As we approach the end of Fall 2020 semester, I thank each and every one of you for your dedication to maintain the standards we expect of our students while bringing your empathy to bear on all matters concerning our students’ ambitions, needs, and struggles, in both their academic and personal lives. This calendar year you have gone that extra mile, and beyond, to usher us and our students through a global health crisis, the acrimonious political climate of our nation, and the daily challenges of operating our College remotely. Bronx Community College is stronger in having met these challenges and all of you continue to play a critical role in our ongoing success.

Perhaps at no time does the idea embedded in the holiday we call Thanksgiving have greater relevance in our collective history. As we continue to prepare for the Spring 2021 semester in an evolving educational landscape, let us maintain the spirit of giving that we have forged in past eight months to lead us through these days and another successful semester. Best Wishes to you and your families this Thanksgiving. As always, please know that my appreciation and admiration for your work and commitment to our students is unwavering.

Teaching, Learning, Classes

Cares ACT Fund Costs
- Office of Academic Affairs is calculating costs of faculty development and other costs related to online instruction to be included for request for reimbursement from CARES ACT fund.

Block Scheduling
Three majors are set for incoming freshmen to take advantage of Block Scheduling:
- Liberal Arts and Sciences AA no option
- Business Administration AS
- Criminal Justice AA
* Block schedules are designed for incoming freshmen in the above three majors. Freshmen are enrolled as cohorts and take all their courses together. The blocked schedules consist of an ENG composition course, a MTH course at the appropriate level along, and an FYS 11 course, and courses generally taken during the first semester in the student’s academic program.

Spring 2021 Schedule Course Capacities
- Course schedules are currently being adjusted to accommodate the reduction of course caps from 30 to 27 students.
- Once the Spring schedule is finalized a pdf copy indicating online modalities—synchronous & asynchronous—will be posted on BCC website to help students make course selections.

BCC Pass/No Pass Policy
The BCC P/NP Policy does the following:
- It allows for course-level, pass/no pass grading: An earned letter grade of A, B, C, D is recorded as a “P” and a failing F grade is recorded as an “NC” (no credit). With a P grade, a student earns credit for the course, but with no effect on GPA. With an NC grade, a student does not earn credit, but there is also no effect on GPA.
- However, the BCC Pass/No Pass policy has constraints, including:
1. It requires that both the student and professor agree to Pass/No Pass grading in a course, and to file this agreement with Registrar by the last day to withdraw from classes (12/13/2020).

2. It limits the number of times that a student can apply Pass/No Pass grading to a maximum of two (2) courses while attending BCC.

3. It is not an option for courses in a program (e.g., Nursing) that requires a specific minimum grade in certain courses.

4. It may not be an option for courses in a program that receives certification or accreditation from external agencies.

   • To request P/NP grading in a course, see the form at the below link, follow the directions closely, and file it with registrar@bcc.cuny.edu by 1213/2020 which is also the last day to withdraw from classes with a grade of W.

NOTE: The P/NP policy should not be confused with the CUNY COVID 19 flexible grading policy that was only available to students in spring 2020 and, while somewhat similar, is separate from the BCC P/NP policy. Questions: please contact alexander.ott@bcc.cuny.edu

Honors Program
The information below was sent to BCC students via Broadcast on 10/20/2020:

“The BCC Honors Program is looking for students with high aspirations and a strong commitment to learning! For Spring 2021, BCC is offering the following course sections:

• ART 11 Introduction to Art History D02H (51827)
• CHM 11 College Chemistry I D07H (51593)
• CHM 17 General Chemistry I D04H (55031)
• COMM 11 Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communications D08H (51868)
• COMM 20 Public Speaking and Critical Listening D01H (51898)
• ENG 112 Composition and Rhetoric II D04H (52406)
• ENV 11 Environmental Health D10H (51631)
• ESE 11 Earth Systems Science: The Earth D01H (51667)
• HIS 10 History of the Modern World D01H (52025)
• MUS 11 Introduction to Music D01H (51841)

“To be eligible to register for an honors course, you [the student] will need:

• 3.0 or higher GPA;
• Nine or more college credits earned.

“Click on the BCC Honors Program e-Portfolio link below to see additional information:”
https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/honors/Honors_Course_Offerings

“Students in honors courses who earn a B+ or above will have an honors credit notation on their official transcript and will receive acknowledgement at their graduation ceremony.

