

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COLLEGE SENATE – FEBRUARY 2017
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I want to formally welcome you all back for the Spring 2017 semester. We had a great Convocation to kick off the semester. This year, we are proud to celebrate our 60th year of providing affordable and quality educational programming to our community as a part of the CUNY family. While we celebrate our 60th birthday, we will use this opportunity to reflect on the past and plan for the future. Among other activities, this includes preparation for our upcoming Middle States Self-Study, development of a new Academic Master Plan, and honoring our distinguished alumni.

- **SPRING 2017 ENROLLMENT:** BCC surpassed its Spring 2017 targets with a projected headcount of 11,000 and FTE of 7,831. Headcount and FTE targets for this semester were 10,812 and 7,558 respectively. 1,746 students are enrolled in ASAP, 937 are new students, and 735 are transfer students. Thank you to all who participated in critical recruitment, enrollment, and retention efforts!

The partnership between the teams in Admissions, IT, Testing, and ASAP allowed for the continuation of significant enhancements to data integration and automation. As a result, and duplicating the ASAP model, the Admissions team was able to increase the automation of the enrollment processes for CUNY Start and Math Start programs. Through stronger recruitment efforts the Office of Admissions and Recruitment was able to develop a consistent pipeline of eligible applicants from Community Based Organizations. BCC has participated in developing a coding practice for all students who apply from CBOs who participate in the BON Group (Bronx Opportunity Network). This has allowed for greater collaboration to assist students in completing the enrollment process. Partnering CBOs include CUNY Prep, Grace Outreach, The Door, and Good Shepherds. We expect to see significant enrollment gains from these efforts. Additionally, as of Mid-October 2016, a group of six Student Tour Ambassadors were added to the recruitment team. BCC students now lead all individual and group tours, following all Admissions Workshops. Visitors get the opportunity to speak with current students and get an authentic perspective on what it's like to be a student at BCC.

- **MIDDLE STATES:** BCC is scheduled for an accreditation MSCHE Self-Study and Evaluation visit in 2018-19. This is our opportunity to demonstrate BCC's compliance with all standards and requirements for accreditation as well as an occasion for institutional reflection and improvement. At the Spring 2017 BCC Faculty and Staff Convocation, Dean Nancy Ritze announced the Steering Committee. Members are: Jordi Getman-Eraso (Co-Chair), Irene R. Delgado (Co-Chair), Simone Rodriguez-Dorestant, Manny Lopez, Alexander Ott, Robert Beuka, Laroï Lawton, Paul Jajairam, Nancy Ritze, Shylaja Akaraju, Jessenia Paoli, Gina Galligan, and Angela Wambugu Cobb. The Steering Committee is currently developing a BCC Design for Self-Study, which will be submitted in March to Middle States for Approval. Working groups will be assigned to carry out the research and draft reports to be included with the BCC Self-Study Report, which will be submitted in 2018-19.

During Convocation, more than 150 faculty and staff participated in break-out sessions on the seven MSCHE Standards for Accreditation. The Standards include specific criterion regarding: (I) Mission and Goals, (II) Ethics and Integrity, (III) Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience, (IV) Support of the Student Experience, (V) Educational Effectiveness Assessment, (VI) Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement, and (VII) Governance and Administration. We expect to provide a variety of opportunities for all BCC faculty, students and staff to engage in the self-study process.

- **COLLEGE COMMITTEES:** BCC is embarking upon the development of an Academic Master Plan. The Plan will align with the College's Strategic Plan, will identify areas of opportunity, academic priorities, and funding needs and resources. A consultant will be used to provide support during the preparation and development phases. A college wide committee is in the process of being finalized. Committees are currently being established for the Academic Master Plan, Middle States Standards Committees, 60th Anniversary Celebration Committee, and Distinguished Alumni Award Committee, among others. The Committee on Website Rebranding continues to work and is scheduled to report to the College community soon.
- **AWARDS & RECOGNITION:** Ms. Jitinder Walia, Executive Director of Bronx Community College's accredited Early Childhood Center, spoke at the New York City Council Hearing on February 14th at City Hall before the Committee on Higher Education and the Committee on Women's Issues. She testified on behalf of Child Care Centers within CUNY.

The BCC Speech, Drama, and Debate Team brought home the 3rd Place Award at the New York-New Jersey State Championship Competition. BCC students Wali Ullah and Dapo Ibrahim, along with faculty advisor Carmen Meyers, competed at Hofstra University on February 4th.

