Mission
Bronx Community College serves students of diverse backgrounds, preparations and aspirations by providing them with an education that is both broad in scope and rigorous in its standards. We offer students access to academic preparation that provides them with the foundation and tools for success in their educational and/or professional plans and instills in them the value of informed and engaged citizenship and service to their communities.

Vision
Bronx Community College will effectively invest in each student’s success by engaging with them in an integrative and supportive environment that facilitates the development and achievement of their educational and career goals. Graduates will be prepared to understand, thrive in and contribute to a 21st century global community marked by diversity, change and expanded opportunities for lifelong learning and growth.
A Message from President Thomas A. Isekenegbe

I had the good fortune of coming to BCC’s historic campus in August 2015, at the launch of a five-year Strategic Plan, “Building a Community of Excellence.” The plan is the College’s road map toward that destination. This report describes the progress of the journey.

That kind of focus on the success of each student is the hallmark of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) initiative, which is currently being expanded at BCC. Math Start also demonstrates that the spirit of ASAP is not limited to those students enrolled in the program, but pervades the entire campus to the benefit of all BCC “Broncos.”

But while this report highlights some of the new initiatives designed to meet the educational needs of the new century, we always know we are building on what was set in motion by our predecessors — people like Roscoe C. Brown Jr., our former President and World War II hero, who remained a beloved member of the BCC family until his passing in the summer of 2016.

New buildings, new programs, new infrastructure, new services — these are all important. But now as always, our greatest resource is the talent and passionate commitment of those who study and work here, who not only learn or instruct, but also inspire. This story is their story, and as you learn about some of the people who make this a community, I expect you will be inspired as well.
Expanding Opportunities for Student Success

It could be a new program that we know is effective, child care center doors open on Saturdays or simply words of encouragement from a faculty or staff member telling students “Yes, you can.” We’re expanding these kinds of incentives and positive reinforcements that can inspire BCC scholars to persist in achieving their academic and career goals.

“It is not enough for us to provide just access or an opportunity for advancement. We have to take responsibility for equipping our students with the tools for seizing that opportunity and be held accountable when they do not.”

— CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken

How Do You Spell Success? ASAP!

The 2016/17 academic year marked the beginning of a major expansion of Accelerated Study in Associate Programs at Bronx Community College. ASAP is a CUNY-wide initiative of comprehensive student support that provides everything from intensive tutoring and advisement to free textbooks and MetroCards in order to increase the rate of timely graduation. At BCC, the results have been stunning — at a time when graduation rates at the College have hovered in the teens, BCC’s ASAP students have been earning diplomas at rates in the mid to upper fifties.

Before the expansion, BCC’s ASAP served 700 students. That number rose to nearly 2,000 by the start of the Spring 2017 semester. During the 2017-18 academic year, ASAP is expected to reach 3,500 students and then almost 5,000 in 2018-19 — around half of the student body.

Assistant Dean Francisco Legasa is overseeing the expansion. “My hope is that we can maintain similar outcomes to what we had before,” he says. “With the expansion, we don’t want to lose that personalized attention to students, that close connection between the adviser and the student that is the heart of the program. Also, we hope to give faculty a rewarding experience when they teach an ASAP student. They’ll see that the students are committed and serious about their education and that they can show the talent and potential that they have.”
The Student and the Adviser

Critical to the success of BCC’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs is the special bond between ASAP advisers and their students. “I try my best to know the student holistically,” says Cyd Williams, who has been with the program since it began on the BCC campus in 2007, “know them academically and know them personally. Know what their challenges are, what they think they may not be able to overcome, what they think they may be able to do that may not be realistic in terms of putting classes together.”

Williams also provides the psychological support Krystyn needs because her mentor has been in the same position, “I had four children,” Williams says, “I scheduled the time to cook and the time that I spent here, and then I went home to check on my children’s homework. I told Krystyn, ‘Yeah, you can do it; stop making excuses. If I did it with four, you can do it with one’.”

Addys Williams, “It is very important that the students I serve know that I genuinely care about their success. Advisement is a life-changing process that assists them in finding their true selves.”

Liberal Arts major Krystyn Caldwell, who plans to go to a four-year college and study nursing, agrees. “I wanted to take Chemistry and Biology next semester because I want to get out — I’m almost out. But Cyd asked me, ‘Do you really think you can do all that?’ And I say, ‘I probably can if I study and I just cram everything.’ And she says, ‘Krystyn, you can’t cram. You have to learn it — learn it and really pass these classes.’”

As a single mom, Krystyn also faces challenges juggling the demands of parenting. Williams has helped her work through that as well. “I have a daughter and I have to get my daughter at a certain time,” Krystyn explains, “You can get blocks of classes so you can take them all in the morning or all in the afternoon or the evening — whatever works for you. Miss Cyd helped me do that, and everything worked out great.”
50%
By 2019, approximately 50% of BCC students will receive the benefits of the ASAP program:
• 2-3 year graduation rates
• tuition waivers
• textbook vouchers
• MetroCards
• structured academic pathways
• high-touch advisement
• career development
• tutoring resources

62%
Most recently, 62% of BCC ASAP students graduated in three years.

