



# BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Annual Report*  
**2018**

REFLECTING ON OUR COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE



**BRONX**   
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE

**CUNY**  
THE GREATEST  
URBAN UNIVERSITY  
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## A message from President **THOMAS A. ISEKENEGBE**

**W**elcome to the Bronx Community College Annual Report for 2018. In these pages, you will meet the students, faculty and staff behind the journey of the mind that takes a new step every day in our classrooms, laboratories, performance spaces, libraries, athletic fields, footpaths and places of contemplation across our historic campus.

The year 2018 marks the midway point of BCC's ambitious five-year strategic plan. "Bronx Community College's Strategic Plan, Building a Community of Excellence: 2015-20, is designed to improve student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness," reads the plan's opening words. "It calls for a systematic effort to promote learning-centered and evidence-based pedagogy across the curriculum and in the activities of all administrative departments." Among its goals, the strategic plan calls for empowering BCC students to develop and succeed them as world citizens.

Here is a progress report on that vision of a community of excellence. In different sections, we present those who come to BCC to pursue their dreams, those who help build

those dreams, those who make this campus a cauldron of innovation and invention, those who build connections to the community we serve, which in turn serves us by sending their most dedicated sons and daughters, and those who embody our "Boldly Bronx" spirit. You will learn of the on-going contributions of our actively-engaged alumni, the work of the BCC Foundation and other essential supporters of this community of excellence.

This is also a visual record of life on our campus over the past year — the lectures, artistic presentations and performances, athletic competitions, celebrations and other events that are a vital part of the BCC experience. In this oasis of education, the environment of learning stretches far beyond the classroom door and reaches into every human activity.

But before you read our story, I'd like to personally thank everyone who makes that story possible — the BCC community. Though we take pride in the glorious architecture of our campus, it is the people you are about to meet who are Bronx Community College.

  
**Thomas A. Isekenegbe**  
President, Bronx Community College



# Reflecting on Our Community of Excellence



The year 2015 saw the publication of a document that announced the goals of the work we do on our campus. Entitled “Bronx Community College’s Strategic Plan — Building a Community of Excellence: 2015-20,” the plan is designed to improve student learning outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

The 2017-2018 Academic Year brought us to the midpoint of that journey mapped out by our strategic plan and gives us an opportunity to look back on how far we have come and where we are going.

Among our major accomplishments has been the successful expansion of our Accelerated Study in Associate Programs — or as it is better known, ASAP. The financial, academic and personal support of ASAP helps our students complete their degree “as soon as possible” — with the aid of an adviser who acts as a guide through the challenges of higher education from the first day of class to Commencement. Developed by The City University of New York, which oversees the program in all CUNY community colleges, BCC’s version of ASAP began with a select group of students in 2007. The overall three-year graduation rate for those who have been through ASAP is 56% — reaching as high as 68% for the class that entered in the fall of 2011 — compared to the mid-teens for BCC students overall. Impressed by this success, the CUNY Chancellor chose BCC as the first “ASAP College” in 2015. With significant funding from The Mayor’s Office of Economic Development, in 2016 BCC began expanding ASAP’s reach to an ever-increasing portion of the student body. Now in the final year of that expansion, ASAP will ultimately cover almost half of BCC’s full-time students — some 4,000 scholars. We are using the ASAP program on our campus as a catalyst for the redesign of the way we do business to ensure that we provide effective services to all students.







Our entire campus is engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive Self-Study Report, which is required by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in order for our accreditation to be reaffirmed. More than 100 faculty and staff have helped draft chapters for the document. Input and feedback from all members of the BCC community will be incorporated into the final report before the grand finale: a visit by an Evaluation Team from MSCHE in March of 2019. The results of this process will validate what we have achieved and form the basis of our next strategic plan.

## Other noteworthy developments in the last year:

- Developing a comprehensive Academic Master Plan, which is helping the College to assess and align our academic programs with the ever-changing labor market and educational trends and requirements. Like the MSCHE Self-Study, it will be a contributing factor in the creation of our next strategic plan.
- Receiving a \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation for “Developing a Growth Mindset Model to Build Resiliency in STEM Students,” which will educate 575 entering students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We also received a \$300,000 grant from NASA that will fund a collaboration with Medgar Evers College to engage middle school and high school students in innovative hands-on science activities.

- Launching a completely redesigned and reimagined BCC website that is already impressing students with its dynamic new look and smooth navigation. The goal is to make our campus in cyberspace as central to the BCC experience as our brick-and-mortar classrooms. Under development is a course search engine students will use to check the availability of any class based on time and instructor — and to immediately register online. Also ahead: a “smart directory” that provides not only the contact information for faculty, but also a comprehensive list of their papers and other accomplishments, making it a resource of expertise for students and the news media.

As part of our commitment to the growth of partnerships with local businesses, a new collaboration between BCC’s highly popular Automotive Technology program and car maker Nissan will provide students with everything from late-model vehicles on which to learn the craft of automotive technology to internships at area Nissan/Infiniti dealerships — that ultimately could lead to employment as well as further perks like tuition reimbursement. Collaborations of this sort will always be part of a complete BCC education that gives our students the learning tools they need for success when they venture beyond our gates.

“As we reflect on our community of excellence, we remain dedicated to training the leaders of tomorrow for the careers of tomorrow,” says BCC president Thomas A. Isekenegbe, “The future engineers, future artists, future professionals in all fields who will be prepared to serve our borough, our city and our nation.”

**“The future engineers, future artists, future professionals in all fields who will be prepared to serve our borough, our city and our nation.”**







# THE DRE DREAM

## PURSUING THE DREAM

Those who come to our  
community of excellence  
discover the word — and  
themselves.





## MARY SOTO

**BCC '18**

DACA recipient, student activist

“BCC has given me the backbone I needed to speak without fear and realize my full potential.”



**A**fter meeting other undocumented DREAMers who did not have a voice and felt alone, I felt I had to make my voice loud enough for me and them. The stories we shared made me realize that others need to find out who we are and that we have great goals in life. When it comes to DACA, we are not making much progress. Congressional representatives from both parties don't know how hard it is to focus on school and other important things when we see government playing ping-pong with our lives. One day, it's DREAMers stay. The next day it's DREAMers go.

I have a five-year-old son and my family doesn't want me to come to school when they see ICE going into people's homes and people's jobs. But I no longer live in fear because I know that I am doing nothing wrong.

