

[REVISED] President's Report to the Bronx Community College Community

July 19, 2016

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I hope that everyone is having a relaxing summer with the four day working schedule. We have ongoing summer classes, various camps, meetings, and construction on campus. And even with the activity, I still miss the large body of students and bustle that I have come to know during the Fall and Spring semesters. I am looking forward to welcoming back our new and returning students on August 25th for the beginning of the Fall 2016 semester.

It saddens me to share again the passing of BCC President Emeritus Dr. Roscoe C. Brown on July 2, 2016. Dr. Brown served BCC for seventeen (17) years and introduced many programs that are still serving our college and community today. On behalf of Bronx Community College, I have reached out to Dr. Brown's family to relay our collective condolences and sympathy. In lieu of a public funeral service, Dr. Brown's family is planning a Jazz Memorial Service at New York City's Riverside Church in September. Details are forthcoming as they become available.

The executive team and I have been using our summer time to plan for the 2016-2017 academic year. The President and Vice President's retreat was held on June 17th at Lehman College. This forum was used to develop goals, objectives, and plans for executing those goals and objectives throughout the upcoming academic year. The Department Chairpersons also held a retreat with me and the Provost on June 22nd. This retreat focused more narrowly on a review of the 2015-2016 academic year and planning for the upcoming academic year. A shared vision for student success was discussed and strategies for improving the retention and success of all students were outlined. The outcomes of both retreats will be shared in greater detail with the College community at the upcoming Fall Convocation.

FALL ENROLLMENT: The Offices of Admissions, Registrar, Advisement, and Financial Aid have been very busy recruiting, advising, and registering new and returning students for the Fall semester. Compared to this time last year, we are ahead in all categories except for continuing student registration. In an effort to boost the registration of continuing students, the offices will utilize as many communication methods as possible to reach the greatest number of students possible. The underlying issue here is the retention of our students. We are currently losing four (4) out of every ten (10) students enrolled. We need to continue to focus our efforts on the retention and graduation of more students.

NEW PROGRAMS: An AA in English and an AS in Exercise Science and Kinesiology have been approved by the State of New York for offering, effective Fall 2016. The existing AS in Community/School Health Education has been revised and approved by New York State as an AS in Public Health. Please join me in congratulating and thanking the Chairpersons and Faculty of the

Departments of English and Health, Physical Education, and Wellness for their work in bringing these new programs to fruition.

BCC MONITORING REPORT: As indicated earlier in a BCC Broadcast, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) acted at its session on June 23, 2016, to accept our monitoring report, which was submitted on April 1, 2016. No further action was required until our next accreditation visit, scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic year. Please join me again in congratulating everyone who participated in the preparation, assessment activities, and reports used to prepare the monitoring report. This was a large-scale group effort and I appreciate everyone's time and attention to detail. With the acceptance of this monitoring report, our college is very well-positioned to further advance our assessment efforts, institutional effectiveness goals, and learning outcomes.

NOTABLE GUESTS: The Bronx Children's Museum held its 2016 Summer Arts Enrichment Program at BCC on July 14, 2016. BCC was honored to host as guests United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Sonia Manzano, best known for her role as "Maria" on Sesame Street. I would like to extend my thanks to all staff and students who worked tirelessly to make this event a successful and happy one.

Bronx Community College will be hosting New York City's first ever town hall meeting on **Wednesday, July 27, 2016**, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in Nichol's Auditorium. Health Commissioner, Dr. Mary T. Bassett, will present the City's plan to curtail the spread of the Zika Virus and provide information about what New Yorkers can do to minimize the spread of mosquito-borne viruses.

FACILITIES AND IT: We are in the final phase of the quad reconstruction project. For those of you who have not been to the campus since commencement, it is now beautiful and green with work scheduled to be completed by the end of the month. The campus utilities upgrade, Phase IV, on the South and East ends of the campus is moving forward as scheduled. The utility piping between the Energy Plant, Alumni Gym, and Loew Hall will be completed by the end of August 2016.

The first phase of scheduled Nichols Hall renovation to accommodate the expansion of ASAP programming on campus is nearing completion and will be ready for occupancy in August 2016. The space has been restored to maintain all of the original charm, while allowing for updates for modern office amenities. The renovation of the two (2) classrooms in Bliss Hall, further renovation for the ASAP expansion, is scheduled to be completed in August 2016.

IT staff are collaborating with the Division of Academic and Student Success to develop a new software that will enhance and improve tutoring, registration, and scheduling. I am looking forward to the upcoming implementation and training for his new software throughout the Fall 2016 semester.

GRANTS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES: BCC is a part of the CUNY Consortium, which is sharing a \$300,000 Open Educational Resources (EOR) grant. This grant provides free and open educational resources for courses in the Liberal Arts and Sciences – History Option Associates Degree program. The three (3) year grant was awarded by Achieving the Dream, Inc., to the Consortium (which includes BCC, Hostos Community College, and Borough Manhattan Community College).

BCC and the Consortium for Worker Education have signed a contract for two (2) years for \$99,000 to provide diesel training to participants who are working and re-training in the automotive service industry in the Bronx. Clement Drummond, Director of Automotive Technology, is leading this initiative. The first cohort began their training in the second week of June 2016.

Dr. Monique Guishard (BCC Social Sciences Department) and Dr. Daniel Korin (Bronx-based physician) have been awarded a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) engagement contract in the amount of \$250,000 to establish a community-based research academy in the South Bronx. This project will provide an exciting opportunity to engage BCC student researchers in the BCC CURE program.

Dr. Aaron Socha was recently awarded a three (3) year, \$899,744 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop and implement an Associate Applied Science degree for students across the disciplines of Biomass Process Engineering, Analytical Chemistry, and Scientific Entrepreneurship, to meet the technical and professional demands of the emerging bio-economy.

BCC's Education and Reading Department recently received a \$125,000 grant from the Petrie Foundation to support the Preschool CareerPath Program. As participants in the program, students can earn their Child Development Associate Credential and up to twelve (12) college credits in early childhood education.

BCC and Phipps Neighborhoods are developing an experiential learning job training program to prepare out of school and out of working youth ages 18-24 for entry-level, career ladder positions across sectors.

BCC and Per Scholas recently received a planning grant to develop and information technology job training program that will result in students securing entry-level positions in the field and credits related to their major.

BCC, in collaboration with PHI, will use a recently-awarded planning grant to develop a home health care aid training program for residents of the communities BCC serves.

STAFF APPRECIATION: The Staff Appreciation Barbeque will be held on campus on July 20, 2016, from noon to 2:00pm. All staff are invited to attend. Offices will make accommodations to ensure that anyone interested in participating may attend.

We want to hear about your good works and exciting projects! If you are involved in any BCC projects or activities that you would like shared with the campus community in upcoming President's Reports, please email Assistant Vice President for Communication and Marketing, Diane Weathers, at diane.weathers@bcc.cuny.edu. I hope that each and every one of you will have an opportunity to unwind and recharge through these summer months and come back ready for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Best wishes,

Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.