

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE COLLEGE SENATE – APRIL 2017
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As we rapidly approach the end of this Spring 2017 semester, all roads lead to graduation and commencement ceremonies. We anticipate approximately 2,200 students will be eligible to participate – 806 from August 2016 and January 2017 and another 1,400 from June 2017. I am inviting everyone to participate in BCC’s 57th Commencement Ceremony on Friday, June 2, 2017, on Ohio Field. 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.

April also brought about the kick off Bronx Community College’s 60th Diamond Anniversary! On Wednesday, April 5, 2017, the New York City Council (led by Council Member Fernando Cabrera), along with students, faculty, staff, and alumni gathered at the New York City Hall for a Proclamation Ceremony to honor this occasion. This year, we have much to celebrate; including BCC’s lead among CUNY colleges in the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), which graduates 62% of its students within three years – outdistancing the 15% average among urban community colleges nationwide.

Following the discovery of possible impropriety at another CUNY institution in Spring 2016, Chancellor Milliken undertook a series of action steps to implement best practices across the University. This included engaging the consulting services of McKinsey and Company. In line with his mission to improve the systems within the University, Chancellor Milliken also requested the assistance of the Inspector General in reviewing the financial processes and procedures at the colleges. This week, the Office of the Inspector General contacted BCC Legal Counsel, Karla Renee Williams, to begin the review of documents from BCC, BCC Foundation, BCC Inc., and BCC Auxiliary Enterprises. We will be fully complying with all requests for document production and, to the extent they are requested, interviews. I will continue to provide updates and look forward to sharing a positive outcome with you.

- **FALL 2017 ENROLLMENT:** Registration is underway for the Fall 2017 semester. Currently, 1944 continuing students have enrolled. Please encourage your students to register as soon as possible for the upcoming semester. We are working towards a total projected headcount of 9,972 students. We are excited to announce that BCC received approval to extend ASAP enrollment to students with 17 to 30 credits beginning with the Fall 2017 cohort.
- **STUDENT SUCCESS:** Nominations for BCC Departmental Awards are due by Friday, April 28, 2017, and nominations for the BCC College Awards by Monday, May 1, 2017. They can be sent to Marxia Brea by email or dropped off at Loew Hall 201.

On Thursday, April 6, 2017, CUNY Chancellor Milliken was joined for lunch by 25 BCC students, where he responded to questions about leadership and success in college, career, and life. During the week of April 10, 2017, another eight BCC students participated in a four day intensive pilot alternative spring break project for students interested in theatre. The program pilot was geared towards the learning outcomes of building cultural awareness, writing skills development, and cooperative team building.

The Office of Personal Counseling will be offering Test Taking Anxiety Workshops in May and during final exams. These workshops will assist students in identifying the sources of anxiety that may hinder their success. Workshops will help students create productive coping mechanisms and students will leave with a better understanding of how to create their very own “final exam survival kit.” Please announce this workshop series in your classes, so that students are aware that it is available.

- **60TH ANNIVERSARY:** A website has been developed specifically for the BCC 60th Anniversary. Available at <http://www.bcc60th.com>, the site features success stories, press articles, videos and photos, featuring the many men and women who have supported us over these past six decades. The site also includes a listing of all events associated with the BCC 60th anniversary with the ability to RSVP for those events that require it.

On Thursday, May 11, 2017, BCC will celebrate our 60th Anniversary with an on-campus celebration. We are asking members of the College community to please wear green and gold on this day in a show of school pride. Photographers will be on campus that day to capture departments and student groups who show the most pride and school spirit. A pizza party will be scheduled for the group who demonstrates the greatest green and gold Bronco spirit. That day, the Hall of Fame Playhouse in the Roscoe Brown Student Center will be the site of BCC’s 60th Birthday Festival from noon to 2:00 p.m. Special events will include the official unveiling and demonstration of the new BRONX CC Mobile App and the naming of alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College honored in our “60 Years, 60 Stories” list. Everyone is invited to submit names of those special people and organizations that deserve to be recognized for the important impact they have had on the College over the past 60 years. The deadline for nominations is Friday, April 28, 2017. To submit

the name of your nominee(s), complete the survey posted on the BCC “60th Anniversary” web page. Please join us for some or all of the day’s events and enjoy a slice of birthday cake.