Projected BCC ASAP Growth

- 2015-16: 729
- 2016-17: 1,972
- 2017-18: 3,472
- 2018-19: 4,958

All BCC students will benefit from the college redesign that accompanies the ASAP enrichment and expansion.
• Instruction delivered by experts in community college teaching
• An array of high-demand and diverse degree programs
• Vibrant communities of learning
• Coordinated and integrated student and academic services and support

These three Broncos are smiling for the same good reason — they were all 2016 recipients of a BCC Kaplan Scholarship, which provides financial support and skills training to help community college students make the leap to a four-year school and a bachelor’s degree. Today, Alberto Alberto (left) is at Brown University, Brittany Arboleda (right) attends Stanford University and Welbeck Adjetey Sowah (center) is a student at Occidental College. “Before the Kaplan Scholarship, I would never have considered applying to all these top schools,” says Brittany. “It opened my horizons and made me think, ‘Hey, you can do it. It’s not a far-off dream. It’s not for somebody else. It’s for you as well’.”

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Food for Hungry Minds

On November 15, 2016, the ribbon was cut on a dream years in the making. In cooperation with Food Bank for New York City, which has partnered with The City University of New York to open similar pantries at other CUNY campuses, the BCC Food Pantry will provide eligible BCC students with free food for their households.

The Food Pantry was conceived after Single Stop, the go-to office for a wide range of student support and assistance, reported that 70% of those it served were in extreme need of food. “We wanted to help feed students and their families,” explains Single Stop Director Dedra Polite. “We wanted to retain students and help them persist to graduation.” Single Stop will run the pantry and will establish criteria for determining which students qualify for assistance.

The BCC Foundation provided $10,000 in funding for the Food Pantry’s first year of service. Donations will also be accepted from faculty, staff and administrators, as well as from the general public.

“We wanted to help feed students and their families.”
— Dedra Polite, Director of Single Stop

Scoring on the Field and in the Classroom

The student athletes who shine in their sport don’t do so despite their performance in the classroom, but because of it. The 2016 Broncos men’s soccer team alone boasted three City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) “scholar-athletes,” all of whom were born in West Africa.

Team Captain Kamaroundine Tchabalandja (center) plans to go to The City College of New York and pursue international studies. “It’s not easy to join the team,” he notes. “You have to make sure you are doing well in your classes, too.” He did impressively on both counts — seven goals and two assists on the field, a 3.1 GPA in the classroom.

Engineering science sophomore Bright Tsagli (right) was named to the All-CUNYAC Sportsmanship Team — and has a GPA of 3.95. “I started as a right back, but I ended up as a goal keeper. That takes leadership. You have to look at everything that happens. The players are just playing, they don’t know some of the problems they are likely to encounter. But when you are behind the post, you are able to calculate strategies.”

Freshman Richson Owusu’s accomplishments for the season included placing on the All-CUNYAC 1st Team. He is studying criminal justice with the goal of eventually becoming an immigration officer.

There is no one happier with the accomplishments of these stars than BCC Director of Athletics Rogelio Knights Jr. He explains: “An athletic program is built on the premise that athletes strive to be students first.”

“An athletic program is built on the premise that athletes strive to be students first.”
— Rogelio Knights Jr., BCC Director of Athletics
The Student and The Professor

It was the start of the Fall 2016 semester and math professor Andrew McInerney could barely curb his enthusiasm. Keysi Peralta, a former student he had been mentoring since 2009, when she first enrolled in his remedial Math 01 class, was now a colleague, teaching the very subject she had placed into when she first applied to BCC.

“Me, a teacher?” was her immediate response. “I don't think so.” But both her heart and Professor McInerney kept saying otherwise, and eventually she had to admit that she enjoyed helping others grasp a subject in which she excelled. “I was always doubting myself,” she recalls, “but he told me I could do it and that I had all the qualities needed to overcome challenges.”

Keysi is currently a math teacher at the Facing History School in the Bronx and is an active teacher/leader, helping other teachers become better at their jobs. Her BCC evening class is her way of giving back to students closer to her in age who share challenges similar to those she faced as a recent immigrant and parent struggling to further her education in a language foreign to her.

For Professor McInerney, Peralta’s story provides a new twist on the value of remediation. “In these days when remediation is such a bad word, it is a reminder that remediation can open doors for students to careers they may never have considered.” Then he adds, beaming with well-deserved pride, “This is what keeps me going.”
Cultivate a 21st Century Curriculum

Whether it is updating longstanding courses to cover the latest developments in the field or introducing programs that didn’t exist ten or even five years ago, we seek to prepare students for the careers of today with an eye open to tomorrow’s opportunities.