- **COMMENCEMENT:** BCC's 57th Commencement Ceremony will be on Friday, June 2, 2017, on Ohio Field. 2200 students are estimated to be eligible to participate. Approximately 60 volunteers will be needed during this ceremony to provide assistance with providing directions, distributing programs, assisting family and friends of graduates finding seats, assisting guests with special needs, and manning water stations. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Manny Lopez or Sanjay Ramdath.
- **CAMPUS PROGRAMMING:** BCC's First Academic Services Symposium is designed to help our Retention Program succeed with all members of the college community. The Symposium will take place on Thursday, March 23rd and Friday, March 24th, and will focus on how to engage and increase participation from faculty, staff, and students. BCC's First Annual Academic Advising Summit is designed to bring all BCC faculty and staff academic advisors together to create intentional learning opportunities and identify best practices in order to advance academic advising efforts at BCC. The Summit will take place on Thursday, March 9th. Location details are forthcoming in BCC Broadcasts.

New York State's new Excelsior Scholarships will be available beginning Fall 2017. The Scholarship will make tuition free for students whose families make up to \$125,000 per year and who commit to full time (15 credits) enrollment. BCC will participate in various initiatives to encourage credit accumulation and academic momentum.

- **ADVANCEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL RELATIONS:** On Tuesday, March 7th at 6pm, the BCC Foundation will host the first public screening of *Time: The Kalief Browder Story*, a six-episode documentary series about a former BCC student who spent three years on Rikers Island without ever being convicted of a crime. The series, which was produced by Shawn "Jay Z" Carter and Harvey Weinstein, will be shown on Spike TV for six evenings beginning Wednesday, March 1st with opportunities for all viewers to support the Kalief Browder Scholarship after each episode. The BCC screening will include episodes 1 & 2 of the series followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and members of the Browder family. Seating is limited, so please register at: <http://bit.ly/2knDTXv>. We are currently seeking overflow to accommodate more participants.
- **GRANTS:** BCC has recently been awarded the following grants: (I) A \$500,000 grant from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation will pay for an increase in budget costs for the existing restoration of Gould Memorial Library's oculus and copper roof. (II) A two-year, \$100,000 grant from The National Endowment for the Humanities in support of the project "Presente: Developing Latino-Centered Communities. The project is a collaborative effort between BCC and the American Special History Project/Center for Media and Learning at the CUNY Graduate Center, and will provide the opportunity for faculty to study and develop courses on Latino history and culture at BCC. (III) A \$100,000 grant from the NYS Department of Labor, to provide training in Information Technology Network Support and Information Security Programs to unemployed workers and special populations with training barriers in the New York City area, with a focus on the Bronx. (IV) A \$100,000 renewal grant from the Pinkerton Foundation for continued support of a program to assist Future Now students with existing academic probations, allowing them to continue in school and complete their graduation requirements. (V) A \$25,000 grant from CUNY in support of research around new jobs in mental and behavioral health. (VI) A \$21,500 grant from The Paul and Klara Porzelt Foundation to support the restoration of the Tiffany stained glass windows in the Gould Memorial Library Rotunda.
- **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:** BCC began meeting with elected officials to discuss the College's FY18 Capital Requests and to advocate for the University's FY18 priorities. BCC's FY18 Capital Requests are:
 1. \$36 Million over five years for Phase 5 Campus-Wide Utility Upgrade.
 2. \$2 Million (\$2 Million State Matching Funds) for GML Library Roof Replacement, this project is shovel ready.
 3. \$1 Million (\$1 Million State Matching Funds) for Colston Lower Level Renovation.
 4. \$850,000 (\$850,000 State Matching Funds) for Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse Upgrades.
 5. \$30,000 Expense Funding Request for the One Book, One Bronx Initiative.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** The New York City based footwear and apparel company, CJ Premium, is sponsoring a marketing plan competition for BCC students this semester. Students will work in teams of three to develop comprehensive electronic media marketing plans for the company. Presentations will be made in late April and CJ Premium will award prizes to the top three teams. Internship and employment opportunities with the company may also be offered. This semester, BCC launched an internship program at Lincoln Hospital's Behavioral Health Department. Four students, all of whom are participants in the College's Get PsyCh'D Program, will intern at the hospital throughout the semester, gaining real world experience. On February 8th, IBM hosted a day-long workshop at BCC to help the College design a digital marketing strategy that is in alignment with the current rebranding initiative. Over the course of the workshop, staff from across every division on campus worked collaboratively with IBM to outline a digital strategy to improve the College's website and social media platforms through the development of an actionable marketing plan.