

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COLLEGE SENATE - DECEMBER 2017**  
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Happy Holidays and congratulations on nearing the end of a productive and exciting Fall 2017 semester! I imagine that, like me, you are looking forward to a well-deserved break to rest and take time with loved ones. This was a year that brought with it many challenges but also left room for us to celebrate the positive. As we close our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, I could not be more proud to be a part of Bronx Community College and pursue such important work with you. I wish safe travels to those leaving the City between now and the start of next semester. This is the time to rejoice, refresh, recharge, and end this semester strong before beginning the Spring 2018 semester with eagerness and enthusiasm. I hope to see you all at our holiday party on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, from 3pm to 5pm in Colston Hall Lower Level.

- **CUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** On Monday, December 4, 2017, The CUNY Board of Trustees met and approved four (4) major reforms – 1) The adoption of Revised Auxiliary Corporation Guidelines and Model Memorandum of Agreement; 2) the adoption of a CUNY Policy on the Use of College Facilities; 3) amendments to Board Policy 3.01 – Cash Accountability, Bank Account Control, and Petty Cash; and 4) amendments to Board Policy 3.04 – Guidelines on the Use and Reporting of Non-Tax Levy Funds. Prior to this decision, BCC was in the process of reviewing and updating the practices and provisions for BCC Auxiliary Enterprises, BCC Inc., and the Bursar's Office. BCC had been in the process of planning updates to many of these documents and processes already. We will implement recommended Board changes and continue to find ways to improve the way in which our entities offer services at BCC.
- **OMBUDSPERSON:** Many faculty, staff, and students have weighed in on the position of Student Ombudsperson. In the past years, this position has received release time. I announced prior to the start of the Fall 2017 semester that release time would no longer be offered. In the prior Senate Meeting, I underestimated the importance of addressing the “why” of this decision and focused on the “what”. The role of Ombudsperson is extremely important. It is the avenue for students to receive assistance and redress when it may not be available through other administrative channels. This person should be receiving, investigating, and attempting to resolve certain student complaints. Among other things, I am sure you would agree that to effectively perform these functions, the Ombudsperson should be responsive; present, active, and visible on campus; publicize their role; set office hours; work with IT to have an online presence through the BCC website and possibly other platforms; meet with SGA to discuss overarching student concerns; meet with department chairpersons, faculty, and administrators to discuss student concerns; and advocate. To do this position well would involve dedicating time and energy. Currently, the Ombudsperson role does not adequately perform these functions. I am open to renegotiating the issue of release time if and when a reasonable proposal for how the Ombudsperson will function and what specific resources are needed is presented to me. Until then, I do not see how it could be reasonable or appropriate to compensate an individual who does not adequately serve our students.
- **EARLY COLLEGE INITIATIVE AT BCC:** Like 16 other CUNY schools, BCC has agreed to partner with a local high school. We will collaborate with Inwood Early College for Health & Information Technologies, a 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> grade Early College & Career high school focusing on information technology. Inwood ECHI previously partnered with Guttman Community College, but has decided to bring its partnership with Microsoft and New Presbyterian Hospital to BCC. Inwood students will enroll in traditional high school courses while concurrently completing BCC coursework. The program is designed to integrate high school and college coursework in order to build career preparation skills and competencies. Students will be able to earn either an Associate in Arts (A.A.) in Business Administration or an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Information Technology. I look forward to bringing you additional information as we proceed.
- **SPRING ENROLLMENT:** As of December 4, 2017, 4,059 continuing students are enrolled for Spring 2018. This time last year, we had enrolled 4,377, so we are behind. 115 new freshmen are enrolled, as compared to 102 at this time last year. 101 transfer students are enrolled, compared to 108 at this time in Fall 2016. We need your help, please encourage your students to register for the Spring 2018 semester as soon as possible.
- **TECHNOLOGY UPDATES:** CUNY is in the process of launching its Payroll Interface project, which will directly link our payroll system to the NYC system. BCC anticipates launching this interface in February 2018. We are also preparing to participate in the e-verify program, which allows BCC employees to check their employment eligibility and status. In other improvements, Information Technology is working to establish the Campus Service Center and Bronco Card functionality. Updates will be provided as available.
- **CAPITAL PROJECTS:** A number of projects are currently in construction around the campus. New Hall roof is being repaired and the third floor classrooms should be returned to use by January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Alumni Gym Bridge is awaiting an OMB Certificate to proceed with construction. In the interim, Alumni Gym occupancy is limited to 450 in the gym

and 130 in the pool area. Renovation of the Alumni Gym pool is almost completed and we are responding to comments from the Department of Health on our operational safety plan. Havemeyer Lab roof is being repaired and is currently undergoing asbestos testing. Results from that testing will determine the overall project timeline and start date. Meister's fire alarm replacement is proceeding on schedule and the installation of alarm devices on floors 6-8 will take place this month.

