

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

Congratulations on reaching the end of a productive and active Fall 2019 semester! With so many activities here on campus, nationally, and everywhere in between, I wanted to take this time to say thank you again for your dedication to making BCC the premier community college within CUNY. We have so much to celebrate and I look forward to continue this upward trend.

PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT SEARCH: After our Search Committee diligently conducted its work for more than two months, they conducted initial interviews. The Committee made recommendations on two strong finalist candidates and the finalist campus visits were held this week on Monday, December 9th and Tuesday, December 10th, prior to Reading Day. Drs. Tresmaine Grimes and Lester Edgardo Sandres Rápalo each began their day with me, toured the campus, and met with Department Chairpersons, Cabinet and Academic Affairs Deans, and participated in an Open Forum with Faculty, Staff and Students. Thank you to everyone who participated. I have received your feedback forms and am reading each of them before making a final decision.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process, please feel free to reach out to Executive Director for Human Resources Marta Clark (marta.clark@bcc.cuny.edu) or Deputy Karla Renee Williams (karla.williams@bcc.cuny.edu). We will continue to provide updates as we move forward.

SPRING REGISTRATION: Registration is underway for the Spring 2020 semester. So far, we have approximately 4,500 students registered, which is approximately 46.2% of our Spring 2020 CUNY Enrollment Projections. At this time last year, we had already registered 4,750 students. Our goal is to have 5,000 students registered prior to the Winter Intersession. You will notice signage around the campus prompting students to register. Students, please encourage your classmates to register in advance. Faculty and staff, please advise and encourage your students to register in advance. If they have any challenges, please direct them to their advisors or to the Registrar's Office. They are happy to help!

2020-2021 CUNY BUDGET: CUNY has released the University Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2021, dated December 5, 2019. This request rests on Four Pillars (also referred to as Areas of Investment):

1. Expanding Access, Enhancing Learning, Accelerating Success;
2. Embracing the Future of Work and Improving Quality of Life;
3. Recognizing Student Health and Well-being as Integral to Student Success and Public Health; and
4. Investing in critical IT and Facilities Infrastructure, as well as funding for mandatory cost increases.

To accomplish goals associated with these Pillars, CUNY has proposed tuition rate increases for both Senior and Community Colleges. Additionally, a new \$120 fee has been requested for campus-specific uses for health and wellness services. To help alleviate enrollment losses at Community Colleges, the University is request the State increase the FTE Aid per student by \$250. Current Base Aid is \$2,947 per FTE.

GOOD THINGS:

- On Tuesday, November 26, 2019, BCC and Single Stop participated in our annual **HOLIDAY FOOD GIVEAWAY** and providing over 100 turkeys and other food to BCC students. If you are able, please continue to donate both perishable and non-perishable food items to our BCC Food Pantry to help combat hunger and food vulnerability for members of our campus

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community. The Food Pantry is located in Loew Hall Room 118. For more information, please reach out DeDra Polite at 718-289-5179 or via email at Dedra.Polite@bcc.cuny.edu.

- Tuesday, December 3, 2019, was #GIVINGTUESDAY – the international day of charitable giving. At BCC, we raise funds in support of resources for our students. This year, we also piloted an initiative which included fundraising opportunities for several BCC programs. It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of midnight and the close of Giving Tuesday, BCC raised a stunning \$184,920. That not only surpasses the amount we raised last year, when we were number one among CUNY community colleges, it makes us the top fundraiser in the entire CUNY system. I would like to thank everyone in the BCC family for making this achievement possible, from students to faculty to staff to alumni and, of course, our many friends.

You still have time to #HelpaBroncoGraduate, which is both the hashtag and the purpose of this charitable drive. You have until December 31 to contribute to the Giving Tuesday campaign and provide students with the resources and support they need to achieve their goal of a higher education degree. There are two different ways you can do so:

1. Make your gift by credit card [online](#) through the #BCCGivingTuesday site.
2. Write a check made payable to the *BCC Foundation* and bring it to PH26.

For questions, please contact the BCC Office of Development at 718-289-5910.

- I am pleased to announce that Workforce Development and Continuing Education has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from Purdue Pharma in support of our Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) Training Program. The BCC CRPA program prepares local residents with lived experience with addiction and recovery for employment Recovery Peers. Recovery Peers support those in treatment for substance use disorders by connecting them to resources, helping them complete Health and Recovery Plans, listening empathetically, and sharing their own journeys to recovery. Demand for Recovery Peers has increased as policy and practice move toward providing care at the community level, and because NYS Medicaid now reimburses providers for this new and important behavioral health position.
- On Sunday, December 15, 2019, BCC will participate in the Annual production of Handel's Messiah at 3pm in the Roscoe Brown Student Center, Hall of Fame Playhouse. This performance features the Bronx Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of The Bronx with Conductor Michael Spierman. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and free with advance registration for BCC students and K-12 students.

PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS: As we prepare for the holidays, beginning with Thanksgiving next week, I want to wish each of you a peaceful and restful time with family, friends, and loved ones. Please join me for the Annual President's Holiday Celebration on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, from 3pm-5pm in Colston Hall Lower Level. I look forward to breaking bread with you!

It's also important to keep in mind the rules surrounding the acceptance of gifts. Please be reminded that CUNY's Conflicts of Interest Policy and the New York State Public Officers Law prohibit the acceptance of gifts of more than nominal value from interested sources. Accordingly, as a CUNY employee you may not solicit or accept such gifts, either directly or indirectly, from any interested source, regardless of whether the gift was intended to influence or reward you. For more information, please see the BCCBroadcast sent December 9, 2019 at noon titled, "Holiday Reminder: Acceptance of Gifts – CUNY" or contact BCC Campus Ethics Officer Karla Renee Williams at karla.williams@bcc.cuny.edu for assistance.