At noon on May 11, 2017, the Office of Information Technology will be unveiling the new BRONXCC Student Mobile App in the Playhouse. This free app is a convenient way for BCC Students to stay connected with what’s happening at Bronx Community College; keeping BCC Students connected 24/7 with their courses, campus updates, college maps, social media, and much more all in one place. In this live demonstration, Chief Information Officer Loïc Audusseau will showcase all the features of the BRONXCC Mobile app and walk students through installing it on their smartphone or other devices. After the demo, CIO Audusseau will take questions and host a raffle for various prizes.

- **MIDDLE STATES:** BCC continues to plan for our 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. A draft of our Self-Study Design has been submitted to our Middle States Liaison for review. Thank you for the hard work thus far of our Committee Members.
- **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:** The pool is nearly completed. Campus Planning is working to ensure all the permits, procedures and requirements are in place. Work is underway to renovate the 4th floor of Nichols to accommodate the next phase of ASAP and will soon begin on a new ramp project to improve building accessibility. Bathroom renovations on the first floor of South Hall are almost complete, with only paint and light touches remaining. One of the bathrooms in the lower level of Language Hall has been taken offline, gutted, and will soon be refurbished. The Alumni Gym and Colston Hall bridges are getting much needed repair work. New seating has been placed in the Language Hall lobby and daffodils were planted in the Quad. As always, we appreciate your patience as we work to beautify our amazing campus.

We are also beginning the Capital Planning for FY18-19. Priorities for Capital Improvement planning include critical maintenance, continuation of the service upgrades, Bronx Express, laboratories, and technology projects. The Campus has also been approved to receive solar panels for our parking garage and will be advancing energy conservation efforts.

It is time for BCC to prepare its Budget for the coming year. We anticipate a more conservative budgeting process as University-wide enrollment is projected to continue to decline over the next several years. The Budget Office will be issuing the formal budget call in early May 2017 and the process will be slightly modified from previous years. Planning and Budgeting Instructions and forms will be posted on the website shortly.

CUNY has announced a competition open to BCC students interested in using Social Media and Other Mass Media Communications Tools to expand renewable energy in NYC. Competition details will be released shortly, but student teams selected will receive \$2,500 during the Spring 2017 semester, to build out their project idea during this incubation phase. Stipends will be distributed when the final project plans are submitted with faculty mentor approval. Faculty members who help the student or team of students with their project during the incubation phase will be supported with \$1,000 in reimbursable research funding, to be used at their discretion.

- **COMMUNICATIONS:** The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is hosting the first of its BCC Trailblazers Series with a talk from BCC alumnus Kam Wong on Thursday, May 4, 2017, from 12pm – 2pm in Schwendler Auditorium. Please join us for an intimate conversation with Mr. Wong as he discusses his journey from BCC to his current role as President and CEO of Municipal Credit Union.

We are moving forward with the College rebranding and website redesign project. Based on extensive market research with a sample of current students, prospective students, faculty and administrators, the college has chosen a bold and vibrant new look and messaging style for our marketing material that we believe will better engage both internal and external audiences. Soft roll out has begun. This rebrand will inform the website redesign, which is currently underway. The new site will provide improved navigation and information that will better engage prospective and current students, as well as other site visitors. Professor Roni Ben Nun and Loïc Audusseau will hold information sessions with deans and chairs to obtain input on the plans for the new site. Site launch is expected in Fall 2017.

- **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES:** The 39th annual Dr. Roscoe C. Brown – Run the Bronx is quickly approaching! BCC’s signature 10K/5K runs and 2-mile fitness walk will take place on Saturday, May 6th at 10am. The Run, which attracts over 1,500 participants, promotes healthy living for everyone, regardless of their fitness level. This year will mark the first year in our history that Dr. Roscoe C. Brown will not be participating with us. But we can make sure that this event lives on in his honor by having more students, faculty and staff participate than ever before. The Early Bird Registration Deadline is this Friday, April 28, 2017. Registration is FREE for K-12 and CUNY students, and \$25 for all others. (\$40 for all registrants thereafter). Show your school pride and select the “BCC Dream Team” when you register. You can also participate by Volunteering or by making a Healthy Start contribution to help cover the costs of student participants.