BCC has given me the backbone I needed to speak without fear and realize my full potential. I am honored to have won the Campus Impact Student of the Year and Emerging Leader Awards. My college experience prepared me to be accepted with open arms at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, my dream school. My academic goal is to get my Ph.D. and become a college professor — hopefully at BCC. I want to be able to change the world one student at a time.

**Education is our freedom!**







## ASTRONAUT TOUCHES DOWN ON CAMPUS

Doctor, Navy captain and NASA astronaut Lee M. Morin served on the International Space Station, spending three months in orbit, including 14 hours of spacewalking.

On Tuesday, October 17, Dr. Morin came to Bronx Community College for some down-to-Earth talk with middle and high school students and current BCC science majors about the futures that could await them in the STEM fields. Captain Morin discussed his experiences in space — supplemented with a slide show — and then took questions from his audience. His answer to the inevitable “How can I become an astronaut?” question: “You need to get expertise in STEM topics. All the astronauts have a STEM background.”



## ARTHUR ANTIN

**BCC '66**

“Without BCC, I am not sure where I would have gone.”

In 2017, Veterinary Centers of America (VCA), the largest animal health care company in the world, was sold for over \$9 billion, marking a pivotal turning point in co-founder Arthur Antin’s career. “My family didn’t have a lot of money. The only option for me at that time was to go to BCC,” says the former Lower East Side resident.

He graduated in 1966, before the College moved to its University Heights campus in the following decade. He calls BCC his “stepping stone to get into City College.”

Later, Mr. Antin attended New York University, earning a master’s in community health education. He ran a school in Yonkers funded by a grant for educating disadvantaged youth. But eventually, he decided on a career change and saw that the next big opportunity was in computers. He returned to school, studied at Columbia and moved to the West Coast to start an outpatient surgery company with his brother. They expanded into veterinary care, gradually buying up animal hospitals and revolutionizing the concept of animal health care management. “We became the largest provider of animal health care education in the world.”

Arthur Antin is now 71 and contemplating retirement.

“At BCC, I learned chemistry and English and all that — but I also learned that people look at you differently when you’ve accomplished certain things in your life,” he observes. His BCC diploma was the first of those accomplishments.





## THE CLASS OF 2018 BIDS FAREWELL

A morning fog hung over the campus on June 1 as the 2,418 students of the Class of 2018 entered the tent on Ohio Field erected for the 58th Commencement. By the time the sun poked through, they left the tent as graduates.

“Be a door opener for the rest of your life,” urged President Isekenegbe in his welcoming remarks. “Wherever you go and whatever you do, if you get to a door first, open it for the others behind you. BCC was a door that opened for you and you have made the most of it. You now leave with the special understanding of how open doors can transform lives.”

In his address, Valedictorian Alixan Ducreay thanked “our entire BCC campus family and community for this high honor. All of you played a role one way or another in getting us to this day. Administrators, faculty, staff, including people often overlooked — library staff, cafeteria workers. Thank you from all of us of the graduating class of 2018. Thank you.”

New York City Council Member Victor Pichardo and William C. Thompson Jr., chair of the CUNY Board of Trustees, were also on hand to wish the graduates well.

Two days before Commencement, this year’s Graduation Awards Ceremony was held in the Gould Memorial Library auditorium. Over 100 awards and scholarships were handed out to especially accomplished members of the Class of 2018 across a broad range of academic disciplines. Salutatorian Gina Rodriguez told her high-achieving classmates, “Let us all think of ourselves as a blank slate. We are the true artists of our own lives. So use the techniques you have learned here and apply them to paint something beautiful, because passion and determination brought you this far, and the love for what you do will take you much farther.”

June also featured the 12th Annual Kaplan Educational Foundation Gala. Representing Bronx Community College were President Isekenegbe and several alums. The Foundation seeks to eliminate barriers to higher education for overlooked and underserved students and develop them as world leaders and advocates for their communities by providing a comprehensive array of financial and academic support, transfer admissions, advising and leadership skills development. The 2017-2018 Kaplan scholars were Karen Alvarez Julian and Felix Patawah, who both met the scholarship’s requirements as high-potential, low-income associate degree candidates. They received financial preparation and academic advisement and college admissions support to prepare them for transferring to selective four-year colleges and completing their bachelor’s degrees.

And so another class of Broncos passed out of our gates, ready to take on the world.



## ELIZABETH PAYAMPS

**Director, Future Now**

“Kalief Browder was not a Future Now student, but he was a mentor and knew we had his back.”

I first became interested in helping disconnected youth complete their high school and college education while working as a case worker on Rikers Island. I immediately saw the striking racial disparities among the incarcerated population — 98 percent of the young people were Black and Latino. Many of them ended up derailed after dropping out of high school due to arrests, school suspensions or difficult family situations.

Since I started the program in 1998, over 5,000 students have attained their high school equivalency degree. In fact, Future Now has among the highest completion rates in New York State. Over 3,000 students have gone on to enroll either in BCC or another community or four-year college. Our students have even earned graduate degrees. BCC’s assistant director of Admissions is one of our many success stories.

Peer mentors play a critical role in Future Now. Many graduates return as mentors or full-time staff members. This creates a “virtuous circle” with long-term impact. Program staff respect students, show them that they care, provide them with solid academic preparation and develop their leadership potential.

Future Now’s impact has spread beyond the BCC campus. Kalief Browder, the teenage student confined for three years at Rikers Island awaiting trial on charges of stealing a backpack, was not a Future Now student. But he was a much beloved member of the Future Now family. Kalief worked as a mentor and knew we had his back. After his suicide, I worked alongside his mother advocating on his behalf. He triggered the biggest change that I have seen in the treatment of young people entangled in the criminal justice system. Solitary confinement was struck down for 16- and 17-year-olds, who will no longer be assigned to Rikers. “Kalief’s Law” guarantees the right to a speedy trial. All of this was too late to save Kalief Browder, but it may save the life of another young person seeking a second chance to beat the odds and earn a college degree.





# DREAM BUILD

# DREAM BUILDERS

Every journey has a destination. In the BCC Community of Excellence, those who are well down the road share what they have seen with those taking their first steps.





## TED N. INGRAM

**Professor**

Education and Academic Literacy

“It is the intention  
of this book that  
we change the  
narrative of  
African-American  
men in literature.”



**E**ngaging African American Men in Community College, a book published this year, is co-edited by Professor Ted Ingram of the Department of Education and Academic Literacy at Bronx Community College.

