

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – MARCH 2018
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As we head into Spring Break, I want to thank each of you for all of your hard work thus far to move our students closer to graduation and the next steps in their journeys. This time last year, we were announcing the March and April activities commemorating our 60th Anniversary year. With many new initiatives, new ideas, and a renewed sense of our collective mission and vision, we are now focusing on our “35x65” Challenge and preparing for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (“MSCHE”) Self-Study and Evaluation visit during the 2018-2019 academic year. There is much to be done and limited time, but I am confident that we will all continue to do our parts to prepare for this important moment in our accreditation review.

- **MIDDLE STATES:** At this time, working groups have submitted completed first drafts to the Steering Committee and review group. Second drafts are due before Spring Break begins. We anticipate a full draft report will be ready for campus review by the beginning of the Fall 2018 semester. We hope that everyone will take the time to review the full draft report and familiarize yourselves with the content. Opportunities to provide comments and feedback will be available prior to the full report begin finalized and in advance of the campus evaluation visit in Spring 2019.
- **HUMAN RESOURCES:** I am pleased to announce that the search for our new Executive Director of Human Resources has been completed. The Search Committee forwarded five (5) finalist candidates to Cabinet for consideration and an offer has been extended to Ms. Marta Clark, with a scheduled start date of May 7, 2018. She holds a Bachelor’s degree and MBA from Empire State College and a certification from the Society of Human Resource Management as a Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). Prior to joining BCC, Marta served as the Director of HR for Servotronics, Inc. and Subsidiaries, the Assistant Director of HR and Senior HR Partner at the Queens Public Library, and Director of Employment Services for the Buffalo Public Schools. She brings a breadth and wealth of Human Resources expertise, focusing on the areas of professional development and team-building. We are excited to welcome her to our community. Special thanks to Dean Ken Adams, who chaired this search committee, and to each of the search committee members for their hard work and diligence.
- **COMMENCEMENT:** BCC’s 58th Commencement Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 1, 2018, on Ohio Field. We estimate a record-breaking amount of BCC students will be eligible to participate. At least 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 Associate Dean for Student Development, Manny Lopez.
- **UPCOMING ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES:** BCC is gearing up to administer the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) to a sample of first semester and graduating students. The CLA+ is an assessment tool that measures students’ critical thinking and written communication skills. First administered at BCC in 2012-2013 (and again in 2013-2014 and 2015-2016), CLA+ results are used to help the college assess and improve students’ analytic reasoning, problem solving, and written communication skills. Examination of the results provide faculty with the status of skill achievement and growth within our institution as well as progress students make relative to the development of students at other colleges.
- **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:** In an ongoing effort to improve our Athletics offerings, three (3) new Nevco scoreboards have been installed on campus – one (1) for the baseball and soccer teams on Ohio Field and two (2) in the Alumni Gym to be used by the basketball and volleyball teams.

BCC has completed the integration from North American Payroll to the NYC Payroll System, linking CUNYFirst directly. Over the next several months, the campus will be further streamlining the timekeeping process by returning part-time timesheet processing to the campus from CUNY and introducing the CUNY E-time system. Thank you again for your patience and support during this transition period. Please be aware that new employees who start working before their hiring materials are fully processed through HR are no longer able to receive any backdated or retroactive payments.

As part of the immigration protection efforts at CUNY, BCC ensures that no immigration status information is included in any service indicator, even those used to track Dreamer scholarships. This information is being purged from every area of CUNYFirst system. Related to this effort, BCC has automated the employment eligibility verification process and now fully participates in the e-verify program.

The Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore closed March 16, 2018. BCC now participates in the CUNY virtual bookstore program and will be preparing for the opening of the Campus Service Center in late June 2018. You can visit the BCC website or <https://bronx.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php> for more details.

Working closely with CUNY City University Construction Fund (“CUCF”), the Five-Year Capital Plan (FY18/19 - FY22/23) has been updated and requests \$178 million in new funding be awarded to BCC. The Capital Plan focuses on several safety and building envelop efforts including accessibility, fire alarms, roofing and windows. This plan allocates funding for technology infrastructure, which is critically needed for the campus, particularly to support the Voice Over IP (“VOIP”) project. This plan also introduces a strategy to spread funding over several years to minimize the impact of any single project delay.

