



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

The President's Listening Tours continue to offer valuable insight that will be used to inform future priorities. The recent student session was energizing and their observations and hopes for BCC were in line with those expressed by faculty and staff. Students requested centralized student services, additional academic support via increased tutoring availability, and additional professional development opportunities. They also mentioned the need for upgrades to campus physical spaces to provide students, faculty, and staff with a clean, professional, well-kept environment conducive to effective teaching, learning, and working. The final listening tour will take place on December 2, 2015. This tour will be followed by an analysis of the feedback provided and the creation of an action plan that will be shared with the College community.

The Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) Planning Committee continues to develop a design for the implementation of expanded ASAP programming at BCC, commencing in Fall 2016. As we rapidly increase the number of students enrolled in ASAP and create the support systems that will lead to increased persistence, performance, and completion rates for all our students; I am asking for everyone's continued cooperation and participation. A town hall meeting is being scheduled during Winter Intersession to present and discuss ASAP plans with the campus.

One of our College goals is to foster a culture of assessment across the campus and to institute a continuous assessment cycle for all departments. BCC's Assessment Team and the Office of Institutional Research are conducting assessment workshops campus-wide for both academic and non-academic departments and programs. As part of this effort, each department and/or program will be required to submit four critical documents: Mission Statement, Outcomes/Objectives, Tools and Measures, and Assessment Report.

The College will be offering Professional Development opportunities during BCC's 3rd Annual Winter Conference scheduled for January 14, 2016. I am asking that all faculty and staff take advantage of this professional development opportunity.

Since my last report, the Vice Presidents and I have allocated \$1,840,364 of the initial surplus of \$2,031,000. These funds have been allocated in accordance with the College's priorities in light of the BCC Strategic Plan and University Plan. The remaining \$190,636 will also be allocated based on these priorities.

In response to concerns raised about the purchasing and procurement process, Interim Vice President Elliott has established the BCC Purchasing Users Group. This group will discuss the most efficient way to bring to light and resolve a number of issues with our current purchasing, procurement processes and practices. If you are interested in participating in this group, or have suggestions for consideration, please email IVP Elliott (richard.elliott@bcc.cuny.edu) with a copy to Alyce Zimmerman (alyce.zimmerman@bcc.cuny.edu) by November 30, 2015.

Contract negotiations are complete for the student shuttle bus service. The bus service will provide evening transportation from the campus to nearby bus and subway stations. Service will commence on November 23, 2015.

The search committee for the new Vice President for Administration and Finance has begun its review of applications. The committee has approximately sixty-six applications as of today.

In an effort to work with partners in our community, the College has reached out to 1199SEIU and the Morris Heights Health Center. Working with 1199SEIU through the Bronx Healthcare Learning Collaborative Advisory Committee, the plan is to develop and offer pathways in health care in both credit and non-credit programs for the people of the Bronx. The College has also begun conversations with the Morris Heights Health Center. Possible areas of collaboration include providing training and educational certification for their staff, exploring ways that they can provide health-related services to our students, and partnering in health and education fair for high school students in the Bronx. The Morris Heights Health Center team will be meeting with BCC senior administrators to continue this dialog on December 1st.

The first BCC Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon was held on November 3, 2015. Forty (40) retirees were welcomed back to the campus and I had the opportunity to share our vision and goals for the College. Although many have not been back on campus since their retirement, they remain passionate about Bronx Community College. Our goal is to strengthen the relationship with those who came before us and on whose shoulders we stand. Special thanks to President Emeritus Carolyn Williams for spearheading the first of many such events in collaboration with Vice President Eddy Bayardelle and his team in the Division of Strategic Initiatives.

On October 29, 2015, the College hosted a visit from the Nehru Fulbright International Education Administrator from India. This delegation was specifically interested in community colleges within the U.S. higher education system and were impressed with what they learned about the work we are doing at BCC. These conversations set the stage for future international collaborations.

The Save Gould Memorial Library (GML) Advisory Board was created to campaign and raise capital necessary for a full restoration of GML. CUNY has agreed to fund a feasibility study, which is necessary in order to move this project forward. To that effect, a Proposed Use Committee was convened to recommend possible uses for a restored GML. The Committee submitted a [report](#) with its recommendations. This report will be presented to the College's Foundation for discussion and approval before public dissemination. About two weeks ago, New York Times writer David Dunlap spent the day on campus to see firsthand the challenges facing GML. As a result of his visit, the New York Times published an article in the print edition of November 19, 2015 chronicling the historic and possible future uses of the building. (The online version of November 18, 2015 can be found at: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/19/nyregion/an-opulent-bronx-library-in-decay-and-in-search-of-a-purpose.html?_r=0 .)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CUNY awarded the College \$342,484 through its Strategic Investment Initiative for our proposal, “Expanding BCC’s Digital Footprint.” Congratulations to Vice President Claudia Schrader and the team that developed this proposal. This project has two (2) objectives:
 1. Expand the offering of hybrid and online courses in Fall 2016 through an accelerated Online Course Development program for selected full-time and part-time faculty. Faculty will be working from January through June of 2016 to design hybrid and on-line versions of existing courses to be offered in Fall 2016.
 2. Upgrade twelve (12) classrooms with instructional technology (i.e. smart projectors, whiteboards, and multimedia) to meet the rising demand for instruction in these types of classrooms.

- The Division of Strategic Initiatives was recently awarded two grants:
 1. \$50,000 from the van Ameringen Foundation, Inc. in support of the Peer Support and Career Development (Get PSyCh’D) training program, an initiative for BCC students interested in pursuing careers in the mental health and social services sectors.
 2. \$50,000 from the Capital One Foundation to support BCC’s inclusion in the Foundation’s Community College Workforce Development Cohort. As a selected member of this initiative, BCC will participate in a 9-month planning phase, which will include community leaders collectively crafting a vision for future cohort work by refining the focus of the cohort and sharing promising practices to grow and achieve greater scale.

- The Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Diversity will release a Title IX web-based training for faculty, staff and students during the first week of December. A brochure titled “[Bronx Community College Title IX](#)” is available to all for additional information.

In this season of giving thanks, I want to wish everyone and their families a Happy Thanksgiving. We all have individual reasons to be thankful. Collectively, we are all grateful for the opportunity to serve our students and community. **Happy Thanksgiving and the very best wishes.**