The Jamaican-born Dr. Ingram co-authored two of the 13 chapters contributed by leading academics. "CUNY BMI: A System-Wide Approach to Engaging Men of Color in Community Colleges" is an overview of the Black Male Initiative of The City University of New York, a program Dr. Ingram was a part of for many years. "Engaging Foreign Black Males with Supplemental Instruction" is a research study conducted on international and immigrant community college students.

"It is the intention of this book to encourage more scholarship, regardless of the discipline, on the success of African-American men in college," he explains.

Since arriving at BCC in 2007, Dr. Ingram has held various academic and administrative positions, including teaching the first-year seminar for over 10 years and serving as Department Chair, Coordinator of the Center for Undergraduate Research Experience and Director of Student Life.

"With their diverse population and connection within the community, community colleges are the best conduit to connect citizens with education. The onus is on institutions to be innovative and collaborative."







## ALEXANDRIA TORRES

**Specialist, Office of Public Safety**

**“I love my job, I love what I do, I love helping my students.”**

Bronx Community College’s first Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk on a rainy October afternoon featured a march across campus, speeches by local dignitaries — and a Women’s Self Defense Demonstration conducted by Specialist Alexandria Torres of BCC’s Department of Public Safety. A 16-year veteran of the department, Specialist Torres has spent the last six heading the Domestic Violence Unit.

“I love my job, I love what I do, I love helping my students,” says Specialist Torres. “The most rewarding thing for me is when Commencement comes around and there are students I knew when they were at their lowest point, when they had given up all hope. So every year at graduation, I am right by that stage so as they are marching they see me — and I see them.”

Much of Specialist Torres’ time is spent at BCC orientation sessions, the Freshman Year Seminars and some 40 to 50 classes a year, talking about domestic violence. But the core of her work is the one-on-one assistance for students, faculty and staff who are victims of physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse.

“If someone comes to us and reports that she or he was a victim, I work as the liaison between the student and the domestic violence officers in that precinct.” As a result, her work has taken her to Yonkers and every borough except Staten Island. Last year, 55 members of the BCC community were personally assisted by Specialist Torres.

Her work has not gone unnoticed. On October 25, 2018, she received a citation from the Mayor’s Office.

“The students are here for an education,” Specialist Torres says with passion. “I think it is unfair for someone else to take that away from them. I am their advocate. I am their voice.”





# FACULTY and STAFF

## Honors and Awards



**Shelina Shariff-Zia** (English) published the novel *Nairobi Days*

**Carl R. Andrews** (Library)  
**and Dickens Saint Hilaire** (Chemistry)

Recipients of a 2018 Presidential Grant for their proposal,  
“Chemistry 12 Redesign Project.”

**Vicki Flaris** (Chemistry and Chemistry & Chemical Technology)  
Successfully applied for a \$5-million grant from the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Program — one of the largest such grants ever given to a community college as lead institution (with Lehman College).

**Elise Langan** (Education and Academic Literacy)  
Recipient of a Library of Congress grant for her project, “New York City as a Living Museum: Exploring How Educators Use Local Resources to Enhance the Social Studies Curriculum.”

**Eugene Mananga** (Engineering, Physics and Technology)  
Received the 2018 Distinguished Scientist Award from the Westchester Chemical Society New York Section of the American Chemical Society. Assistant Professor Mananga was also awarded a CUNY Community College Research Grant.

**Carlos Manuel Rivera** (Modern Languages)  
Lectured on the “Popular Theater: The Marginal Theater in Puerto Rico” at the Biennale of Performing the Storytelling Barriocuentos 2018, Teatro Cimarrón, Havana Cuba.

**Monika Sikand** (Engineering, Physics and Technology)  
Received Princeton University’s Cooperative Institute for Climate Science (CICS) Visiting Faculty Exchange Fellowship.

**Kaemanje S. Thomas** (Education and Academic Literacy)  
Presented “Integrating Technological Instruction for Pre-service Teacher and the 21st Century Learner,” at the NCBA-NE 2016 Spring Conference, Bronx Community College.

**Kevin Martillo Viner** (Modern Languages)  
Presented “Optional Spanish Subjunctive Mood Grammar of New York City Bilinguals” at the Spanish Linguistics in North Carolina [SLINKI] at Wake Forest University.

**Marie Varghese** (CUNY Start)  
Co-presented “Poetry of Praise: Reclaiming Religion and Spirituality for the Resistance (Reading)” at the 2018 Split this Rock Poetry Festival: Poems of Provocation & Witness in Washington, D.C..

**Yvonne Erazo-Davila** (Student Success)  
Earned her Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from Northeastern University.



# NEAL PHILLIP

## Chairperson, Chemistry Department

“Undergraduate research and study abroad are high-impact practices that help increase student retention and graduation.”

Dr. Neal Phillip, Professor and Chairperson of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, has a multidisciplinary background that includes meteorology and environmental engineering, which often takes him and a few lucky students to some far-flung corners of the earth.

As a City College undergrad, the Trinidad and Tobago native was plunged into ice and freezing weather conditions at the Storm Peak Lab high up in the Rocky Mountains of northwest Colorado, “conducting research in the clouds and dodging black bears and foxes.” In the years that followed, more than 25 BCC STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) majors would join him on these expeditions.

In 2013, Dr. Phillip worked with Chemistry Professor Soosairaj Therese to secure funding for her and three BCC students to install solar panels and solar heating systems at Wilberforce Community College in Evaton, South Africa. His department is also involved in research activities at the Pacbitun Maya site in Belize, where students are excavating Mayan artifacts. And earlier this year, Dr. Phillip led 10 CUNY students — seven from BCC — to Palma de Majorca, Spain through funding from a \$20,000 grant from the Center for International Educational Exchange. With compact weather stations installed on their backpacks, they biked and trekked throughout the island, collecting data on atmospheric conditions and ocean water quality.

Next stop — Townsville, Australia in November 2018, where he and two students presented at the Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference and collect climate and other data over the diverse terrain and in the Outback.

Says Phillip, “Undergraduate research and study abroad are high-impact practices that help increase student retention and graduation. Students become more highly motivated to succeed once they return from these trips and always move on to bigger and brighter things upon graduation.”





# INNOVA VATION

## **INNOVATION**

At BCC, embracing new ways of understanding the world are an essential element of excellence.





# PALOMA ALONSO

**BCC '16**  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

“Do not sacrifice  
your mental health  
for your education.  
Learn to put down  
your burdens and  
breathe.”



