

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

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It is hard to believe that we are at the halfway mark of the semester. We have accomplished a lot already, but there is still so much more left to be done. I want to start by saying thank you to each of you for being active participants in the lifecycle of our college. Thank you also to everyone who participated in celebrating Hispanic Heritage, Emotional Wellness, and Domestic Violence Awareness, among others in the month of October.

In the remainder of the semester, we have some crucial issues to address. We submitted the Financial Plan to CUNY as requested and are awaiting notice of approval. As we all understand, we have many issues with our facilities and infrastructure. We are continuing to address these issues and we will update the campus community as we progress.

At this point in the semester, our focus pivots toward the upcoming Spring 2020 semester: registration for classes implementation of the new placement guidelines for new students and development of the new co-requisite courses. Registration for the Winter and Spring semesters are now open and the goal is to encourage all of our students to register for classes before leaving for the Thanksgiving break.

- **PRESIDENTIAL GRANTS:** A broadcast reminder was sent out on October 30<sup>th</sup> to apply for a Presidential Grant. This year's Presidential Grant proposals should focus on improving student academic performance, progress and completion rates. The proposals should align with our theme of "Strengthening Our College by Improving Student Retention". Submissions can be made by any faculty and staff (full-time and part-time) and the proposal due date is this Friday, November 1, 2019.
- **PROVOST/VICE PRESIDENT SEARCH:** The Search Committee was charged on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and review of the candidate applications is underway. We anticipate initial interviews to be completed and recommendations made on finalist candidates in November. Finalist campus visits are expected to begin in December. 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](mailto:marta.clark@bcc.cuny.edu)). We will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward.
- **STUDENT TECH FEE:** As of September 2019, CUNY has issued a new Student Technology Fee Policy and Procedures. It addresses the composition of the Student Tech Fee Committee, Uses and Expenditure Categories, Student Representation, Plan Status and Reporting. As per the new guidelines, I have appointed Chief Librarian and Chairperson of the Library Department Michael Miller as the Chairperson of this Committee. Faculty Senate selects two (2) Faculty members to serve on the committee and the President appoints two (2) Administrators. The SGA appoints four (4) Students.
- **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES:**

**Pool Ribbon Cutting:** On September 16<sup>th</sup>, we marked the return of the Bronx Community College swimming pool as the center of life on our campus. This event was widely attended by our most ardent CUNY, community, and elected supporters. This included CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, who made his first major campus appearance at Bronx Community College since he took office last May. Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and New York City Councilmember Fernando Cabrera were also in attendance, as was local news media.

**Distinguished Alumni:** On Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Bronx Community College Foundation recognized three (3) alumni during the Second Annual Distinguished Alumni Induction Ceremony. This event honored Arthur Antin ('67), the co-founder of VCA, the largest animal care provider in the country; Dr. Balmatee Bidassie ('90), President/CEO of Data Analytics & Process Improvement Consulting and Master Faculty Specialist at the College of Engineering at Western Michigan University; and Vikki Pryor ('73), Managing Principal and Founder of Change Create Transform. Our honorees are recognized for maintaining the BCC traditions of discovery, achievement and excellence through their personal accomplishments, professional achievements and/or humanitarian service. Their photos and bios will be installed on the first floor of North Hall & Library, along with the Inaugural Class of Distinguished Alumni currently on display there.

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**Domestic Violence March:** Members of the BCC community marched across campus on October 10<sup>th</sup> for BCC's Second Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk. The event is intended to draw campus-wide attention to an issue that impacts all members of the College and surrounding community. Organized and hosted by the Department of Public Safety, the walk began with a brief rally in the Meister Hall Lobby, which was lined with displays by State, City and neighborhood groups. On hand was a retinue of local elected leaders and officials, whose presence highlighted the importance of domestic violence prevention in our Borough. Bronx Borough President Rubén Díaz Jr. and New York State Assemblymember Victor Pichardo both gave remarks and patriated in the walk. Press Coverage included many of the local Bronx news outlets.

**Athletics & Alumni Gym:** In both of our Fall sports, BCC students were named CUNYAC Rookie of the Year. Freshman midfielder Ruddy Segura was named men's soccer Rookie of the Year and first-year outside hitter Nayely Rodriguez earned Rookie of the Year honors for women's volleyball. Additionally, the Alumni Gym Bridge reconstruction is complete and reopened on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> after being closed since 2017.

**LGBTQIA+ Resource Room:** Fall 2019 Safe Space training is scheduled for Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. Two (2) outside agencies are presenting – the Gay Men's Health Crisis and the AIDs Health organization. Recipients of the training will become allies to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Questioning students. Specific terminology will be discussed, along with proper use of pronouns. They will also provide an updated manual for use across campus and within the community. Smaller, customized Safe Space meetings and trainings are available for individual departments for those unable to attend the larger training. To date, smaller trainings were held in College Discovery, Public Safety, ASAP, disAbility Services and Health Services. An upcoming customized training meeting will be with the Art & Music department.

**Employee Service Recognition:** BCC invites you to join in the celebration of service milestones for Faculty and Staff on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon in Colston Lower Level. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> by calling the Office of Administration & Finance at 718-289-5127 or emailing Elizabeth Rivera at [Elizabeth.rivera@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Elizabeth.rivera@bcc.cuny.edu).

- **GRANTS:** In the 2019 Fiscal Year, the Division of Advancement, Communications and External Relations, working in collaboration with BCC Faculty and Staff, secured a remarkable \$13,596,868 in support of a variety of programs to better serve our students and support faculty research. This figure, impressive in its own right, is even more so when compared to similar statistics from other institutions in The City University of New York. BCC proudly boasts that we are the second greatest recipient of grants among all community colleges in the CUNY system. The Division of Advancement, Communications and External Relations works with all faculty and staff who are interested in pursuing a grant – providing its assistance in the drafting, reviewing and editing of grant proposals and budgets, as well as mastering the steps of grant submissions. Please join me in thanking Julia Oliva and Judith Eisenberg for their tireless and rewarding efforts on behalf of the BCC Grants Office.

I am always impressed and amazed by the work we continue to do with limited resources. Thank you to all of our Faculty and Staff for all that you do for our Students.