“If these courses do not fit your schedule or major requirements, there may still be another way to become an honors student in any course you want to take. Please click on the following link for details about Honors Contracts: https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/honors/About_Honors_Contracts

“If you have further questions, please contact the Honors Program Co-Coordinators: Dr. Briggs at Monique.Briggs@bcc.cuny.edu or Dr. Durante at Anthony.Durante@bcc.cuny.edu.”
Student Registration, Advising
- New Student Registration began November 5th.
- All Starfish configurations are completed to allow students opportunities to meet with their faculty advisors.
- Ninety-four FT faculty advisors are participating with advising students.

Student Services
The Student Success Team provides BCC students with real time support services. BCC students can connect with Student Success professionals in real time utilizing the appointment and Zoom links listed below.

Financial Aid Virtual Counter
Days & Times:
- Tuesdays 11am - 4:00pm
  Zoom link here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81085029097
- Fridays 11am - 4:00 pm
  Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963765303

Office of Admissions
Dates: 11/16; 11/19; 11/20; 12/4; 12/11
RSVP link: https://cunybcc.askadmissions.net/Portal/El/GroupUrl?gid=530459ace7168e-14a3427a92e2063f780ca087

Student Development; Academic Advisement, Academic Support, Financial Aid, Student Life and Student Success
Days & Times: Fridays 11am – 12pm
Zoom access information:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89374709147?pwd=bWdhU001NXICYZIS3Y0RGE5V09yZz09
Meeting ID: 893 7470 9147
Passcode: 575449

Office of Personal Counseling
Days & Times: Monday - Friday, from 9am – 5pm.
- Call to make an appointment at 718.289.5223
- Or Email to make an appointment at: personal.counseling@bcc.cuny.edu

Male Empowerment Network
Days & Times: Mondays; Wednesdays; Fridays, 3pm - 4pm
Zoom access information:
Meeting ID: 817 8390 2163
Passcode: MENFall20

Student Athlete Town Hall Meetings
Days & Times: September 17; October 15; November 19; December 17 @ 12pm
Zoom access information: https://zoom.us/j/96284052979
Early Childhood Center

Bronx Community College’s Early Childhood Center (ECC) remains steadfast in its mission to support student families in need during the pandemic. Although things are more challenging this season, the staff has developed alternative ways to maintain the Center’s commitment to the BCC community and the Center's traditions. Following the COVID-19 guidelines, the staff has installed additional safety procedures and were recently recertified in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

In celebration of Multicultural Day, students in the Rising Stars Pre-K class designed flags of their nationalities and discussed their diversities. The Center has also organized an upcoming food drive-by packed with essential foods to ensure that families can bring a holiday meal to the table and feel a sense of normalcy and togetherness during the season. The Center’s staff received a warm welcome from CUNY Chancellor, Felix V. Matos Rodríguez, along with BCC President Thomas Isekenegbe and Provost Lester E. Rápalo. The ECC is committed to maintaining the well-being of our children.
Campus, Initiatives & Activities

Enrollment Management Retention
EMR Focus Statement: How changes to academic programs, scheduling, collaborations and prior learning initiatives can better support student learning, success and enrollment.
• EMR Committee is meeting biweekly.
• Committee has prioritized and developed items.

Strategic Planning Objectives:
1. Align academic programs with the Academic Master Plan, including revitalization of low enrollment degree programs.
2. Build additional partnerships with other institutions (i.e., Colleges, High Schools, CBOs, 2+2 Programs).
4. Explore alternative schedules (e.g., 12/6 model, 8-week sessions, etc.)
5. Formalize Stackable Credential opportunities.
6. Institutionalize Block Scheduling.
7. Optimize the Course Schedule.
8. Pilot meta-majors and additional interventions/structures to ensure students in optimal major (shared goal with SEMR Committee).
10. Streamline student transitions via Pre-College programs.

• Academic Enrollment Partnerships Sub-Committee: Alexander Ott (Vice-Chair), Patricia Ramos (Sub-Committee Co-Chair), Margarita Lopez (Administrative Assistant). Committee Members: Lisa Amowitz, Howard Clampman, Clement Drummond, Tica Frazer, Debra Gonsher, Mark Lennerton, Liyeira Lopez, Octavio Melendez, Shaida Odige, Neal Phillip, Nancy Ritze, Albert Robinson, Michele Siegal, Karla Renee Williams.

