

LAGUARDIA

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My Path to LaGuardia via China

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I grew up in mainland China, which is a dictatorship. I didn't have any freedom of democratic life until I came to the U.S.A. In China, I never dreamed that I would take a picture with the mayor of New York.



At the Flushing Chinese Business party, LaGuardia students Huan Sherman, left, and Renshen Jiang, pose with Mayor Bloomberg.

the station. The police got rid of people in the station. I was so young that I didn't understand and I tried not to leave the station because I only saw my mother twice a year and I missed her so much. One police officer pushed me and I almost fell. From that time, I knew the Chinese governors were too high to reach. People like me, not only can't be face to face with the Chinese governors, but even can't think about approaching them. I am an American now. When I think about life in China as if in a dream, I am amazed by how different people's lives are in East mainland China and the West.

When Mayor Bloomberg's campaign needed volunteer workers, I felt duty-bound. I have met a lot of volunteers in Mayor Bloomberg's campaign office.

I believe that with the help of LaGuardia Community College, I will be able to reach my personal aspirations. I am just beginning to pursue my higher education. If I can do it, you can do it too. Why don't you start at LaGuardia today and have a better tomorrow?

I started at LaGuardia Community College in September 2004. From then, I opened a new page in my life.

Professor Kenneth Yin of the Academic ESL program thought that we have a lot of Chinese students so why don't we have a Chinese Club? Because I love to help people and make new friends, I agreed with Professor Yin. The Chinese Club started in October 2004 and I am the vice president, while Renshen Jiang is the president. We have had many different activities such as a visit to a museum and watching Chinese movies.

We got students interested and we had more students join us. We will do lots more activities in this semester.

Renshen and I had the honor of being invited to the Flushing Chinese Business Association Twenty-third Anniversary party by President Gail O. Mellow. At the party, Community Service Awards were presented to selected individuals. President Mellow accepted a Community Service Award on behalf of LaGuardia, and Mayor Bloomberg made a speech and gave the awards. I was proud that I was a student of LaGuardia when President Mellow got the prize. This was also my first time meeting Mayor Bloomberg, although I had often seen him on TV. Just before he left, I stood up and asked: "Mayor, could I take a picture with you?" He turned back and looked at me, saying: "Do you have a camera?" I answered: "Yes!" He said: "Sure!" Then, Renshen and I took a nice picture with Mayor Bloomberg.

I am looking at the picture now and I am still surprised at how modest and unassuming the mayor was. He could have said no because I was nobody, but he thought I was somebody and agreed to take a picture with me. I remembered when I was a little girl in China; I went to the train station to meet my mother. One important governor's train went through