I became interested in science in elementary school. It combined my two favorites activities: reading and getting my hands dirty. Biology was my first love. I took my first physics class the summer before my junior year at the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at Barnard College. I remember sitting in class feeling like the world finally made sense. Physics was the science behind everything. Answering how the world worked wasn't satisfying my curiosity. I needed to know why.

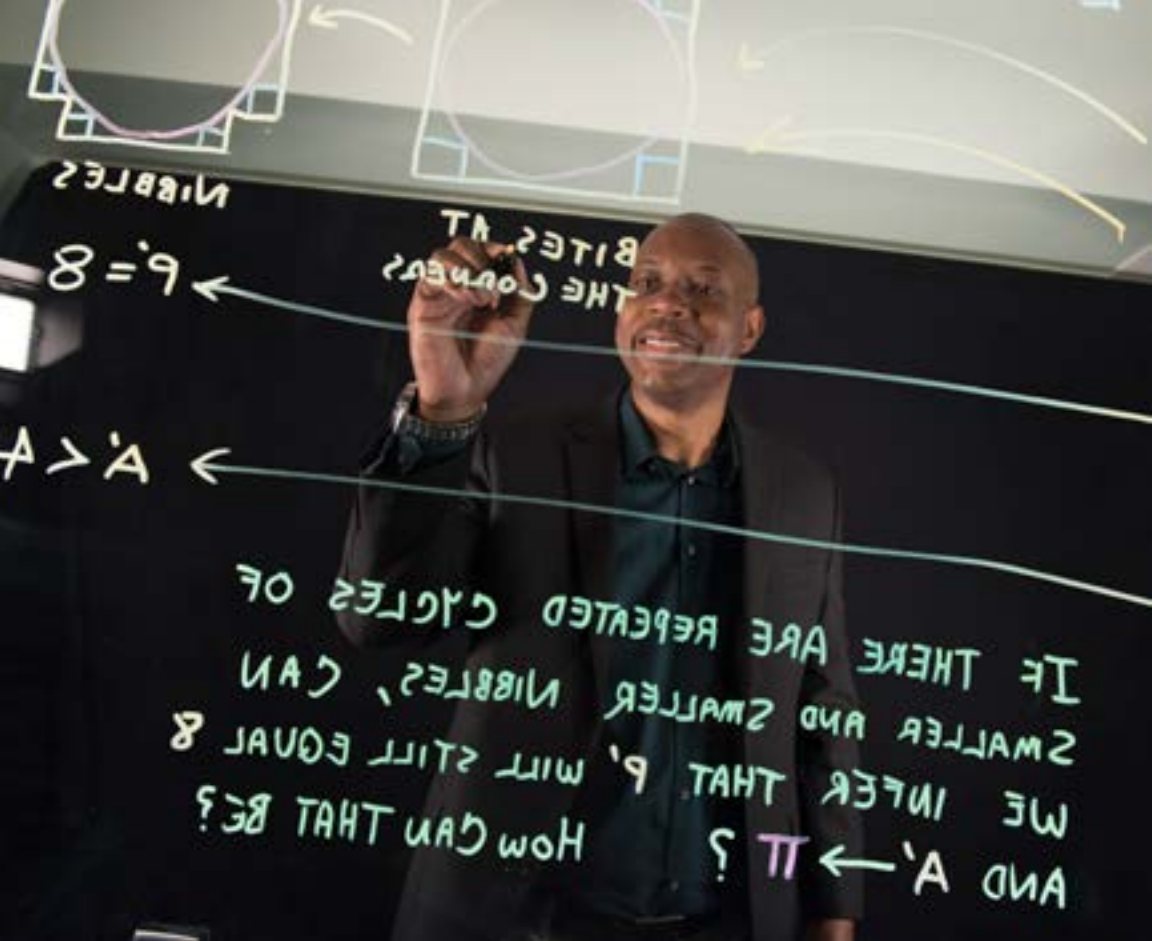
I am in a competitive field that requires collaboration. As a queer woman of color, it can be difficult finding your way. Many institutions focus on diversity rather than inclusivity, and people of color and other minority groups often find themselves in spaces that were not designed for them and lack the proper support system.

I want to pursue a Masters in Library and Information Sciences. But after graduating from RPI in December, I want to take a break before applying to graduate school and "reclaim my time." I want to reconnect with my baking hobby and take some courses to develop my baking and cake decorating skills.

What would I tell young women who want to pursue a career in the sciences? Do not sacrifice your mental health for your education. Learn to put down your burdens and breathe – and take care of those shoulders!







## CYBERSECURITY COMES TO CAMPUS

Fall '18 saw the launch of a new academic program at BCC — Cybersecurity and Networking. The program is a response to soaring demand for information technology specialists who can protect computer networks from viruses and other malware as well as various kinds of cyber-attacks.

*"This is the fastest growing segment of the rapidly growing IT sector, and the Bronx needs more training and degree programs in the field,"* says BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegbe. "Because we are part of The City University of New York, Bronx Community College can provide this very high-level, specialized training at comparatively affordable costs."

The Capital One Foundation supported the development of the program and continues to fund its implementation — \$495,975 to date — and the James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation provided \$125,000 for a Summer 2018 "boot camp" for Bronx high school students to spark interest in studying Cybersecurity and Networking at BCC.

## THE CENTER FOR TEACHING, LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY

Several new projects are underway that are designed to help the CTLT support faculty development through innovative uses of technology.

The Center has acquired a Lightboard — a pane of glass lit by LEDs illuminating anything written on it — which allows faculty to create video lectures of lessons. The instructor presents handwritten notes and diagrams just as they would on a traditional black board. The videos can be viewed on demand so that students can review them later for exams.

Three-dimensional scanners and printers have come to BCC. CTLT has launched seminars designed to help faculty use them to increase student engagement and meet learning objectives.



## STEM STARS ATTEND BEYA CONFERENCE

Fifty students attended the Lockheed Martin-sponsored Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference in Washington, D.C., from February 9 to February 11, 2018. Students interviewed with top STEM companies, such as Boeing, Raytheon and others, for summer internships. Recent alumnus Bright Tzagli was given a prestigious Student Leadership Award and Sossou Bitan was one of five lucky people out of approximately three thousand attendees to win roundtrip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines. Two students also secured summer internships with the National Science Foundation-Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-Cooperative Remote Sensing Science and Technology Center.





# COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The impact of Bronx Community College is felt far beyond its gates.





# EUGENE ADAMS

**Director**  
Collaborative Education

“I see myself as a  
possibility broker.”



