



Rani Roy  
Distinguished Lasallian Administrator  
DENA Distinguished Lasallian Educator Nominee  
2019-2020

Rani Roy, Associate Provost, is a distinguished Lasallian Administrator. In her seven years at Manhattan College, Rani has gone from director of graduate school and fellowship advisement to associate provost. Though a meteoric rise, it fails to capture all Rani has contributed and meant to Manhattan College and our students.

Always a thoughtful strategist, upon arrival in October 2012, Rani immediately created a multi-year plan to go far beyond her titled role of student “advisement” to proactively creating opportunities to prepare students for success. Realizing that research experiences would both help students explore their interests and make them more competitive applicants for medical school, graduate school, prestigious fellowships, and other post-graduate experiences, Rani set out to create the Jaspers Summer Research Scholars program, which supports awardees for eight weeks of research with faculty by providing stipends, on-campus housing, and co-curricular programming to help students understand the role and life of researchers. By sharing her excitement for this program, Rani convinced donors to support it, allowing it to grow faster than first planned and be more successful than we could have hoped, involving more than 60 student-faculty teams each of the past five years, and preparing alumni of the program for amazing success: last year we had three students win Fulbright awards (the first in fifty years), one win a Goldwater, one Gilman, and one Urban Fellow (all firsts), as well as fifteen students accepted into doctoral programs in the health professions (compared to three the year before Rani arrived.)

But Rani has done so much more. Her collaboration with the Career Development Center quickly led to creation of the Office of Career Pathways, a one-stop resource for students to explore and prepare for life after graduation. It was as part of that collaboration that Rani created the Graduating Student Survey, which offers insights into the successes of our graduates. As word spread among students about Rani’s wisdom as a graduate school and fellowship advisor, she went from seeing just 54 students her first semester to seeing hundreds each semester. She worked closely with faculty to build up pre-health advising, helped faculty strengthen our Institutional Review Board, and collaborated with Marisa Passafiume to bring the CSTEP to Manhattan College to support underserved students in STEM fields.

Over time, Rani’s work with faculty on student development programs naturally led to her invitation into faculty development initiatives. With her title change to Assistant Vice President, she took on oversight of Grants Administration and Study Abroad, and also began working with faculty to create and grow the Center for Faculty Development. Rani has been a regular participant in events sponsored by our Multicultural Center, helped students and faculty launch the Lasallian Women and Gender Resource Center, collaborated with faculty and student life to build up our community engaged learning offerings, and played an important role in growing Manhattan’s participation in the International Symposium on Lasallian Research.

Rani assumed the role of Associate Provost in April 2018, taking on oversight of the Office of Institutional effectiveness. As an extension of that, she is playing a leading role in our Strategic planning activities this year, as well as our preparation for our Middle States visit in 2022.

Altogether, as one of her nominators for this award described, Rani is “a person whose compassion, self-denial, and love for students and faculty alike in turn encourages and affirms others, fostering a real sense of inclusion in our Lasallian academic community.”

It’s no wonder that, in the words of Brother Jack, “this quiet, unassuming, and humble person came to the attention of Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General, leading him to invite Dr. Roy to be one of his five appointed delegates to AIMEL 2020, the Third International Assembly of the Lasallian Educational Mission.”

Thank you, Rani, for your service. And congratulations.

Prepared and delivered by Dr. William Clyde, Provost November 20, 2019