



**President's Monthly Report to the College Community - October 2015**  
**President Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.**

- Since my arrival, I have been meeting with students, faculty, staff, elected officials, and representatives of various community organizations. Feedback provided so far has been insightful and valuable. Thank you to those who have participated. Through my President's Listening Tours, I plan to continue these meetings with faculty, staff, and students to learn more about the strengths and challenges that we face at BCC. The first President's Listening Tour was held on October 5, 2015. Upcoming tours are scheduled for: October 27<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I look forward to your participation and hearing your feedback.
- I'm very excited to announce that CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken has designated Bronx Community College the first Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) college in the University system. Starting with the Fall 2016 semester, BCC will offer the resources and enhanced services that will allow all incoming full-time freshmen to benefit from this unique academic program. ASAP has been successful CUNY-wide and has greater than average success at BCC. Most recent data show our ASAP three-year graduation rate at 61%, compared to 11% of non-ASAP students overall. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Claudia Schrader, is spearheading the BCC Planning Committee and accompanying sub-committees that will design a plan for the implementation of ASAP at BCC in Fall 2016.
- Becoming an ASAP institution will require that we change the way we teach and provide student services. In preparation for the upcoming ASAP implementation, a proposal was submitted to CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, Vita Rabinowitz, and Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Matthew Sapienza, requesting \$786,035.00 for renovation work in Nichols Hall and Bliss Hall. If awarded, these funds would be used to create additional office, advisement and classroom spaces to accommodate the ASAP expansion.
- Our final Fall 2015 enrollment numbers exceeded the CUNY targets. We had a final headcount 11,783 students enrolled and a full-time equivalent (FTE) of 8,300.
- The Vice Presidents and I are reviewing the requests for additional resources that were submitted during the beginning of fiscal year budget process. We are balancing requests with the priorities of the College in light of the BCC Strategic Plan and University Plan. Ultimately, I anticipate approving allocations totally approximately 2 million dollars.

The Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation has projected revenues and expenses of \$633,000 and \$531,000, respectively. The BCC Association, Inc. has projected revenues and expenses of \$1,039,404. Association funds are allocated in accordance with student earmarks and/or university bylaws.

- Following a Request for Proposals issued by CUNY as a part of the 2015-2016 CUNY Strategic Investment Initiative, BCC has submitted the allowable maximum 3 proposals for a total request of \$1,559,426.00. In total, the proposals represent initiatives in each of the divisions of the

- College and, if awarded, will have a positive campus-wide impact by the close of Spring 2016. Proposal guidelines require that the funding awarded be spent by the end of the fiscal year. BCC's proposals were:
  - Developing Business Intelligence Tools for Accelerated Decision - Making to Support Student Success and Completion (Amount Requested: \$680,000.00)
  - Expanding BCC's Digital Footprint (Amount Requested: \$342,484.00)
  - Connecting the Dots Between Experiential Learning and Student Support Services (Amount Requested: \$536,942.00)
  
- CUNY Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management, Judy Bergtraum, visited and toured BCC on September 29, 2015. We presented her with an overview of BCC's facilities projects, a tour of the campus and an explanation of our immediate needs. One specific item for discussion was the centralization of various student services with the goal of providing effective and efficient services in a single location on campus. The creation of a "Student Success" Center to meet student needs, particularly during the enrollment and registration process, will continue to be discussed over the upcoming months. It is anticipated that this Center would consolidate Admissions, Financial Aid, Bursar, Registrar and Advisement. The College is making a capital request of approximately \$7,000,000 to carry this project through to completion. We will continue to work with the Vice Chancellor on this and other plans for campus development and improvements.
  
- The Search Committee for the search for a new Vice President for Finance and Administration has been charged. The job has been posted on the CUNY and BCC websites, as well as in other printed and online publications. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Search Firm is working diligently to recruit strong and qualified potential candidates. I encourage you to share the position information (<http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/personnel/personnel1.pl?08+JOB13678>) with potential candidates.
  
- As I continue to learn the BCC and CUNY processes, I have asked for assistance from the Central Office in assessing the way in which we serve our students and employees. To that end, Barry Kaufman, Special Assistant to Vice Chancellor for the CUNY Office of Budget and Finance, Matthew Sapienza, will conduct a process review at BCC. Mr. Kaufman will be reviewing our processes and procedures in the offices of student services, as well as in the Business Office. He will advise BCC on the areas where we may be creating intentional or unintentional obstacles for our students. He will not be reviewing or advising on campus organization or personnel matters.
  
- Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, Eddy Bayardelle, a group of faculty and I had the pleasure of hosting a delegation that included Dr. Ranjit Vithalrao Patil, the Honorable Maharashtra Minister of State for Urban Development, Law & Judiciary, Ports, General Administration, Parliamentary Affairs, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Dr. Patil and two of his colleagues visited us from Maharashtra in India. They are working in collaboration with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to better understand the role that community colleges play in empowering people towards employment and entrepreneurship. We look forward to working with them and exploring additional opportunities for our faculty and students.