

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2019
Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.” As the Fall 2019 semester is well underway, I am constantly reminded of how much I love Bronx Community College and our work together. Welcome back again to each and every one of you! As we return ready to teach and learn, let us each focus on our great works and how we can best make a positive contribution to Bronx Community College and one another. This is a process of growing, faltering, waiting, wrestling, and triumph. I look forward to embracing the process with you as we strive towards the success of our students, our institution, and one another.

- **PLANNING FOR 2019-2020:** This semester began with Fall 2019 Convocation, where we discussed this year’s theme: “Strengthening Our College” in the context of our highlights, challenges, and opportunities for growth. We had a number of successful reaccreditations, including our Middle States Commission on Higher Education college reaccreditation this summer. ASAP has expanded to include half of our student body and contributed to improved graduation and student outcomes. We completed our Academic Master Plan. BCC has also been the recipient of a number of impressive grant awards, including \$5M from National Science Foundation, \$1.4M and \$600K from the Department of Education for the Childcare Center and Workforce Innovation respectively, \$100K in renewable grants from BNY Mellon, and \$317K from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Yet, despite our impressive accomplishments, we have significant challenges with enrollment and retention, budget and finances, and facilities and infrastructure. New student enrollment, total headcount enrollment, FTE equivalent enrollment, and one-year retention rates are all steadily declining. A 7.6% decline in FTE over three years, an increase in expenditures by 4.2% over three years, and an 89% budget of personnel services in FY19 have led to a \$3.1M reduction in our FY20 Revenue Target coupled with a \$2.3M allocation decrease. This has placed BCC in a revenue shortfall that we will have to address quickly. Below, you will read more about our FY20 financial planning with CUNY.

These issues will be addressed in detail in our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, which will be developed throughout this academic year under the leadership of Dean Nancy Ritze with the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. There will be many opportunities for participation, contribution, feedback, and questions. The following is the Strategic Planning Committee:

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| ❖ Alexander Ott (Admin) | ❖ Nancy Ritze (Admin) | ❖ Laura Broughton (Faculty) |
| ❖ Octavio Gomez (Admin) | ❖ Judith Eisenberg (Admin) | ❖ Howard Clampman (Faculty) |
| ❖ Francisco (Javier) Legasa (Admin) | ❖ Jordi Getman-Eraso (Faculty) | ❖ Kenneth Adams (Admin) |
| ❖ Tica Frazer (Admin) | ❖ Michael Miller (Faculty) | ❖ Amber Lake (Student) |
| ❖ Sahidha Odige (Admin) | ❖ Minkung Choi (Faculty) | |

- **FY20 FINANCIAL PLAN:** On August 30th, CUNY issued a memorandum to all of the CUNY Vice Presidents for Finance with a copy to CUNY Presidents. In this memo, every college was required to submit and maintain financial and operations plans that project expenditures and resources for fiscal year 2020 through 2022. Financial plans must detail projected revenue, planned expenses and filled full-time position levels. These plans must be made in consultation with elected faculty and student governance leaders. The submission deadline for our draft financial plan and impact statement is September 30th. We have been working diligently on developing a draft plan for campus review, so that there is time for review, feedback, incorporation of changes, and finalization prior to submission. Please note, our submission is only a draft budget until it has been accepted and finalized by the University Budget Office.
- **AN UPDATE ON THE PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT SEARCH:** The vacancy position notice for this role has been re-posted widely and we hope the new Provost will begin at the start of the Spring 2020 semester. The Senate Committee on Vice Presidents and Deans submitted four faculty members to the Office of the President and two are included on the Search Committee. Committee members are listed in the chart below and will be charged on October 3rd. By November 25th, initial interviews will be completed and recommendations made on finalist candidates. Finalist campus visits are tentatively planned for between December 5th and 10th, prior to Reading Period. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please feel free to reach out to Executive Director for Human Resources Marta Clark. We will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward and look forward to wide participation in the search.

