Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs
Niesha Ziehmke

Dr. Ziehmke brings with her a deep commitment to educational equality for our students and our city, and a strong understanding of Guttman’s mission and instructional model. She earned her Masters in Education from the New School for Social Research and taught Spanish in a NYC public high school for six years. She then completed her Ph.D. in linguistics at the CUNY Graduate Center, with a focus on methods for teaching academic English to students who speak non-academic varieties of English. While working on her doctorate, she administered an Educational Psychology research program in Self-Regulated Learning (SRL), sponsored by the Center for Advanced Study in Education at the Graduate Center. The SRL program aimed to improve the academic performance of developmental math and writing students at the college level. This work fostered for her a deep respect for the creation of pioneering curricula based on sound research, as well as an understanding of the critical role assessment plays in educational innovation.

From 2009-2013, Niesha served as Director for First College Year Programs at Brooklyn College. In this role, she designed and assessed innovative, research-based curricula and programming on a large scale, serving over six hundred freshmen each year and finding ways to help students learn, practice, and value the habits of successful students. More recently, Dr. Ziehmke served as Executive Associate for Academic Affairs at LaGuardia Community College where she worked collaboratively to take on the challenge of improving student success and assessment across the institution. Her LaGuardia portfolio included working closely with faculty and administrators from all divisions on strategic planning, assessment, and grant writing. The main focus of her work was improving advisement, STEM success, and guided pathways from admissions to first-year programs to transfer and career preparation.

Niesha’s key responsibilities are the Programs of Study, Global Guttman, and experiential learning. She works closely with Program and Area Coordinators to provide continuity, support, and new strengths in all these areas. Niesha is also the first point of faculty contact for Endowment-funded initiatives and the RPT process.