Since coming to BCC in 1999 as part of a joint initiative with Lehman College, Eugene “Gene” Adams, Director of Collaborative Education, has spearheaded connections between BCC/CUNY, Bronx public schools and local community groups – and with organizations as far away as Dakar, Senegal. Gene also had a hand in launching such successful pre-college programs as College Now – initiatives that have delivered over \$10 million in educational and support services to neighboring schools, smoothing the way for Bronx middle and high school students to enter college.

In 2006, he founded Kid’s Comic Con at BCC. “Many young people in the Bronx enjoy reading comic books and watching motion pictures based on popular super hero concepts,” he explains. “But events in big cities like New York were too expensive for most Bronx families to attend.” Today, Adams’ event annually draws 700 children and their parents.

As Director of African Student Services, Gene partnered with Mrs. Kiadouto Diallo, mother of and advocate for Amadou Diallo, the unarmed immigrant from Guinea who in 1999 lost his life in a hail of 41 bullets fired by police. BCC is now home to the Amadou Diallo Foundation, which provides support for African immigrant students in need of financial assistance to complete their education.

“I see myself as a ‘possibility broker,’” Adams explains. “I bring diverse academic perspectives and roles together to expand how, as a community of educators, we define learning and inspire students to pursue their dreams and aspirations.”







# BCC’S WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH HONORS WRITERS

March was Women’s History Month and the College celebrated the event with a host of special programs — including a “Lunch with Leaders Seminar” on March 22 that presented writer and artist Sandra Maria Esteves. Known as “The Godmother of Nuyorican Poetry,” Ms. Esteves is one of the first Dominican Boricua Nuyorican women to publish a recognized volume of poetry in the United States. The award-winning writer’s works focus on transformation and empowerment through reflection on real-life issues. “Lunch with Leaders Seminars” provide an opportunity for students to gather, listen and participate in a discussion presented by successful professionals in various fields.

Another compelling Women’s History Month special event was a reading and discussion of *The Education of Margo Sanchez*, a young adult novel by the prolific prize-winning writer Lilliam Rivera that follows the life of a teenager growing up in the Bronx (as did the author). Part of the English Department Faculty Lecture Series, Ms. Rivera’s reading took place on March 13 at the Law Library in North Hall and Library.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH INWOOD

Bronx Community College has established a partnership with Inwood Early College for Health and Information Technologies High School that enables its students to earn college credit toward one of two STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) degrees at BCC while still in high school. Monday, March 12 was a festive Orientation Day for the first class of participating students and their parents. “You are joining the Bronx Community College family,” BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegbe told the gathering, “and we are so excited to have all of you here.” The day continued with a tour of the campus the students now call their second academic home.

## HONORING OUR COMMUNITY OF EXCELENCIA

The Latino student advocacy group Excelencia in Education announced its “2017 Examples of Excelencia.” Bronx Community College’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) was cited for its outstanding, evidence-based results of improved Latino student success. The announcement was made October 5 at the annual Celebración de Excelencia held at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. Leaders from across the country attended the event — including President Isekenegbe and Dean Francisco Legasa, who has been with ASAP since it was launched in 2007.



# PRATHIBHA KANAKAMEDALA

**Assistant Professor, History Department**

“If you want to understand the history of the United States, global histories, the history of inequality—a history of hope, African-American history, is one of the best places to start.”

Assistant Professor Prathibha Kanakamedala was born in England with family roots in India. Her research focus is African-American history and the history of New York City. “If you want to understand the history of the United States, Global histories, the history of inequality — a history of hope, African-American history is one of the best places to start.”

“Prithi,” as everyone calls her, grew up in Thatcher’s Britain at a time of close solidarity among South Asians and Afro-Caribbeans. She was exposed early on to African-American literature, and the historic journey Martin and Coretta Scott King made to India to meet that country’s freedom fighters made a strong impression on her.

Arriving in New York after completing her studies at Oxford University and the University of Sussex, she found fertile ground for her interest in “global freedom struggles.” She worked on a well-received public history project at the Brooklyn Historical society focusing on the lives of early 19th-century Black Brooklynites. That exhibit, *In Pursuit of Freedom*, is still on view. Her next big project traces the journey of George DeGrasse, a native of India who traveled from Calcutta in 1798 to a post-independent New York and agitated for equal rights for all his neighbors regardless of race. Prithi says her BCC students have no trouble making the connection between past and present. “They see how a historical lack of access to housing impacts us and manifests itself today as housing injustice, displacement and gentrification.” She encourages her students to research and document their own “personal histories and stories of their communities and neighborhoods and tell them in their own voices.”





# BOLDLY BRONX

## **BOLDLY BRONX**

BCC embodies the very best of a borough of dreamers, strivers and achievers.





# ADOLFO DE JESUS

**Coach**

BRONCOS baseball team

“Finding good  
players is easy.  
Getting them to  
play as a team is  
another story.”



**B**ronx Community College alumnus Adolfo De Jesus completed his 33rd year as the Broncos' head baseball coach with a trip to The City University of New York Athletic Conference Championship, a third-place finish at the National Junior College Athletic Association Region XV Championship – and the honor of being named CUNYAC Coach of the Year.

A Dominican Republic native, Adolfo De Jesus attended New York's George Washington High School, where he was a standout student-athlete in baseball, football and golf.

After graduating from G.W. High School, De Jesus enrolled at Bronx Community College, where he played baseball for two years. He then transferred to Lehman College, becoming a two-year baseball letter winner on the Lightning before graduating from Lehman in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in education.

In 1986, he became head baseball coach at Bronx Community College. He has since achieved numerous CUNYAC Championship victories and appearances. In 1995, De Jesus led his team to the NJCAA Region XV title, earning a berth in the NJCAA World Series.

Individually, he has produced five NJCAA Second Team All-Americans, dozens of NJCAA Region XV All-Region Team members and several major-league prospects.

Though he has many coaching accolades, what Adolfo is most proud of is the longevity of his coaching career at BCC and the impact he has had on the lives of his student-athletes.







## CUNY EXPLORERS EXPLORE BCC

The seventh graders of PSMS 279 in the Bronx won't be ready for college for years — but 60 of them got a sneak preview of what awaits them when they came to campus. The event was part of the CUNY Explorers program, a partnership of the New York City Department of Education and The City University of New York intended to ensure that every middle school student has the opportunity to visit a college campus to promote high school, college and life success.

The importance of CUNY Explorers was highlighted by the political and educational leaders who were on hand to greet the excited students. Touring the campus were New York State Assembly Member Victor M. Pichardo, President Isekenegbe, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, DOE Chancellor Richard A. Carranza and CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz.