Students will for the first time get an opportunity to be trained in this emerging field of study.”
– Dr. Sunil Baskaran

BCC’s Geospatial Center Maps Its Future

Bronx Community College doesn’t just make scientists. It makes science. And a good example of that is the work being done by BCC’s Geospatial Center.

Geospatial technology is an exciting, relatively new field that gathers data from orbiting satellites, aircraft and ground-based observers. The data is then transformed into maps that can be used in applications ranging from urban planning and farming to community health and business development. The science was brought to the BCC campus by Dr. Sunil Bhaskaran, who in 2014 became director of the new BCC Geospatial Center of the CUNY CREST Institute (BGCCCI). The Center focuses on education and research opportunities for BCC undergraduates, faculty and staff and offers specialized training in geospatial technology.

Now the Center is preparing a proposal for an Associate in Applied Science degree specifically devoted to Geospatial Technology. The program will provide BCC students with 60 credits of industry-level geospatial knowledge and the hands-on skills that can lead to employment in this high-growth field.

“At BCC, students will for the first time get an opportunity to be educated and trained in this emerging field of study,” observes Dr. Bhaskaran. “They will be able to use industry standard software and participate in projects that will give them additional information and insight into this technology.”

And though the degree is still in the development phase, two senior colleges have already expressed interest in articulating a BCC A.A.S. in Geospatial Technology with their B.A. and B.S. programs, providing BCC graduates with yet another pathway to the next step in their college careers—a four-year degree.
Drone Photography Takes Flight at BCC

This new technology is preparing students to enter a field that has created 100,000 jobs in 300 occupations and is being used both inside and outside traditional filmmaking. This can include anything from search-and-rescue to roof inspections to weddings and wedding receptions to real estate.

“Everybody’s using it,” says Professor Jeffrey Witsosky, “It’ll be an $82 billion industry by 2025.” Learning how to operate one of the three drones owned by the Communication Art and Sciences Department is now part of the Introduction to Media and Digital Film Production course taken by all MEDP students. Drone photography is also part of the more advanced course in Digital Video Field Production and one of the activities of the Media and Digital Film Club.

In the hands of a BCC-trained drone pilot, drone photography is already proving to be rich with opportunity. Professor Wisotsky points to Romel Rodriguez, whose film A Small World was an award-winning entry in the 2016 BCC Film Festival. Today, he is working his way towards a four-year degree at City College and paying for it in part by offering his own drone and piloting skills for aerial photography on student films.

The enhanced curriculum is capturing student interest. “We’re using drones for retention of students in the program. A lot of them really look forward to taking the drone out and flying it,” says Professor Witsosky. In pre-drone days, his students would create aerial shots by climbing to the tops of buildings. But these days, many of them let the drone do the climbing. As Professor Wisotsky points out, “If you have a good story to tell, you’ll be able to tell it with whatever camera we give you.”

BCC Auto Tech Interns Hit The Road

Internships and other opportunities for learning by doing are a cornerstone of a college education.

Thanks to a three-year partnership with the BRAM Auto Group, one of the major dealerships in the tri-state area, 28 students in BCC’s Automotive Technology program have received a level of sophisticated training that puts them on a fast track to a career in a field where the demand for well-trained technicians outpaces the supply.

“Our alliance with BRAM Auto is fantastic,” says Clement Drummond, the College’s director of Auto Tech, the only program of its kind throughout The City University of New York. “It allows our students to take what they’ve learned in college and actually put it into practice. They work with a lead technician who mentors them through the repairs of automobiles. And the students are all paid interns — that’s a big thing.”

One such student is Xavier Martinez, whose internship was so successful that he now works full time as a technician at Fordham Toyota, just blocks away from BCC, where he continues as a student.

BRAM could not be happier. “There is a national shortage of automotive technicians,” says BRAM vice president Mike Ianelli. “We need automotive mechanics and the people need jobs — and we’re finding phenomenal employees.”

Ianelli points out that BRAM has a commitment to the Bronx beyond the BCC partnership. “For Thanksgiving, we gave away 500 turkeys on East Tremont Avenue. I believe in the community. It’s an area of growth in the city that’s going to be tremendous 10, 20 years from now.”

“We need automotive mechanics and the people need jobs — and we’re finding phenomenal employees.”

— Mike Ianelli, vice president BRAM Auto Group
Doubling the Pool of Potential Scientists

“’I’ve been involved in women’s issues in science since I was an engineering student at the University of Melbourne in Australia,’” says chemistry Professor Vickie Flaris. “’I’d go around to high schools and talk to women about considering careers in the STEM fields.’”

Dr. Flaris observes that since her engineering school days, the position of women has “dramatically improved in terms of the numbers of women entering scientific fields of study.” Still, there is a gap between the number of women who are graduating in the sciences and women who are being hired in the sciences. She adds, “Both genders do very well in elementary school, but then the girls want to fit in with their peers and long-ingrained gender models stop them, or their own family may not support them.”

