

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2018**  
*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

---

Congratulations on (nearly) reaching the end of a very busy and productive Fall 2018 semester! It feels like we just started in August. Where did the time go? I hope that you are each planning to take time over the holidays to rest, decompress, celebrate life and joy, and prepare for the Spring 2019 semester with a renewed vigor. I looked up the definition of 'holiday' and found "a day of festivity or recreation when no work is done." Let us all agree to pause and focus on those things that bring us satisfaction and happiness because the serious work will begin soon!

**AN UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION REVIEW:** In the New Year, we are preparing for the March 24-27, 2019, visit by our Middle States Accreditation team. On Thursday, November 15, 2018, we welcomed Dr. Steven M. Rose, President of Passaic County Community College and the Chair of our team. Our Accreditation visit marks the fifth time Dr. Rose has served as Chair of a Middle States team.

During his visit, Dr. Rose met with the MSCHE Accreditation Liaison Officer (Dean Nancy Ritze); Steering Committee Co-Chairs (Vice President Irene R. Delgado and Professor Jordi Getman); members of the Executive Staff, Faculty, Student Support, and Administration; Department Chairpersons; Students; the MSCHE Steering Committee; the BCC Senate; and CUNY Trustee Fernando Ferrer. Prior to his visit, we provided Dr. Rose with a draft of our Middle States Self Study Report, focusing on our theme, "Reflecting on Our Community of Excellence". His response has been positive and we have received constructive feedback on how to improve the Report prior to our full accreditation visit. Specifically, we will need to improve the conclusions included at the end of each of our Self Study chapters to incorporate more context for the strengths, challenges, and areas for improvement. This will provide a clearer roadmap for those reading about the College.

Beginning Thursday, November 29, 2018, I attended the 2018 Middle States Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., with Dean Ritze, VP Delgado, and Dr. Getman. During this conference, they were able to sit for another 90 minutes with Dr. Rose and discuss specifics about our Self Study Report and preparation for the upcoming visit. We are on our way! In the upcoming months, you will be hearing more about Middle States and how you can participate. Dean Ritze will be convening various focus groups to discuss the Self Study before it is finalized for our Accreditation Team and asking for feedback on ways to best communicate messages about the visit with the entire campus. The draft Report provided earlier this month is available online to the entire campus community.

Some of you may be wondering how this process will work. Prior to the March visit, Dr. Rose shares that our Accreditation team will have composed a first draft of their final report based solely on the written documents made available to them in advance of the site visit and interviews. When they arrive at the College, they anticipate conducting interviews of approximately 200 individuals. By the end of Wednesday, March 27, 2019, the visit will conclude and Dr. Rose will deliver his final Accreditation Report before leaving campus. This will include any recommendations for the College but will not include his final recommendation to the Middle States Commission. That ultimate recommendation will be made during a presentation to the Middle States Commission in June 2019. At that time, Dr. Rose and our team will meet the Middle States Commissioner assigned to review and assess Bronx Community College. Our Commissioner will conduct an evaluation based solely on available written materials and will not conduct any in-person interviews or campus site visits. This will comprise the second layer of review for our overall assessment. Following the June 2019 meeting, the College will know the ultimate outcome of our Middle States Accreditation review.

**BUDGET:** In the past years, we have had some challenges with our Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation numbers being lower than we would like. Student enrollment corresponds to FTEs and the amount of money allocated to the College to pay salaries and operate. Due to our lowered student enrollment, we have less money available in our budget. CUNY has asked BCC to come up with a Financial Plan and a plan to reasonably complete the construction on our planned capital projects.

**AN UPDATE ON THE PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT SEARCH:** We continue to prepare for the national open and competitive search for Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. We still anticipate the new Provost will begin on July 1, 2019. We are still securing an executive search firm, with particular attention to the needs of an urban community college and costs associated with the search process. The Senate Committee on Vice Presidents and Deans submitted four faculty members to the Office of the President. Two are included on the Search Committee. The Committee members are listed in the chart below and is composed of nine members; including four faculty members on the professorial line, an adjunct faculty member, a CLT, a senior administrator, a HEO-series administrator, and a student. There is a balance by gender and wide representation by ethnicity. This month, we expect the Search Committee to begin organizing and preparing for the interview process to take place in February 2019. By March/April 2019, we hope the initial selection process will be complete and recommendations will be made on finalist candidates. In May/June, the college will begin the onboarding process, including presenting the selected candidate to the CUNY Board of Trustees. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please feel free to reach out to Executive Director for Human Resources Marta Clark or Chief Diversity Officer Jessenia Paoli. We will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward and look forward to wide participation in the search.

## PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2018

### 2018-2019 SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NAME	PROFESSIONAL AREA/DEPARTMENT	CLASSIFICATION
<b>Alexander Lamazares (Chairperson)</b>	Modern Languages	Senior Faculty – Full Tenured Professor
<b>Kenya Harris<sup>+</sup></b>	Nursing & Allied Health Sciences	Senior Faculty – Full Tenured Professor
<b>Shylaja Akkaraju</b>	Biological Sciences	Faculty – Full Professor
<b>Roni Ben-Nun<sup>*+</sup></b>	Art & Music	Faculty – Associate Professor
<b>James Kenney<sup>*</sup></b>	English	Adjunct Faculty
<b>Luis Cortoreal</b>	Health, Physical Education & Recreation	Instructional Staff - CLT
<b>Bernard Gantt</b>	Student Success	Senior Administrator – ECP (Dean)
<b>Jitinder Walia</b>	Early Childhood Center	Administrator – HEO (Director)
<b>Carolina Valenzuela</b>	Student Government Association	Student

\* Candidate Recommended by College Senate

<sup>+</sup> Alumni Representative

### CAMPUS ACTIVITIES:

- The Cultural Landscape Foundation has announced that The Hall of Fame for Great Americans on the campus of Bronx Community College (BCC) will be added to its “Landslide 2018: Grounds for Democracy” initiative. The goal of this year’s annual Landslide is to bring public attention and action to endangered sites that are key to understanding and remembering the struggles for civil and human rights in the United States. It dovetails with BCC’s own campaign to restore the colonnade.
- In November, the Bronx Community College Foundation kicked off the Season of Giving. On Monday, November 19, 2018, from 12pm – 2pm in the Roscoe Brown Center Playhouse, the BCC Foundation and Municipal Credit Union hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Turkey Raffle for students. We also supported BCC students throughout November and culminating on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, for #BCCGivingTuesday. All contributions made through Giving Tuesday supported BCC students in the coming year. <https://www.cunytuesday.org/organizations/bronx-community-college>
- Please join me in congratulating the members of our Medical Laboratory Technology Program, which received initial accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).
- BCC hosted a team from the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (GFDL) and the Cooperative Institute for Modeling Earth System at Princeton University to explore ways of developing opportunities for research collaborations with BCC faculty and provide student exposure to the work being done at the Institute and Lab. GFDL is sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in collaboration with Princeton. Thank you to Assistant Professor in Engineering, Physics, and Technology Dr. Monika Sikand, Institute Associate Director Dr. Sonya Legg, and GFDL Director Dr. V. Ramaswamy, for organizing.
- On November 29, 2018, the First Lady of New York Chirlane McCray visited BCC’s Early Childhood Center to read ABC Yoga to our children. This event received considerable media and social media attention during the livestream from her Facebook page.
- On December 4, 2018, BCC spread the holiday cheer at the Early Childhood Center when Santa Clause gave gifts to the children. To add to the holiday spirit of giving, several departments donated gifts for a child in the center as second gifts. The staff and families at the Center have asked me to share their gratitude for the thoughtfulness of the campus community in this season of giving.
- Many of our BCC student athletes have been highlighted recently. On December 4, 2018, and November 14, 2018, BCC Freshman Tiquan Rucker was named CUNYAC Men’s Basketball Rookie of the Week, ranking second in the country with 28.9 points per game. On November 27, 2018, BCC Freshman Malik Hamilton was named CUNAC Men’s Basketball Rookie of the Week. On November 14, 2018, BCC Sophomore Asia Nelson was named CUNYAC Women’s Basketball Player of the Week. Congratulations to our students who balance their educational and life responsibilities while excelling in their sports.
- In other exciting student news, the 2017-2018 BCC Student Government Association was awarded Outstanding SGA by the University Student Senate. They registered over 700 community members to vote. 67 new honor society students were inducted into Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), with more than 300 eligible to participate. 2 PTK students have been nominated for the All USA Coca Cola Scholarship (Issatou Barry, AS in Dietetics & Nutrition Science, and Oumou Bah, AA in Liberal Arts & Sciences).

## BCC Middle States Self-Study Update, December 2018 “Reflecting on Our Community of Excellence”

BCC is engaged in a comprehensive Self-Study as part of the accreditation requirements of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). The process will culminate in a final report submitted to MSCHE and an evaluation team visit March 24-27, 2019. Formal action on BCC’s accreditation status will be taken at the June 2019 Executive Meeting of MSCHE.

The **PURPOSE OF THE SELF-STUDY** is to demonstrate BCC’s compliance with MSCHE Standards and requirements and to inform the development of our new Strategic Plan, in support of student learning and success and institution-wide improvement and renewal.