"To all of our future students, welcome to your university and to your college," President Isekenegbe said to the assembled scholars-in-the-making. "Every long journey begins with a step, and you are taking that step today."

The eager Explorers were given a tour of the campus, from its hi-tech library to its century-old architectural gems. Then, in a CUNY Explorers offering unique to Bronx Community College that was organized by Andre Christie, the coordinator of the program and a BCC alumnus, the students conducted hands-on science in a classroom — including the dissection a fetal pig. Somehow this did not dull their appetites for the pizza that followed.

The Explorers returned to BCC in June for a fun-filled "Summer Finale" of music, dance and awards.



## ARCHITECTS TOUR ARCHITECTURE

Thirty-nine members of the New York branch of the American Institute of Architects came to the BCC campus on a sunlit June 22 for a guided tour of the works of three generations of master builders.

"People come up to BCC and they are just astounded that this is here," said Alexander Lamis, whose firm, Robert A. M. Stern Architects, designed North Hall and Library — making him the natural guide for a walkthrough of the newest of the major structures on campus.

The walkthrough of the Beaux Arts masterpiece Gould Memorial Library was led by architect Samuel White, whose great-grandfather Stanford White designed GML.

Robin Auchincloss, BCC's Director of Facilities and Planning, led the group through the 1960s "brutalist" buildings of Marcel Breuer, including Meister, Colston and Begrisch Halls.



## A MORE WELCOMING HALL OF FAME

In a decision that received national attention and strong local support, the busts of Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson were removed from the campus's revered Hall of Fame for Great Americans at the start of the academic year. In a statement explaining the move, BCC President Thomas A. Isekenegbe observed, "For 60 years, Bronx Community College of The City University of New York has remained committed to reflecting its values of diversity and inclusion in all of its actions and statements. Embracing difference includes creating space where all people will feel respected, welcomed and valued."



## THE PANTRY PANS OUT

After less than a year of operation, the BCC Food Pantry attracted national attention. In October, Healthline, the second largest consumer health information site on the web with an audience of over 60 million users, selected the Ten Best Universities Tackling Food Insecurity — and thanks to the Pantry, BCC made the cut!

The Food Pantry provides eligible BCC students with free food for their households. "We wanted to help feed students and their families," explains Dedra Polite, the Pantry's director. "We wanted to retain students and help them persist to graduation." Such goals are more difficult to achieve when students are worried about food security for themselves and their family.

The Food Pantry is funded in part by the BCC Foundation and The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation 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 Pantry also accepts donations from BCC faculty, staff and administrators, as well as from the general public.



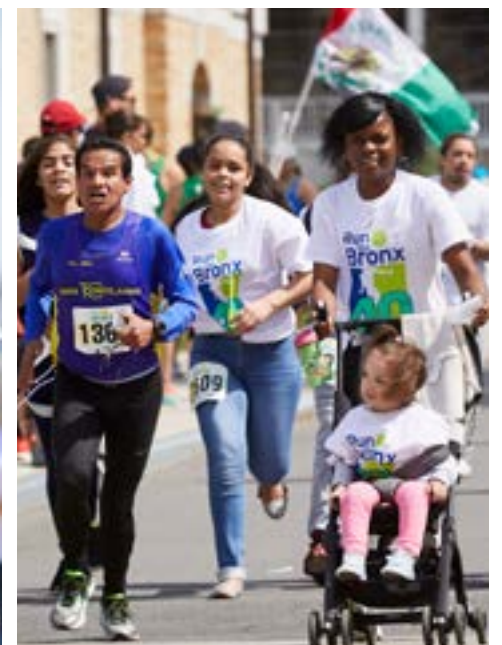


# RUN THE BRONX 40th Anniversary

## Running the Bronx for Fun and Fitness

As onlookers cheered, over 1,700 runners and walkers tore through the University Heights neighborhood of Bronx Community College on Saturday, May 5 during the 40th Annual Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Hall of Fame 10K • 5K Runs and 2-Mile Walk — more commonly known as “Run the Bronx.” The second oldest footrace in the city, it now bears the name of the late BCC President and Tuskegee Airman who founded it in 1978. Dr. Brown, an avid marathoner himself, was concerned about the standards of health in the borough and this has remained a focus of Run the Bronx ever since. As in previous years, local health care institutions and organizations were on hand to offer free screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol levels and other tests. The race began and ended on the BCC Quad and for those who stayed the course, there were medals for all and trophies for the more outstanding athletes. Run the Bronx co-founder, BCC alumnus and faculty member, Henry Skinner, was honored at this year’s race, while Dr. Denis Brown, son of the late Dr. Roscoe Brown, attended in his father’s place. The event attracted long-time attendees like alumnus Victor Woods — who has participated in all 40 runs — as well as hundreds of new attendees, including several from around the world. Deivid Valdez, Senior Graphic Designer in BCC’s Office of Communications and Marketing, was a particularly devoted runner that weekend. After placing first in the categories of “Faculty and Staff” and “Alumni,” he flew down to Mexico City that evening and participated in a half marathon the next day.

Join us on Saturday, May 4, 2019,  
for the 41st Run the Bronx!







# BCC FOUNDA

## **BCC FOUNDATION**

To sustain our community of excellence, BCC depends on the support of friends who share our vision.



# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The first five recipients of the new Distinguished Alumni Award — now the highest honor BCC bestows on a graduate — were inducted in a ceremony held on Thursday, May 24 in the Thurgood Marshall Law Collection of North Hall and Library. In the words of President Thomas A. Isekenegbe, the Distinguished Alumni Award “celebrates individuals who have maintained the BCC traditions of discovery, achievement and excellence through their personal accomplishments, professional achievements or humanitarian service.”

## The 2018 recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award are:



**Dr. Diana M. Bontá** (Class of '72), is the President and Chief Executive Officer of The Bontá Group. A nationally recognized health care leader, Dr. Bontá has made many significant contributions to public health, nursing and the welfare of the people of California through more than 30 years of involvement with public policy and public health practice. “There was this sense of persevering,” Dr. Bontá says of her time at Bronx Community College “The faculty encouraged students to work together in groups. You took strength from knowing that other people were struggling too.”



**Dr. Richard H. Carmona** (Class of '74) has spent decades in public health. From 2002 to 2006, Dr. Carmona served as the nation's 17th Surgeon General, issuing the definitive Surgeon General's Report about the dangers of second-hand smoke. Unable to attend the event in person, Dr. Carmona appeared on a video in which he recalled returning from Vietnam, where he had served as an army medic. “It was BCC that had an open enrollment program and gave us veterans an opportunity that no one else would,” he said. “It set the foundation for me to be successful for the rest of my life.”



