

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2019**

*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

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After an unexpectedly excitement-filled beginning of the 2019 Spring semester, I am excited to write to you today with updates and to welcome you back again! With the closure of Colston Hall (updates included below) and all of the last minute changes it necessitated, we cancelled the Spring 2019 Faculty and Staff Convocation to allow everyone to focus on responding to the building emergency and/or getting settled and ready for classes. On Thursday, February 14, 2019, we held an Open Conversation on Colston Hall to discuss faculty and staff concerns and provide background and plans for the building. This Friday, March 1, 2019, we are hosting another Town Hall in Nichols Hall Auditorium (Room 104) to discuss the upcoming Middle States Accreditation Review (additional details below). These, along with the budget, were the two main topics that would have been addressed at the cancelled Convocation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and flexibility over the past five weeks. Faculty, staff, and students have shown incredible grace in the face of the challenges presented by moving classrooms; lack of access to regular materials, resources, and office spaces; and limited available information. We welcome ongoing feedback and will specifically solicit your thoughts in anticipation of debriefing discussions and a post-mortem on how we can improve our crisis response.

**NEW CUNY CHANCELLOR:** I am pleased to report at the appointment of Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez as the eighth Chancellor of The City University of New York. He has been serving as president of Queens College since 2014 and is an accomplished scholar, educator and administrator. He will be both the first Latino and first minority to lead CUNY when he assumes the post on Wednesday, May 1, 2019.

Chancellor Matos Rodríguez has drawn national recognition as a trailblazer in higher education. He enhanced Queens College's reputation for excellence and propelled the school to the highest echelon in college social-mobility rankings. As president of CUNY's Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, the post he held immediately prior to his appointment at Queens College, he gained acclaim for engineering a double-digit increase in the school's retention rate. He is one of a select few U.S. educators who has served as president of both a baccalaureate and community college.

Matos Rodríguez holds a B.A. from Yale University, where he was a cum laude graduate, and a doctorate in history from Columbia University.

**COLSTON HALL UPDATE:** This Friday, March 1, 2019, we expect that faculty and staff will be able to re-enter, re-occupy, and access Colston Hall floors 4-8. The phenomenal BCC Custodial team will be completed with their cleaning by Friday morning. From preliminary walkthroughs, it is clear that they have done an exceptional job thus far. Emergency repairs on these floors is complete. Elevators, internet, phone service, and personal computers are all operable. The building has also been fully exterminated to ensure that there is no rodent or pest activity. We expect that students will begin accessing the space on Monday, March 4, 2019, and the Office of Academic Affairs is working now to reschedule classes in CUNYFirst, so that students, faculty, and staff can access the most up-to-date information via their CUNYFirst accounts.

Offices and classrooms on Colston Hall floors 2-3 are undergoing emergency repair work this week (including floor removal, asbestos abatement, floor replacement, and cleaning), which will continue through next week. We hope that academic departments and classes on these floors can be re-occupied beginning Friday, March 8, 2019. As with floors 4-8, the PSC will be invited to participate in a walkthrough of these spaces in advance of re-occupancy. In the interim, faculty and staff with offices on floors 2-3 can reach out to Assistant Vice President David Taylor, Vice President Kay Ellis, or Campus Planner Robin Auchincloss via email to arrange for times to access these spaces. Some areas may not be available until after the asbestos abatement and floor replacement is completed.

**MIDDLE STATES ACCREDITATION REVIEW UPDATE:** We continue preparing for the March 24-27, 2019, visit by our Middle States Accreditation team. At this time, we have submitted our Middle States Self Study Report, focusing on our theme, "Reflecting on Our Community of Excellence". It is available for review at: <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/bcc-msche-self-study-2-7-19.pdf>. An Executive Summary of this document is also available for review online at: <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/bcc-msche-self-study-executive-summary-2-22-19.pdf>. I would like to extend a special thank you to Dean for Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment Nancy Ritze, Middle States Steering Committee Co-Chairs (Vice President for Student Success Irene R. Delgado and Professor Jordi Getman-Erazo), and English Department Chairperson and Professor Robert Beuka for their leadership in coordinating the compilation and copyediting of our document. It is beautiful and well written. I would urge you each to review it in advance of our site visit.

Our Accreditation Review Chairperson is Dr. Steve Rose, President of Passaic County Community College. 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

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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.

**In preparation for the upcoming visit, I invite you to join us at the Friday, March 1, 2019, Middle States Town Hall for more information. It is scheduled from 10am-11:30am in Nichols Hall Auditorium (Room 104).**

**PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT SEARCH UPDATE:** The national open and competitive search for Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs is underway. We secured ACCT Searches, an executive search firm, to assist with the vetting process because they have specific relevant experience and will be able to pay particular attention to the needs of an urban community college. We are still hoping that the new Provost will begin on July 1, 2019. The Search Committee met and was charged on Wednesday, February 6, 2019. 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. 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.

### 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 Cortorreal</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:

- Please join me in congratulating the Grants and Partnerships Office in the awarding of two new grants. \$1,190,090 was awarded by the New York State Education Department under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act to provide essential career and technical education-related programs and services to prepare students for post-graduation employment. \$200,000 was awarded by the NYC Council to support Adult Basic Education & Training and we will use the funds to upgrade equipment to enhance classroom instruction, provide advanced CPR training for ESL students, and update program facilities to better serve students.
- Please plan on joining us on Saturday, May 4, 2019, for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Roscoe C. Brown Hall of Fame Run the Bronx. We ask all faculty and staff to participate by competing in the 5k or 10k run or the 2 mile walk. You can also volunteer on race day or make a donation to support BCC students. You can register at: <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/about-bcc/bcc-foundation/campaigns/run-the-bronx/>. Learn more online about securing the 2019 President’s Cup for highest participation rate in your department!

## Additional Information for BCC Middle States Accreditation Visit

**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.