Dr. Flaris has been advocating for change on different fronts. CUNY has featured her in New York Times ads and a YouTube video. And in May 2017, she will be chairing a conference at BCC of the Two-Year College Chemistry Consortium (2YC3), which will focus on ways to effectively reach students using creative teaching strategies.

The sciences are “a way for women to contribute to society,” she says, noting that “48% of today’s workforce are women, and yet only 12% of graduating engineers are female.” This has a practical impact on everyone. For example, automobile airbags, meant to save lives, were originally designed for the larger frames of men, not for the smaller stature of women and children. “We need a different perspective when we are developing these products and materials in the marketplace.”

BCC’s Vicki Flaris is doing her best to make that happen.

Scholarly Works, Honors and Awards

The following is a partial listing some of the recent achievements of BCC’s faculty and staff.

Professor of art and music Thomas Cipullo was honored and celebrated by the New York Singing Teachers Association with a concert of 20 of his vocal works, chosen by the composer himself. They were performed by six singers from the New York metropolitan area. The concert and 60th birthday tribute was held in April 2016 at the National Opera Center in Manhattan.

Dr. Anthony Gatto, associate professor of music, collaborated with media artist Chris Larson (assistant professor of art, University of Minnesota) on Wise Blood, an opera exhibition based on the novel by Flannery O’Connor. The musical work was commissioned by the Walker Art Center and The Soap Factory, which held eight performances in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June 2016.

Dr. Debra Gonsher, chair of the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, was the recipient of a $25,000 grant from the Knights of Columbus to support the African production of Beauty of Their Dreams. The film examines initiatives supporting girls’ education and advocates for people of faith to become involved in “the global social justice issue of our time.” She was also nominated for her tenth Emmy for her documentary, Every Word Has Power: The Poetry of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Dr. Monique Guishard of BCC’s Department of Social Sciences was the recipient of a $250,000 Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) engagement contract. Along with Bronx physician Dr. Daniel Korin, she will be using the funds to establish a community-based research academy in the South Bronx.

In 2016, Sunej Hans, assistant professor of chemistry, was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Visiting Faculty Program at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) for the second consecutive year.

Dr. Prithi Kanakamedala, assistant professor of history, was one of four faculty recipients of the inaugural Gittell Junior Faculty Award. This CUNY-wide award is named after Dr. Marilyn Jacobs Gittell (1931-2010), a CUNY scholar and community activist committed to racial, gender and educational justice. The award was used to fund archival research at the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress and the National Archives. The research supports Dr. Kanakamedala’s book project, tentatively entitled The DeGrasse Family of New York.
Deborah Lewittes, assistant professor of art and music, received a PSC-CUNY research grant for her proposal to study the eminent Scottish biologist and planner Patrick Geddes and his 1925 urban design theories.

Thanks to the work of Dr. Stacia Reader, assistant professor, Department of Health, Physical Education and Wellness (HPEDW) and in coordination with the Office of Academic Affairs, the College launched a grant-funded enrichment program for students who are interested in health care careers. The Academy for Transitions to Health Professions (ATHP) is designed to create a pipeline to assist disadvantaged students with strengthening academic potential to excel at BCC, transfer to a four-year institution and from there enter a graduate program in a health field. The College received this grant as part of a broader coalition called the Bronx Health Opportunities Partnership-Einstein (Bronx HOPE).

Gloria M. Rodriguez, lecturer in social sciences and psychology, was invited by Dr. Aurelie Athan, director of LEO Wellness Center affiliated with the Spiritualty Mind-Body Institute at Columbia University, to present research and work at the Grand Rounds lecture series for faculty and graduate students.

Cynthia Tobar, assistant professor and BCC Library head of archives, received a PSC-CUNY Traditional B Grant for Cities for People; Not for Profit: Gentrification and Housing Activism in Bushwick, Phase 2. Thanks to a grant from the CUNY Diversity Projects Development Fund of the University Advisory Council on Diversity, Tobar was also the recipient of $4,000 for an online exhibit examining themes of historical exclusion, diversity and achievement at the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, located on the BCC campus.

“\n“I love the fact that no matter how high I set the bar, the students are willing to do the work required to get there. Many of our students have had to overcome all sorts of obstacles on their path towards higher education, and it is so gratifying to see them flourish both within our campus and beyond. We are blessed to have such a vibrant, dynamic, determined and gifted community.”
- Alicia Bratave Ramírez, Modern Languages Department

The Joy of Teaching Physics
For physics professor Joseph Malinsky, 2016 was a very good year. Since joining the BCC faculty in 1992, he has published numerous scientific papers in major journals and been involved in important collaborative work – most recently at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, the world’s largest and most powerful particle accelerator. With the recent publication of Transfer Processes in Macroscopically Disordered Media, he can list textbook co-author among his credits. The work examines certain mixtures of chemical elements that can change their state and show what Malinsky calls “outlandish properties.”