**The Honorable Annabel Palma** (Class of '91) was elected to the New York City Council in 2003 and represented the 18th Council District for 14 years. Ms. Palma told the gathering that her BCC career began when she was walking by the campus and saw a line of people. “So I got on!” she recollected. It turned out to be a line for a chance to enroll in a free 16-week nursing certificate program. A single mother with no high school diploma, she earned that certificate and went on to her career of public service.



**The Honorable Joseph M. Ramos** (Class of '74) has held various administrative positions within city government, most notably Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction and Assistant Commissioner for the New York City Police Department. His accomplishments include the development of many educational, health and welfare programs throughout New York City. He is also a co-founder of BCC's “Run the Bronx,” the second oldest footrace in the city after the New York Marathon. “My mother used to call me ‘Papi,’ and she would always say, ‘Papi, estudia.’ No one can take that away from you.”



**Dr. M. Monica Sweeney** has been a crusader for the public health in New York City for decades. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, Dr. Sweeney led the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and served on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Today, she is vice dean for global engagement and clinical professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health at SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

As a director on the BCC Foundation board, Dr. Sweeney has returned to her roots — she's a graduate of BCC's nursing program. “I gained the tools I needed to get started and just kept going.”

The Distinguished Alumni each received a medal on a ribbon with the school colors. Their framed photographs and stories now adorn a wall on the first floor of North Hall and Library, where they will be joined by other Distinguished Alumni in years to come.





# GOULD MEMORIAL LIBRARY RESTORATION

Gould Memorial Library, the great domed structure at the heart of the Bronx Community College campus, is such an iconic symbol of BCC that it is incorporated into the College's logo.

The Pantheon-inspired masterpiece designed by the legendary architect Stanford White at the turn of the last century was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2012.

That history comes at a cost. GML, as it is known on campus, remains as classically elegant as ever to the passing visitor. Yet for those who know where to look, the Beaux Arts beauty is showing every one of its 118 years. Primarily the result of years of water damage due to failing roofs and masonry, the building is in a state of architectural and structural distress.

But the good news is that a major effort to restore GML to its glory has been underway for several years now — and has reached a milestone in that monumental undertaking.

A major force behind the restoration is Michael Parley, President of Development Consulting Services Inc. Though not a BCC alumnus, he grew up in the neighborhood when the campus was New York University and he knows the campus well. Made aware of the declining state of Gould Memorial Library, he contacted those he knew in the world of architecture and historical preservation and asked for their help. This led to the formation of the Gould Memorial Library Advisory Board, which includes co-chairs and architects Sherida E. Paulsen and Samuel G. White, a great-grandson of the GML master builder Stanford White, as well as other leading New York-based architects and historic preservationists.

With the guidance of the Advisory Board, BCC secured the New York State Preservation League's designation as a "Seven to Save" endangered site, as well as a New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation grant for \$500,000 to assist with restoring GML's signature roof.

The Board was instrumental in raising the visibility of the historic site. Their efforts resulted in an article in the New York Times, which led to interest in developing an "existing conditions report" that would examine every corner of the venerable building to determine what work was needed to bring it back to health.

There was only one problem. That study would cost over \$300,000.

In stepped the Thompson Family Foundation, a champion of preserving historic sites around the city. Through a partnership with the Preservation League, the Foundation offered a 2-to-1 match of \$200,000 — if the BCC Foundation raised \$100,000 for the report.

With the outreach and diligence of the GML Advisory Board, that challenge was met. The Thompson Family Foundation provided the necessary funds for the study in October 2016. It was completed in 2018.

The report revealed over \$50 million in restoration needs for Gould Memorial Library and its historic colonnade, the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. But before that money can be raised, the Advisory Board is calling for a determination of just how the refurbished GML will be used beyond its current role as a site for College events and the occasional backdrop for feature films and TV shows.

Ideally the new GML will have a role that is national in scope, drawing people from around the country to visit the masterpiece that we call home.

With the help of the GML Advisory Board and partners in preservation, including the Thompson Family Foundation and the New York Preservation League, BCC will ensure that this historic landmark building endures as an invaluable site for the College, the Bronx and beyond for many years to come.



# BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

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Medical Center

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Bronx Veteran Affairs Medical Center



# OLGA LUZ TIRADO

**Chair, BCC Foundation**

“I try to make sure that  
BCC is front and center.”

“I like the vibe of the Bronx,” says BCC Foundation Chair Olga Tirado. “I think that’s one of the borough’s selling points.” And Ms. Tirado should know. As Executive Director of the Bronx Tourism Council, she’s been selling the borough to the world since 2012.

The architectural wonders of Bronx Community College like the Hall of Fame for Great Americans are prominently featured in her arsenal of promotional materials and outlets. Our status as a “location vacation” is also boosted by Ms. Tirado. “People like to see where their favorite movies were filmed, and BCC has an impressive list of movies shot on the campus.”

A member of the BCC Foundation board since 2003, “I try to make sure that BCC is front and center,” says Ms. Tirado. “In my position as the head of the Tourism Council, I make the connections and BCC takes it from there.”

Her devotion to BCC also has a personal angle. “My best friend was a student at BCC many years ago,” Ms. Tirado recalls. “She loved it. So when I was asked, I decided to serve in her name.”

Olgado Tirado sums up her relationship to BCC simply: “I serve as an ambassador for the school.”

# SAVE GOULD MEMORIAL LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

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# MICHAEL S. ROBINSON

**Vice Chair & Treasurer, BCC Foundation**

“Four years ago, I sold my business and focused on talking about these things that matter to me.”

BCC Foundation Vice Chair and Treasurer Michael S. Robinson was born on the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, immigrating to Brooklyn in 1982 to further his education. He worked on Wall Street after graduating from CUNY’s Brooklyn College. Two years later he started his own business — New York Staffing Services, which provided talent to major financial firms like Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan.

During that time, he wrote a book called *One Hundred Pennies* about entrepreneurship and the economy. That book became the springboard for his next career as a public speaker and radio and TV personality. “Four years ago, I sold my business and focused on talking about these things that matter to me.” One of his outlets is an internet radio channel, an offshoot of his new company Microbin, Inc. You can hear him at [microbinradio.com](http://microbinradio.com).