- **RECOGNITION:** Please join me in congratulating BCC Student Victoria Mcewen on being selected as a 2018 Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar and scholarship recipient. She will be honored in April at the National Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention “PTK Catalyst” in Kansas City, Missouri. Additionally, BCC’s PTK Lambda Nu Chapter was once again named a 5-Star Chapter!
- **NEW CAMPUS PROGRAMMING:** BCC has developed a unique partnership with the Bronx-based, nonprofit *Per Scholas* to deliver an innovative Cybersecurity program leveraging the strengths of each partner. Using a cohort model (25 students per year), *Per Scholas* will provide two non-credit courses leading to IT industry certifications (e.g., A+) in addition to ongoing career development and job placement. The IT certifications students earn through *Per Scholas* in the first and second summers of the program will “stack” into equivalent BCC cybersecurity courses. During the Fall and Spring semesters, these students will take BCC courses in order to earn an AAS degree in Cybersecurity and Networking. The pilot cohort in this “Cybersecurity Advancement Program” will begin at *Per Scholas* this summer and at BCC in Fall 2018. Funding from the Capital One Foundation supports this effort.

The College remains on track for the soft launch of the new website. We continue to work on identifying, refining and migrating content to the new site. The team, led by Loic Audusseau and Roni Ben Nun, is also working on linking databases – the college calendar, staff and faculty directories – enabling content on individual pages to be automated. Additionally, we are fine-tuning the “course-finder” functionality that will allow users to search for courses by department and subject matter. The Marketing and Communications team is finalizing the headshots of campus leadership to be included on the new website. Faculty and staff will also be invited to submit their headshots for posting on their department pages. In the coming weeks, we will be expanding our archives of campus photos and videos that content managers and others can use to populate their web pages. Finally, check the blog “All Things Digital” for updates, information and guidelines about the new website.

- **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI & TRAILBLAZERS:** BCC was scheduled to host and congratulate our inaugural class of Distinguished Alumni on Wednesday, March 21, 2018. This was also the planned date of our second annual BCC Trailblazer Speaker Series with Inaugural BCC Distinguished Alumni, Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, speaking on the importance of community college education. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather and CUNY school closures, these activities have been postponed. You will receive more information from Vice President Eddy Bayardelle and the Advancement Team soon about rescheduling.
- **GRANTS:** IBM awarded BCC a Technology Roadmap Impact Grant valued at \$45K. Consultants from IBM hosted a full-day interactive workshop at BCC for members of the IT Department and the Technology Oversight Committee. The purpose of the workshop was to assist with an assessment BCC’s technology challenges and needs and to develop a master list of priorities and plans to improve the College’s IT systems.
- **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES:** BCC’s Single Stop has been actively planning a number of events for this Spring. On February 25, 2018, they hosted a STEAM event for Evening and Weekend Students, which was attended by approximately 100 students and their families. Single Stop has kicked off the planning for an upcoming Food and Wine Festival to be co-hosted with Eat NYC (more details forthcoming). And the Single Stop Campus-wide Marketing Campaign is now officially underway with all academic and administrative offices receiving SNPA and Petrie Tent Cards and Tax Fliers to display in their areas. This campaign is intended to increase student awareness of Single Stop services for our students.

On March 6, 2018, the BCC Office of Student Life hosted the Escaping Time Resource Fair, which introduced students to outside organizations that assist with re-entry, housing, and legal needs. Six (6) organizations participated in this resource fair including John Jay College Prisoner Reentry Institute, A Voice 4 the Unheard, Just Leadership USA, BronxWorks, The Osborne Association, and The Fortune Society.

BCC is excited to celebrate Women’s History Month with the “Godmother of Nuyorican Poetry,” Sandra Maria Esteves, who will be the keynote speaker at our Lunch with Leaders event on March 22, 2018, at 12pm in RBSC 211.

- **WORKFORCE & CONTINUING EDUCATION:** As BCC continues to develop and expand our Workforce & Continuing Education offerings, there are additional changes to staffing. Barbara (Bobbi) Hart, MPH, MPA, has now joined the team in Snow Hall as the Director of Community Health and Training Programs, a new position funded by the CUNY Research Foundation. Orlando Lopez has now also joined as Director of Student recruitment, leveraging his extensive professional network and knowledge of BCC and our students in order to design and implement outreach and marketing strategies to increase student enrollment in Continuing Education and Workforce Training programs.