Professor Malinsky, who is also an assistant professor of medicine at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, is proud to have conducted some of his research with help from his BCC students. Over the years, he has become known for the mentoring and support he provides his students. In 2007, his student involvement was recognized with a “Keeper of the Flame” award from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. In 2007, his student involvement was recognized with a “Keeper of the Flame” award from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation. In 2007, his student involvement was recognized with a “Keeper of the Flame” award from the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

“I think I give my students an example,” notes Dr. Malinsky, who was born in what at the time was the USSR. “I came to this country with maybe a hundred dollars in my pocket. I worked diligently. I did my PhD here, and I did my post-doc work until I became a full professor. Now I can relax a little bit and write books about physics. My heart goes out to my students and to helping them.”

Clouds, Gases and Ice
Thanks to Dr. Neal Philip, chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, the Bronx was “in the house” at the Ninth Annual Growing Sustainable Communities Conference held in Dubuque, Iowa in October 2016. It is the largest and longest-standing conference of its kind with representatives from 100 different cities and 26 states. Dr. Philip gave a keynote address and discussed original research that he and his department are conducting on the BCC campus and sites in Colorado.

His topic — “Climate Change Monitoring Evolution: Through Clouds, Gases and Ice” — drew on data collected by a greenhouse gas monitor installed on the roof of BCC’s Meister Hall since 2013 that analyzes the air of the Bronx for heat-trapping chemicals. “With this equipment, we can quantify the amount of methane, carbon dioxide and water vapor in the atmosphere of Bronx Community College,” notes Dr. Philip. “These are the gases responsible for climate change.”

The globetrotting scientist also told conference attendees of his work on climate change through the study of ice core samples with the US Antarctic Ice Drilling Program and the physical and chemical properties of clouds at Storm Peak Lab in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, some two miles above sea level.

The work of Dr. Philip, the BCC Center for Sustainable Energy and the BCC Geospatial Center connects BCC to the latest research on building the sustainable and resilient cities of tomorrow.

Publications


Dr. Sharon Utakas, professor of English, was an honored program co-chair at the 49th Annual Meeting of the Oral History Association held in October 2015 in Tampa, Florida. More than 420 oral historians from around the world convened to examine stories of social change and justice through the oral history lens.

Gloria M. Rodriguez, lecturer in social sciences and psychology, was invited by Dr. Aurelie Athan, director of LEO Wellness Center affiliated with the Spirituality Mind-Body Institute at Columbia University, to present research and work at the Grand Rounds lecture series for faculty and graduate students.


Joyce L. Bloom, “The Emperor Has No Clothes: The Lack of Common Sense in the Wholesale Joy of Teaching Physics


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Reaching Beyond the Campus Gates

Among the greatest gifts you can give students is a greater sense of the larger world and the role they can play in making it better.

This role affords me an opportunity to be a role model to our students.”

— Dr. Ahmed Reid

Bringing a Global Perspective into the Classroom

When BCC Assistant Professor Dr. Ahmed Reid was selected to serve on a five-member United Nations Human Rights Council Working Group of Experts, the prestigious appointment promised to be a unique opportunity to further focus on a field of interest deeply important to him — colonialism’s legacy among people of African descent in the Caribbean and Latin America. And he approaches the subject as both a scholar and an activist.

But he is not the only one benefiting. “The Working Group is an international investigative body,” he says, “which brings attention to my work as a member of the group and in turn raises the national and international profile of BCC and CUNY.”

As for his students: “My experience investigating human rights abuses, interviewing victims and reporting on these matters to the United Nations Human Rights Council and the General Assembly has given me access to data and a perspective that has proven beneficial in the classroom. In my World Regional Geography class last spring, I was better able to discuss xenophobia, poverty and other social issues as a result of my access to regional and national data.”

Dr. Reid was born in the Parish of St. James, Jamaica, and educated at the University of the West Indies and the University of Hull, England. His experience as a researcher in conjunction with the 2007 Bicentenary of the British Abolition of the Transatlantic Trade in Africans triggered his current interest. “Colonialism has ‘disfigured’ the Caribbean,” he says, “The impact is very much present throughout the diaspora and people of African descent continue to face systemic discrimination.”

Since beginning his appointment in December 2015, he has delivered a keynote address to the General Assembly on The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, participated in several panel and roundtable discussions on human rights issues, conducted missions to the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and other development agencies and was invited by the government of the Netherlands to address the 2016 international conference on the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). And along the way, he is inspiring his students to think globally and make connections between present-day realities and the past. Not only is he helping them understand ways in which the colonial legacy impacts the island nations where many of them were born, he is inspiring some to consider international career options. “Students have been inquiring about the role and activities of the U.N. system. Many have also expressed interest in working for the U.N. This role affords me the opportunity to be a role model for our students.”
Andre Christie: Medicine On His Mind

BCC alum Andre Christie is a man on the move. He was awarded his Associate in Science degree in June 2016, days after returning from South Africa, where he was studying health care for the poor. The day after Commencement, he was en route to Bethesda, Maryland to work beside medical researchers at the National Institutes of Health. By summer’s end, he was enrolled in New York University, one step closer to his dream of becoming a medical doctor.