Google Mentorship and Development Program
Uma Iyer (Mathematics and Computer Science), in coordination with Alan Fuentes (Workforce and Continuing Education), has arranged for BCC’s most accomplished Computer Science students to participate in the Google Mentorship and Development Program (GMDP) this academic year. GMDP is a ten-month online mentoring and project-based program that includes one-to-one mentorship with a Google engineer. In addition to meeting with mentors, students participate in Google’s Computer Science Summer Institute Extension, which includes daily online sessions in January, access to Google Bridge and Coursera courses, and an invitation to join Connect with Google.

Registered BCC Student Clubs & Organizations – Fall 2020
There are 17 BCC student clubs and college-wide organizations that are formally chartered and active this Fall 2020. We are proud of the students who are persevering and engaging with their peers. We acknowledge the faculty and staff advisors who support the exceptional BCC students.

ASEZ BCC – Save The Earth, A to Z Club:
An international group at BCC that consists of university volunteers actively carrying out diverse projects in community service.
Advisor: Dedra Polite
Dedra.Polite@bcc.cuny.edu
BCC Media and Digital Film Club:
Students with a passion for movies can share their love of film and get a chance to participate as paid production assistants on major pictures and television shows filmed on campus. MTFS members also produce their own short films and video for the annual BCC Film and Video Festival and enter them into national and international film festivals.
Advisor: Jeffrey Wisotsky
Jeffrey.Wisotsky@bcc.cuny.edu

Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society (XAE):
Recognizes students excelling academically, promote academic excellence in others, and helps those who genuinely aspire to the same goal.
Advisor: Nathan Aiken
Nathan.Aiken@bcc.cuny.edu

CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD):
To promote dignity and independence for all BCC students with disabilities.
Advisor: Preston Burger
Preston.Burger@bcc.cuny.edu

Dominican Cultural Club:
To promote awareness of the Dominican culture and educate others to the elements that depict Dominican history, society, culture, and national identity.
Advisor: Jacqueline Jimenez
Jacqueline.Jimenez@bcc.cuny.edu

First Year Connection Club:
FYC is a club for students by students. The mission is to offer an engaging and supportive experience for all first-semester students who enter the Bronx Community College community. Advisor: Robert Lupo
Robert.Lupo@bcc.cuny.edu
Advisor: Tica Frazer
Tica.Frazer@bcc.cuny.edu

Future Teachers Club:
To discuss and plan events focused on teaching and learning.
Advisor: Barbara Flores-Caballero
Barbara.Flores-Caba@bcc.cuny.edu

Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) Club:
To ensure those who have a passion for Medical Laboratory Science can obtain the information needed to progress academically and professionally.
Advisor: Diane Price
Diane.Price@bcc.cuny.edu

Muslim Student Association:
To provide information and education about Islamic culture to non-Muslim students and people of other cultures and to develop understanding between Muslims and non-Muslims.
Advisor: Hisseine Faradj
Hisseine.Faradj@bcc.cuny.edu
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society:  
To recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and provide opportunities for individual growth and development.  
Advisor: Tiffany Dubon  
Tiffany.Dubon@bcc.cuny.edu

Radiology Club:  
Bring together students in the radiology program and offer a platform whereby they can be academically prepared for the challenges of radiographic patient positioning.  
Advisor: Vivian Rodriguez  
Vivian.Rodriguez@bcc.cuny.edu

Speech, Drama and Debate:  
To provide BCC students with a platform outside of the classroom on which to practice, perform, and gain proficiency in oral communication.  
Advisor: Cheyenne Seymour  
Cheyenne.Seymour@bcc.cuny.edu

Spoken Word:  
To express, improvise, recite and relay feedback of student works with friends.  
Advisor: Janet Robinson  
Janet.Robertson@bcc.cuny.edu

STEM Scholars:  
To educate the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers & mathematicians and bring rigorous, meaningful research opportunities to BCC students.  
Advisor: Seher Atamturktur  
Seher.Atamturktur@bcc.cuny.edu