- Many have inquired about additional projects that are not currently in construction. The Dominican War Memorial, Bronx Express Design, 2020 Design, Utility Upgrade Phase V, Colston Lower Level, Ohio Field, and Nichols Ramp are all in the design and "pre-bidding" phase. Recently, the CUNY Board of Trustees approved Capital Requests for Fiscal Year 2018/19 which includes \$3M for Alumni Gym HVAC and ADA upgrades, \$400K for Science Lab and Classroom upgrades, and \$500K for Campus-Wide Utility Upgrades.
- **WINTER CONFERENCE:** Bronx Community College is hosting the Conference on Community College Excellence on January 18, 2018. This year's theme is "Diverse Paths to Excellence" and will provide an opportunity for colleagues from regional colleges to reflect collectively on the organization's mission – focusing on connections between student success, institutional capacity, and service. If you are interested, you can register by January 4, 2018, through the BCC website.
- **GRANTS:** BCC was recently awarded a one-year, \$240K grant from the James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation under their Here to Here initiative. The grant, which is the first Here to Here has made to postsecondary institution, will provide support for two programs that are designed to prepare Bronx youth (ages 18-24) for the workforce. The first program will train 30 high school students to earn their A+ and Network+ certifications, creating a pipeline to the College's State approved Cybersecurity and Networking certificate and degree programs. The second will train 50 students 18 – 24 to earn their Child Development Associate credential, a nationally recognized certification required of teacher assistants working in an early childhood setting.

The Capital One Foundation renewed its support of BCC's Cybersecurity and Networking Noncredit to Credit Training Program with a one-year \$150K grant. Capital One's continued support will make it possible for the College to begin enrolling students in its State approved credit and degree programs in Cybersecurity and Networking in Spring 2018. The support from Capital One will also make it possible for the College to continue refining its curriculum through industry review and feedback.

BCC will receive \$20K to implement a home health aide training program at the SUNY Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) in collaboration with the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI). Support of the program comes from the Petrie Foundation and implementation is expected to begin in the coming months.

- **GIVING TUESDAY:** Thanks to the generosity of dedicated faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends the funds raised from our 2017 Giving Tuesday effort will provide much needed support for scholarships, educational expenses and emergency assistance for BCC students. BCC ranked 8<sup>th</sup> among all CUNY colleges with the most donors, surpassing 16 other four-year and community colleges. We could not have done it without you! Although Giving Tuesday is over, contributions that can help provide a safety net for our students are always welcomed. Gifts will continue to be accepted at [bcc.cunytuesday.org](http://bcc.cunytuesday.org) and through the CUNY Campaign until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all those who gave for being a part of the #BCCGivingTuesday campaign and for supporting BCC students!
- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** On Sunday, December 10, 2017, at 3pm, we will once again host Handel's Messiah in the Roscoe Brown Student Center Playhouse. We look forward to welcoming the Bronx Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of the Bronx, with readings from the Bronx community and civic leaders. This event is open to the public and tickets are \$15 (K-12 students and children attend free) with advanced online registration, which ends at 5pm on Thursday, December 7th. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$20. Please register at <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/Support-BCC/?p=sp-handels-messiah> For more information, please call 718.289.5394 or email [bccfoundation@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:bccfoundation@bcc.cuny.edu).

The African Student Association is holding their annual Women's Symposium themed, "I Am Not An Object: African Women's Symposium". This collaborative effort focuses on the challenges facing immigrant African women in New York and will be held in Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211, from 9am-1pm on Friday, December 8, 2017.

Also this week, Bronx Community College is honored to be hosting the 2017 CUNY University Student Senate Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Thursday, December 7, 2017, from 6:30pm-9:30pm in Colson Lower Level. This event honors student leaders, administrators, and trustees for their service to CUNY and the community during the 2016-2017 term in office as a member of the University Student Senate.