Four years earlier, Andre was living in an impoverished, crime-ridden neighborhood in Kingston, Jamaica, considered among the most dangerous in the world. “I saw people getting shot,” he recalls. “They were helpless. That’s really how my passion for helping people came about.”

He emigrated to the United States and eventually landed in New York City. While working as a home health aide, he learned about Bronx Community College. He started out as an evening student in the fall of 2013 – and thrived.

“My major here was diet and nutrition, but I had so many advanced classes I might as well have been a science major,” he recalls.

He has two long-range goals. One is to become a cardiothoracic surgeon – a specialist in the heart, lungs and other organs in the chest. The other is more personal. “A lot of men die of prostate cancer in Jamaica because of homophobia. They don’t believe the doctor should be examining the prostate. My grandfather had that type of mentality,” he recalls. “My goal is to establish a prostate cancer research center in Kingston.”

“My goal is to establish a prostate cancer research center in Kingston.”

Start-up CEO

Even as it serves the college students of today, BCC is also nurturing the college students of tomorrow through its outreach to Bronx high schools. One particularly successful effort is BCC’s “Start-up CEO,” a course that is giving students around the world the “virtual” experience of running a business. A joint project of BCC, CUNY’s College Now program and Virtual Enterprises International (VEI), it is the only program of its kind throughout CUNY.

Since it was launched in 2014, Start-up CEO has served approximately 160 students attending 10 high schools in the Bronx and other boroughs during the spring, summer and fall semesters. Students meet Saturdays on the BCC campus in a classroom that has been transformed into an office suite, where they assume the roles of business executives. Using computers and online resources, they develop and launch a simulated business that duplicates all the functions and demands of the real thing: developing a product, creating a business plan, production, distribution, marketing, sales and accounting.

And though Start-up CEO is a simulation, like a real business it comes with tangible rewards: students can earn up to 12 free college credits while they are still in high school. Students sharpen their academic and critical-thinking skills as well as their inner business executive as they interact with more than 5,000 other student-run virtual firms in over 40 countries. Local business leaders serve as guest speakers, coaches and mentors.

“Even as early as high school, young people have the capacity to tap into the entrepreneurial spirit and achieve the unexpected,” says Dr. Eddy Bayardelle, BCC Vice President for Advancement, Communications and External Relations. “These students get an edge that others do not have because innovation is now in their DNA.”

These students get an edge that others do not have because innovation is now in their DNA.”

— BCC Vice President Eddy Bayardelle
Enhancing the Campus Environment

Our 45-acre campus is a treasured national asset. Thanks to vital support from local and state governments and The City University of New York, we continue to make the upgrades needed to maintain and improve what we have and to accommodate the facilities that better serve our students’ future needs.

The Final Piece of a Masterpiece

On November 3, 2016, elected officials from across New York City and State gathered on campus for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that formally opened our newly renovated Quadrangle.

“New York State’s $50 million investment in this re-imagined Quad is another sign of continued belief in the work of our community colleges, like Bronx Community College,” said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, who opened the program following an introduction by President Thomas A. Isekenegbe. “We are proud of these improvements because they telegraph to students, faculty and visitors alike that we prioritize our campuses and educate some of the brightest minds in America.” The Lieutenant Governor also presented a proclamation recognizing November as CUNY Month in New York State to Chancellor James B. Milliken, who also spoke at the event.

“The dramatic physical changes at Bronx Community College in recent years, including the extraordinary new library and an enormous infrastructure project, culminating in the reopening of the beautiful Quad, represent substantial new investment by the State and the City in this historic and vital campus,” said the Chancellor.

New York State’s $50 million investment in this re-imagined Quad is another sign of continued belief in the work of our community colleges, like Bronx Community College.”

— New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul

The Quadrangle completes the vision of the campus begun by legendary architect Stanford White at the turn of the last century. Designed by Robert A. M. Stern Architects, it provides an important outdoor space that can be enjoyed by members of the BCC community as well as visitors to the only community college in America with architecture that has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Ringed by the work of three generations of master builders, the Quadrangle boasts pedestrian pathways, ornamental trees and other plantings, benches and tables, bicycle racks, lamps and a broad lawn for future Commencements. It is also has Wi-Fi.

Other speakers who addressed the audience included Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Greene, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, State Assembly members Victor M. Pichardo and Marcos A. Crespo and New York City Council Member Fernando Cabrera. The hour-long ceremony concluded with a line of invited guests wielding scissors and cutting long ribbons in the school colors of green and gold and, in the words of BCC President Isekenegbe, “officially opening the final piece of a masterpiece.”
Major Capital Projects and Expenditures

To further develop the College’s ability to better support its students, several major projects and renovations were undertaken in FY 2016.

These include upgrading our infrastructure for heating and cooling, power and communications, enhancing the campus landscape and improving access and support for ASAP.