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FALL 2019 SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NAME	AREA/DEPARTMENT	CLASSIFICATION
Howard Clampman (Chairperson)	Business & Information Systems	Senior Faculty – Tenured Full Professor
Grisel Acosta	English	Senior Faculty – Tenured Associate Professor
Sehar Atamtuktar	Biological Sciences	Senior Faculty – Tenured Full Professor
Sharon Utakis*	English	Senior Faculty – Tenured Full Professor
Monique Guishard*	Social Sciences	Junior Faculty – Untenured Associate Professor & Alumna
Jason Sanchez	History	Adjunct Lecturer & College Discovery
Christian Rodriguez	Chemistry & Chemical Technology	Chief College Laboratory Technician
Alexander Ott	Academic Affairs	Senior Administrator – ECP (Dean)
Nadine Brown	Student Success	Administrator – HEO (Director)
Jazmin Caldwell	Student Government Association	Student – Sophomore 2 nd Year, Liberal Arts/Sciences Legal/Labor Legislator for SGA
Vishwanauth Persaud	Student Government Association	Student – 1 st Year, Upper Freshman, Liberal Arts/Sciences Male Empowerment Network

* Candidate Recommended by College Senate

- GOOD NEWS:** On Monday, September 16th, Chancellor of the City University of New York Félix V. Matos Rodríguez and longtime BCC advocate Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz, Jr. were among the speakers at a major borough event — the ribbon cutting ceremony for BCC's newly-renovated swimming pool. Also attending the event were City Council members Fernando Cabrera and Ydanis Rodriguez, and Dr. Bolla Omotosho, Chairperson of Bronx Community Board 5. Closed since 2007, the pool has undergone a \$4.8 million makeover. The renovation includes new pool and pool deck tiling (extending the pool length to the full 25 yards required for swim meets); new heating and ventilation systems, light fixtures and water treatment and filtration equipment; and replacement and repair of the drainage piping and pool shell to prevent leaks. Following the ceremony, Chancellor Matos Rodríguez had lunch with student leaders followed by a meet and greet with faculty and staff in the Law Collection of the North Hall Library.

The BCC Early Childhood Center has been selected to participate in a CUNY Family Empowerment Program pilot intended to support low-income, first-generation students, parents, and single mothers. As part of this pilot program, the ECC will offer wrap-around supports to students enrolled in ASAP, CUNY Start, Math Start or CLIP. Each year, 40 student-parents will receive free childcare – 120 over the grant term - and work with a social worker, success coaches, and a family coordinator to help them to persist and succeed in college. The pilot program will be housed in the ECC's new Family Resource Room, a lounge where student-parents can rest, recharge, learn strategies for success, and access program supports. The BCC ECC has proven effective in supporting student retention: According to Institutional Research data, students whose children are in the ECC are twice as likely to persist and 10% more likely to graduate.

Six (6) BCC students are among the twenty-one (21) awarded Kaplan Leadership Scholarships this year. Please join me in congratulating Nicholas Fantauzzi, Media and Digital Film Production AS; Gina Frimpong, Liberal Arts & Sciences: General AA; Racquell Hall, Bronx Community College; Kayesha Hancel, Liberal Arts & Sciences: Chemistry AS; Jomaira Hernandez, Public Health AS; and Sparkle Sillim, Liberal Arts & Sciences: Chemistry AS.

On Wednesday, October 10th, BCC will be inducting our 2nd class of Distinguished Alumni. This year's inductees include Arthur Antin, '67 – co-founder and former Chief Operating Officer of VCA, the largest pet healthcare company in the US; Balmatee Bidasee, '90 – Professor of Practice at Western Michigan University and President and Chief Executive Officer of Data Analytics and Process Improvement Consulting Company; and Vikki Pryor, '73 – Chief Executive Officer of the Change Create Transform Foundation.

The World Monument Fund, the leading international organization focused on historic preservation, is currently considering Gould Memorial Library for its 2020 World Monuments Watch list. The designation would bring international attention to the historic site as we continue to stabilize it and determine future uses. This year's designees will be announced this October.