City, CUNY graduation and retention rates by college, and the unique nature of the CUNY transfer student experience, please visit the following CUNY and Graduate NYC resources:

* [The State of College Readiness and Degree Completion in New York City](http://www.graduatenyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/GNYC-Report-Full.pdf)
* [Increasing Success for Two-to-Four-Year Transfer Students Within The City University of New York](http://www.graduatenyc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/GNYC_TransferReport_Revised-2.28.17-PRINT-FINAL.pdf)
* [CUNY System Retention Rates and Graduation Rates](http://cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ira/ir/data-book/current/retention-graduation/system.html)