The following projects were funded by New York City, New York State and through Resolution A funding from the Bronx Borough President and Bronx City Council Members:

- **Quad Restoration, Receiving Building and Patterson Parking Lot Restoration - Completed in 2016**
  - Total project cost: $4.9 million
  - The capital renovation of the BCC Quadrangle was the final phase of a large project that included building North Hall and Library and the Receiving Building as well as restoring the Patterson parking lot. The renovated Quad was completed in July 2016 and space that had been temporarily used as a parking lot was transformed into a grassy lawn, landscaped areas, pedestrian paths, accessible curb ramps, seating, tables, site lighting and an irrigation system.

- **Roscoe C. Brown Student Center fire alarm system replacement - Completed in 2016**
  - Total project cost: $670,000
  - This capital project replaced the fire alarm systems in the Student Center, Annex and Playhouse with a fully code-compliant new system.

- **Campus-wide Utility Upgrades Phase IV — Under Construction**
  - Total project cost: $27 million
  - This capital upgrade will replace utility piping at the west end of campus with new distribution piping for medium temperature hot water, chilled water, electrical and telecommunication data lines. The project will also complete construction of the new electrical service building.

- **Swimming Pool Renovation — Construction**
  - Total project cost: $3.8 million
  - Expected date of completion: 2017
  - This capital project will repair damaged drain piping that caused the pool to close several years ago. The project will also repair cracks in the shell and deck of the pool, replace all the pool equipment and provide a new accessible bathroom and entrance ramp.

- **Nichols ASAP Advisement Offices - 4th floor, Under Construction**
  - Total project cost: $822,000
  - Expected date of completion: 2017
  - This project will renovate formerly vacant office space as the advisement office for BCC’s ASAP program. This will complement the ASAP project completed last year that created new advisement offices on the first floor of the building.

(Below left to right): State Assemblyman Victor M. Pichardo, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken, Lieutenant Governor Kathleen C. Hochul, BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Bronx Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene, State Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, University Student Senate Chairperson Chika Onyejiukwa, BCC Student Government Association President Nicholas Asamoah, City Councilman Fernando Cabrera and State Assemblyman Marcos A. Crespo

“$1,174,820”

Bronx Community College consolidated financials for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures by Major Purpose</th>
<th>Tax Levy Ledger 2</th>
<th>Tax Levy Ledger 3: Tech Fee</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% of Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction and Department Research</td>
<td>$43,704,579</td>
<td>$43,704,579</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Support Services</td>
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<td>Maintenance and Operations</td>
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<td>9,615,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Institutional Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Discovery</td>
<td>574,463</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures*</td>
<td>$80,051,575</td>
<td>$1,122,490</td>
<td>$81,174,065</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components of Endowment and Other Support</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUNY Investment Pool Endowment</td>
<td>$419,983</td>
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<td>35.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUNY Investment Pool Current Restricted</td>
<td>192,410</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC Foundation Scholarships</td>
<td>570,427</td>
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<td>49.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$1,174,820</td>
<td></td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Tax Levy and Tech Fee Expenditures from CUNYfirst.
Engaging Our Community

“Bronx” is part of our name, and we welcome opportunities to join with family and friends and celebrate the borough at its best.

1. Senator Bernie Sanders Rally
   The candidate came to our campus at the height of the 2016 presidential primary election season.

2. Browder Scholarship Announcement
   Student Beverly Emers was the first recipient of the Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship.

3. Run the Bronx 2016
   Started in 1978 by then President Roscoe C. Brown Jr., this annual run and walk now draws more than 1,000 participants each year.

4. The “Bronx Messiah”
   The third annual performance of this holiday masterpiece was held in the Hall of Fame Playhouse.

5. Luis A. Gonzalez Retirement Party
   The Gould Memorial Library Rotunda was the perfect backdrop for a celebration in honor of Luis A. Gonzalez, the first Latino Presiding Justice of a New York State Appellate Court.

6. A Visit from Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor
   We were proud to partner with the Bronx Children’s Museum on its 2016 “Dream Big Day” celebration, which treated 100 students to a visit from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.
On Sunday, October 16, 2016, BCC once again participated in Open House New York, the City’s annual celebration of some of its hidden architectural and artistic attractions. Alongside this year’s event, the College hosted an Architecture and Arts Festival, a free family event featuring guided tours of our national landmark buildings, art exhibits and dance and music performances showcasing some of the best of both BCC and New York City. Over 1,000 people participated in this extraordinary community event. Among them were leading historical preservationists and architects, including Samuel White, a great-grandson of Stanford White, the acclaimed turn-of-the-20th century architect who designed the Gould Memorial Library, the Hall of Fame for Great Americans and other buildings which were part of the original campus over 120 years ago.

