

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
THOMAS A. ISEKENEGBE
FRESHMAN CONVOCATION
FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

Thank you Dr. Yvonne Erazo, for the kind and generous introduction.

Good Afternoon everyone (repeat). On behalf of our Board of Trustees, Interim Chancellor, Vita Rabinowitz, our faculty and staff, I formally welcome all of our new students first to the City University of New York and to your college – Bronx Community College.

We are so happy to have you join us this afternoon as we formally welcome you to the BCC and the Bronco family.

Thank you for honoring us – the faculty and staff with your decision to begin your higher education journey at Bronx

Community College. Many students like you have made this decision for the past sixty years to start at BCC, graduate and move on to bigger and better things.

As I stand here this afternoon to speak with you, two words come to my mind that I like to share with you. The first word is TRANSFORMATION – the act or process of changing completely. With the college's 2015 – 2020 strategic plan, "Building a Community of Excellence," our college is in the middle of a five year transformation process. The designed outcomes of this process are:

- *Empower students to succeed
- *Deepen student learning
- *Develop World Citizens
- *Cultivate A 21st Century Curriculum
- *Enhance the Campus Environment

But while transformations of our physical campus, and our programs are important, the most important transformation of all is the transformation of YOU. That is why you have come here: to leave BCC a different person than you are now.

Someone with more wisdom, more possibilities and a bigger view of yourself and your place in the world. We do everything we can to help you with that transformation. But ultimately it comes down to you — your drive, your commitment, your passion. The faculty and staff are committed to the transformation of our college, as new students coming, my challenge to you is to use BCC to transform your life.

The second word is ENGAGEMENT – become actively involved. As part of your transformation, become involved in campus life. Join clubs and organizations, be a part of the many cultural, athletic and celebratory events throughout the year. I encourage you to engage in campus activities and discussions

with your peers as well as the faculty and staff who are ready to challenge and engage you.

Take advantage of all the tools we have here for your transformation. Your transformation begins and ends with you. Your success is determined by your willingness to be involved, engage with your professors, and participate in all that the college has to offer. Embrace all that our campus has to offer.

I wish you all the very best and I am looking forward to handing you your diplomas when you graduate.