### Self-Study and Evaluation Timeline

November 2018	Self-Study submitted to Evaluation Team Chair; Chair’s initial visit to campus
January 2019	Self-Study submitted to MSCHE
March 24-27, 2019	MSCHE Evaluation Team Visit to BCC
June 2019	MSCHE votes on BCC’s accreditation status

### How you can participate in the Self-Study review and revision process

<p><b>1. Review &amp; Comment on Self-Study Draft (Available for Review in OSSES)</b></p>	<p>Go directly to OSSES (<a href="https://wa01.bcc.cuny.edu/">https://wa01.bcc.cuny.edu/</a> OR BCC website &gt; Quicklinks &gt; OSSES), log in using your Bronco ID and password)</p> <p><b>Send Comments/Questions to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jordi Getman-Eraso (Self-Study Co-Chair) <a href="mailto:Jordi.getman@bcc.cuny.edu">Jordi.getman@bcc.cuny.edu</a></li> <li>▪ Irene R. Delgado (Self-Study Co-Chair) <a href="mailto:Irene.delgado@bcc.cuny.edu">Irene.delgado@bcc.cuny.edu</a></li> <li>▪ Nancy Ritze (MSCHE Accreditation Liaison) <a href="mailto:nancy.ritze@bcc.cuny.edu">nancy.ritze@bcc.cuny.edu</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Website with Self-Study, Survey, and Updates</b></p> <p>Thank you for the candid feedback on our BCC website. We have made adjustments to the home page to highlight our Middle States activities and “Preparing for Middle States: Building a Community of Excellence to Assure a Quality Education.” Here, we welcome President Steven Rose, our Middle States Commission on Higher Education Evaluation Team Chair, and feature an interview with BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegebe. This area also highlights key areas such as our Mission, Vision, Values and Goals. There is an area for feedback directly related to the specific topic covered in the post. Subsequently, we will record the most insightful feedback and incorporate those videos and quotes into future posts.</p> <p>In January 2019, we will shift gears and base our content on learning outcomes and the creation of our next Strategic Plan.</p> <p>We will be supporting these efforts with a social media campaign entitled “Middle States Mondays” to support and extend the reach of our MSCHE awareness campaign. “Getting ready for our review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a campus-wide effort by every member of the BCC family,” says President Isekenegebe. “Each of us has something to contribute to the successful evaluation of our community of excellence.”</p> <p>You can start contributing right now by viewing BCC’s <a href="#">self-study</a> and provide your feedback on the <a href="#">survey</a>.</p> <p>Be sure to visit the MSCHE section of our homepage. It will tell you all you need to know to prepare for the upcoming visit by our MSCHE Evaluation Team. Interesting information and engaging questions will be posted regularly to make your unique and special voice part of the process.</p>	

# Building a Community of Excellence

**MISSION** BCC 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** BCC 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 21<sup>st</sup>-century global community marked by diversity, change, and expanded opportunities for lifelong learning and growth.

**VALUES** Respect – Integrity – Engagement – Excellence – Empowerment

## **GOALS**

1. Build a Community of Excellence
2. Empower Students to Succeed
3. Deepen Student Learning
4. Develop World Citizens
5. Cultivate a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Curriculum
6. Enhance the Campus Environment
7. Promote a Reputation for Excellence

## **MSCHE Standards for Accreditation**

**Standard I: Mission and Goals.** The institution's mission defines its purpose within the context of higher education, the students it serves, and what it intends to accomplish. The institution's stated goals are clearly linked to its mission and specify how the institution fulfills its mission.

**Standard II: Ethics and Integrity.** Ethics and integrity are central, indispensable, and defining hallmarks of effective higher education institutions. In all activities, whether internal or external, an institution must be faithful to its mission, honor its contracts and commitments, adhere to its policies, and represent itself truthfully.

**Standard III: Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience.** An institution provides students with learning experiences that are characterized by rigor and coherence of all program, certificate, and degree levels, regardless of instructional modality. All learning experiences, regardless of modality, program pace/schedule, level, and setting are consistent with higher education expectations.

**Standard IV: Support of the Student Experience:** Across all educational experiences, settings, levels, and instructional modalities, the institution recruits and admits students whose interests, abilities, experiences, and goals are congruent with its mission and educational offerings. The institution commits to student retention, persistence, completion, and success through a coherent and effective support system sustained by qualified professionals, which enhances the quality of the learning environment, contributes to the educational experience, and fosters student success.

**Standard V: Educational Effectiveness Assessment.** Assessment of student learning demonstrates that the institution's students have accomplished educational goals consistent with their programs of study, degree level, the institution's mission, and appropriate expectations for institutions of higher education.

**Standard VI: Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement.** The institution's planning processes, resources, and structures are aligned with each other and are sufficient to fulfill its mission and goals, to continuously assess and improve its programs and services, and to respond effectively to opportunities and challenges

**Standard VII: Governance Leadership and Administration.** The institution is governed & administered in a manner that allows it to realize its stated mission & goals in a way that effectively benefits the institution, its students, & the other constituencies it serves. Even when supported by or affiliated with governmental, corporate, religious, educational system, or other unaccredited organizations, the institution has education as its primary purposed, & it operates as an academic institution with appropriate autonomy.