Tennis Club:  
Promote and encourage the practice and learning of tennis among students.  
Advisor: Jonathan Scott  
Jonathan.Scott@bcc.cuny.edu

Theater Workshop:  
Perform and assess theatrical performances and encourage theatrical involvement of the BCC campus community.  
Advisor: John Socas  
John.Socas@bcc.cuny.edu

The Tutors’ Alliance Club:  
To provide a forum for tutors across the curriculum at BCC.  
Advisor: Kenisha Thomas  
Kenisha.Thomas@bcc.cuny.edu
Faculty & Staff: Scholarship, Creative Works, Presentations


Forthcoming Book: *Things To Pack on the Way to Everywhere* is a finalist for 2020 Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize. (2)

Featured Poet at Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival, 2020. (3)

Jacob Adler (Library Resource Center): Presented “A Sickness Known as Hate: Race and Identity in the Twilight Zone.” 5th Annual City Tech Science Fiction Symposium, Film Session; New York City College of Technology, CUNY, November 19, 2020.


Joseph Donica (English): “Arab Utopian Futures: Science Fiction and Documentary Film in the MENA after the Arab Revolutions.” *Science Fiction Film and TV*, 13.3, 2020, 387-404. www.liverpooluniversity-press.co.uk./journals/article/59253


Teresa Fisher, et.al. (Communication Arts & Sciences): “The Future Won't Drive Itself: A Roundtable on Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) within Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)” Conference: August 1, 2020. Teresa is the producer/production manager for New Plays for Young Audiences. Each June they run a 3-week play development series at NYU Steinhardt in the Provincetown Playhouse.


Rajendra Gharbaran, et. al. (Biological Sciences) (2): “Luteolin Induces Cytotoxicity in Mix Cellularity Classical Hodgkin's Lymphoma Via Caspase Activated-Cell Death.” Anticancer Research. 2020 September; 40.9: Note: one co-author is Evangelina D. Sarpong, former BCC student mentee and graduate, currently at Lehman College. (1)

“Luteolin-Induced Cytotoxicity Is Mediated Via Caspase Activated-Cell Death in Mix Cellularity Classical Hodgkin's Lymphoma, In Vitro.” Icahn School of Medicine of Mount Sanai Undergraduate Research Conference 2020 (11/2020). (Poster Presentation). Note: one co-author is Naomi Codrington, a Lehman College undergraduate STEM student, currently a student mentee of Rujian Tian (BCC, Biological Sciences). (2)


Raquel Alicia Otheguy (History) (2): “Central Role of Black Cuban Women in Developing Cuba’s National Education System in the 19th Century.” Cuban Slavery and the Atlantic World Conference. Yale University Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, November 7, 2020. (1)

“Es de suponer que los maestros sean de la misma clase”: What a Nineteenth-Century Teaching Application Reveals about Race, Power, and Education in Colonial Cuba.” University of Pittsburg Press: Cuban Studies (2020) 49, 174-192. (2)

Solomon Picou (Student Personal Counseling): International Virtual Exchange Program: BCC & University of IberoAmerica (Costa Rica). Topic: Equity on Health. “Acknowledging our Own Need for Mental


Stacia Reader, Elyse Gruttadauria (Health, Physical Education and Recreation) Victoria King (Health Services), Seher Atamturktur (Biological Sciences): "Promoting Careers, Transfer Success and Information Use and Literacy: Evaluation of a Health Career Pipeline Program at an Urban Community College." Information Services & Use, 40 (1-2), 51-69. https://doi.org/10.3233/isu-200075


**Other Campus Newsletters**

*Loud!* is published by the LGBTQI+ Resource Room every spring and fall semester. The Fall 2020 cover article “On Community, Activism, and Community Activism: LGBTQI+ Intersectionalities of Identity, Experience and Meaning” was written by Dr. Emalinda McSpadden, Faculty Coordinator of the LGBTQI+ Resource Room.

*Boletín* is published by the Association of Latino Faculty and Staff. The Fall 2020 cover article, “How Mentoring Fosters Emotional Intelligence” was written by Dr. Barbara Flores-Caballero of Education & Academic Literacy.

**Note:** Please send notices of faculty & staff publications, presentations and creative work to Richard.LaManna@bcc.cuny.edu

Work must have been published or presented in 2020. Next issue deadline: December 15, 2020.