One of New York State’s “Seven To Save”

In March 2016, Gould Memorial Library — BCC’s landmark Stanford White masterpiece — received yet another vote of confidence. The Preservation Society of New York State designated GML, which was built in 1900 for what was at the time New York University’s uptown campus, one of New York State’s Seven to Save Historic Properties List for 2016-17. The listing draws attention to the plight of New York State’s vacant or underused National Historic Landmarks and historic communities prone to flooding, as well as sites rich in African-American cultural heritage and industrial history. Preservation Society President Jay DiLorenzo says the designation will help “bring Gould Memorial Library back to its glory.”

This latest distinction comes as a campaign is underway to “Save Gould Memorial Library,” a BCC effort to raise essential support for the restoration, preservation and return to full use of a majestic building in desperate need of repair.

The BCC Architecture and Arts Festival

On June 8, 2016, the BCC Foundation hosted its gala benefit to raise funds to help students facing financial challenges that will successfully complete their education. “Building the American Dream, One Student at a Time” was the theme of the dinner, which was held at the Tribeca Rooftop. Former newspaper columnist and NY1’s Inside City Hall host Errol Louis emceed the event.

The Foundation celebrated the inaugural year of the College’s sixth President, Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe. In addition, three noteworthy BCC benefactors were honored: Harriet and George Blank, whose efforts led to the establishment of the Pershing Rifles Company E-8/ Bob Fernandez Scholarship; and William T. Schwendler, formerly of Northrup Grumman, a scholarship supporter who has been instrumental in introducing BCC automotive technology students to careers in aeronautics.

A high point of the evening was the introduction of Beverly Emers, the winner of the first $5,000 Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship. The award was named in honor of the late BCC student whose profile in the New Yorker and subsequent suicide galvanized calls for criminal justice reform. A portion of the event’s proceeds will be designated to permanently endow the scholarship, ensuring that resources remain in place to support formerly incarcerated students like Kalief for years to come.

The evening also highlighted the accomplishments of some of the stellar graduates of the BCC class of 2016, who received their diplomas only four days earlier.

Gala Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School/Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arlette S. Butcher</td>
<td>Hunter College ASAP Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yardley Martinez</td>
<td>New York University William T. Schwendler Jr. Scholar Chemistry and Chemical Technology Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abd-Manaaf Bakere</td>
<td>Cornell University Help a Bronco Yankees Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Josman</td>
<td>BCC Claude D. Grant Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aji Mbye</td>
<td>The City College of New York Pershing Rifles Company E-8/ Bob Fernandez Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beverly Emers</td>
<td>BCC Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Guzman</td>
<td>BCC Alumni Scholar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raul Rivas</td>
<td>(The City College of New York) Capital One Entrepreneur Scholar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Donors
July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2016

Bronx Community College is the recipient of numerous acts of generosity throughout the year. Contributions of every size, given by individuals and organizations, assist in providing needed scholarships, program funding and a broad range of student resources that ensure access to education for those who need it most. We are thankful for every donation we receive and are reliant on new and renewed support to help achieve our goals.

Public Grants
July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2016

Grants from local, state and federal entities provide Bronx Community College with resources to conduct research, develop cutting-edge academic programs, and carry out capital projects.

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In 2016, we lost a truly heroic, revered and long-time member of the BCC family. Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr., who served as BCC president from 1977 to 1993, was a decorated World War II veteran, member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and 2009 recipient of a Congressional Gold Medal.

During his distinguished tenure as BCC President, he led outreach to the city's economic and educational institutions and developed new programs in health, technology and human services. In 1980, he created the BCC Advisory Committee and in 1985, he established the BCC Foundation Inc. to spearhead fundraising initiatives. In the mid-1980's, he also helped New York State create the Bronx Educational Opportunity Center to develop vocational training and skills education.

An avid runner, in 1978 Dr. Brown launched the 10K Run, a day of fun, fitness and health for the community. Today the event has evolved into "Run the Bronx," with over 1,000 participants from the tri-state area and beyond. It was indeed our special honor to pay tribute to Dr. Brown at the 2016 "Run the Bronx."

Dr. Brown created programs to increase outreach to Bronx junior high and high schools and backed initiatives supporting minority students going into science careers.

During his tenure at BCC, more than 10,000 students graduated, going on to further their education and careers. In 2000, the building housing the cafeteria, bookstore, student government and other student-oriented offices was named the Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Student Center.

He was a scholar, athlete and lover of the arts – a true Renaissance man. Bronx Community College was indeed fortunate to count him among its most devoted friends and supporters.
Celebrating 60 YEARS 1957-2017

Bronx Community College of The City University of New York

Founded in 1957, Bronx Community College opened its doors two years later on the old site of the Bronx High School of Science. That first incoming class numbered 125. In 1973, the College moved into its new home high above the Harlem River on what was formerly the uptown campus of New York University.

Today, 60 years and six presidents after its birth, BCC offers more than 43 academic programs that prepare some 11,500 students for careers and to continue their education at four-year colleges and beyond. It is currently in the middle of a five-year strategic plan aimed at “Building a Community of Excellence.”