Robinson’s reasons for joining the board of the BCC Foundation were all about roots. “It is a community that’s very reflective of who I am, being an immigrant from the Caribbean who came here to look for a better life. I thought it would be a great opportunity to not only raise money for students who are in need, but also to inspire people who are looking for role models.”



## OUR DONORS

The Bronx Community College Foundation is the recipient of numerous acts of generosity throughout the year. Contributions of every size, given by individuals and organizations, assist in providing 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 gift we receive and are reliant on new and renewed support.

The donors listed below provided leadership level gifts between July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018.

### \$250,000 +

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation  
Robin Hood Foundation  
W. K. Kellogg Foundation

### \$100,000 - \$249,999

Capital One Foundation  
Day Care Council of New York, Inc.  
James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation  
The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation Inc.  
The Pinkerton Foundation

### \$50,000 - \$99,999

Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Consortium for Worker Education  
Eckerd Youth Initiative  
Montefiore Medical Center

### \$25,000 - \$49,999

Achieving the Dream  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Anonymous  
Lincoln Fund  
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### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Association of International Certified Professional Accountants  
Bronx Pro Real Estate Management/  
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Northern Virginia Community College  
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute, Inc.  
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### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bram Auto Group/Toyota of Manhattan  
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Fidelis Care New York  
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The Harriet and George Blank Bella Foundation  
Hutchinson Metro Center  
MHHC Foundation, Inc.  
Municipal Credit Union  
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### \$2,500 - \$4,999

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1199 SEIU Employer Child Care Corporation  
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B&H Photo Video Pro Audio  
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Borough of Manhattan Community College  
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International Cinematographers Guild Local 600  
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Michael G. Williams  
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\$100 - \$249

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Carolina Anon  
Evangelia Antonakos  
Lois Augustus  
Annecy Baez  
Augusta Barone  
Brigitte Bentele  
Arthur Berger  
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Gifts In Kind

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# MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURES

To further develop the College’s ability to better support its students, the following major improvement projects were funded by New York City, New York State and Resolution A funding from the Bronx Borough President and Bronx City Council Members.

## CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED

### New Hall Roof Replacement: \$959,000

This project replaced the roof at New Hall, restoring six classrooms to use.

### Havemeyer Lab Roof Replacement: \$2,160,000

This project replaced the terra cotta roof and ornate copper fascia on this National Historic Landmark building.

### Fire Alarm Upgrades - Meister Hall, New Hall and Carl Polowczyk Hall: \$3,768,000

This project upgraded fire alarm systems in these three buildings.

### World War II Dominican Veteran’s Memorial \$420,000

This project installed a granite memorial with the names of the over 300 Dominican veterans of World War II. The project included new pavers and landscaping.

### Alumni Gymnasium Pool: \$4,774,000

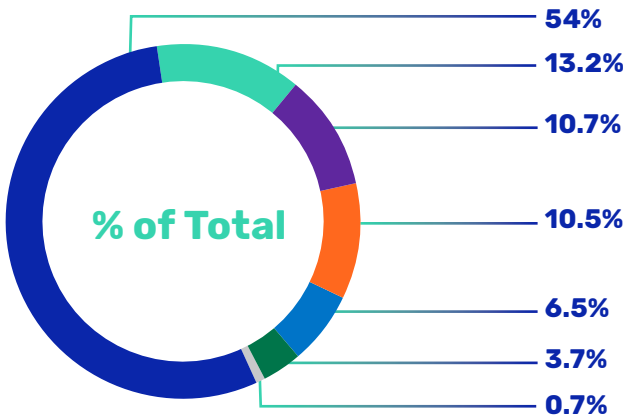
This project replaced broken piping, restored the concrete shell, enlarged the pool to competition size, replaced all pool equipment and made the pool fully accessible.

## Bronx Community College-CUNY Tax Levy Financial Data

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

### Expenditures by Major Purpose

	Tax Levy Ledger 2	Tax Levy Ledger 3 Tech Fee	TOTAL
■ Instruction and Department Research	\$52,706,196	\$0	\$52,706,196
■ Academic Support Services	\$3,364,235	\$220,902	\$3,585,137
■ Student Services	\$9,108,491	\$1,214,561	\$10,323,052
■ Maintenance and Operations	\$10,131,826	\$0	\$10,131,826
■ General Administration	\$6,307,924	\$0	\$6,307,924
■ General Institutional Services	\$12,230,852	\$481,537	\$12,712,389
■ College Discovery	\$687,476	\$0	\$687,476
Total Expenditures	\$94,537,00	\$1,917,000	\$96,454,000



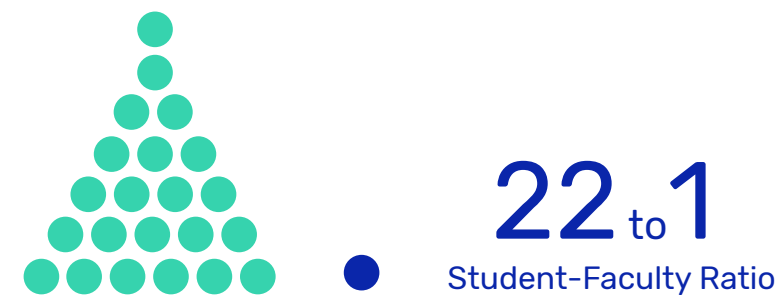
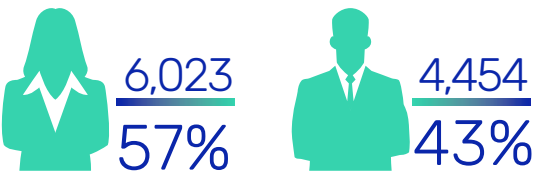


# BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## BY THE NUMBERS

10,477

Total Enrollment  
Total full-time enrollment: 7,183



\$2,400 per semester  
full-time New York City /State Residents

\$210 per credit  
New York City/State Residents



Top Ten Majors:

Liberal Arts and Sciences (AA)	3,210
Criminal Justice (AA)	968
Business Administration (AS)	853
Nursing (AAS)	596
Dietetics and Nutrition Science (AS)	407
Liberal Arts and Sciences (AS)	352
Computer Science (AS)	261
Human Services (AAS)	241
Digital Arts (AAS)	234
Automotive Technology (AAS)	212



## 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 provide students with the foundation and tools for success, whether they choose to continue their education or immediately begin a career, and instill in them the value of informed and engaged citizenship and service to their communities.

## VISION

Bronx Community College will actively 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.



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