

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2020**

*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

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We are closing out what has probably been one of the most difficult semesters many of us have ever experienced. Please let me convey my thanks to the entire campus community for the extraordinary effort you have put forth. I wanted to take this time to acknowledge again your dedication, perseverance and unwavering service to our students. We have more challenges ahead. The majority of instruction will need to continue in the online distance modality for the Spring '21 semester. I know we can do it and I know we can improve upon what we have already accomplished this fall. We need to rally around each other and our students as we continue to brave the global pandemic.

**WINTER CONFERENCE:** The Center for Teaching and Learning with Technology, in collaboration with the Senate Committee on Instructional and Professional Development, is planning a two-day Winter Conference scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This conference will be an opportunity for faculty and staff to participate in professional development workshops and panel discussions to share best practices on how to function effectively in an online environment. Please keep an eye out for *A Save The Date* announcement and *Call for Proposals* before the end of term.

**GIVING TUESDAY:** Thank you to all who gave in support of Bronx Community College (BCC) on Giving Tuesday. Because of your generosity, by midnight, we raised over \$62,000, the highest amount among all CUNY community colleges, and the 9<sup>th</sup> highest amount in CUNY overall. We had 185 generous donors and met two \$5,000 matching gift challenges from generous donors including the Amadou Diallo Foundation. The Diallo Foundation kicked off the campaign with a live Zoom event featuring Mrs. Kadiatou Diallo who discussed the current social justice movement while promoting the need for supporting BCC students. If you did not have the opportunity to give yet, there is still time! Our donation page [bcc.cunytuesday.org](http://bcc.cunytuesday.org), will remain open until December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please help us meet our goal of at least \$100,000 by year-end.

**WINTER AND SPRING REGISTRATION:** Registration is underway and ongoing for the Spring 2021 semester. 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! Preparation has already begun for the online Spring 2021 New Student Orientation (NSO) and will be live to new students on January 11, 2021.

**CREDIT/NO CREDIT:** The College is engaged in a campus-wide discussion as to whether BCC should extend the Special Covid-19 flexible grading policy to the Fall '20 semester; and if extended, whether any courses should be excluded. This important topic is on the agenda for the College Senate. I look forward to your input before I report the decision to the University Provost by Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOLARSHIP:** Three BCC faculty members have been selected to participate in the University's Faculty Fellowship Publication Program (FFPP) to be conducted in Spring 2021. This diversity initiative is designed to assist untenured faculty with the design and execution of scholarly publications. In the past, participants have produced articles for juried journals as well as books for scholarly presses.

The BCC - CUNY Research Scholars Program (BCC-CRSP) has thirteen student scholars and 6 faculty mentors this academic year. BCC-CRSP has been collaborating with other STEM programs such as LSAMP, S-STEM and PTS3 to provide preparatory workshops, activities and opportunities for BCC students interested in research and careers in STEM fields. We have continued to forge our relationship with Princeton University as they work with BCC to provide internship opportunities for our outstanding student scholars.

**GOOD NEWS:** BCC was awarded an Ellucian PATH Scholarship for \$20,000. Good news, Workforce Development & Continuing Education was allocated \$10,000 of the Ellucian PATH scholarship for students who are matriculated and want to take trainings through our area. Approximately 30 students will be able to take

the Pharmacy Technician Training for FREE beginning in February 2021. BCC broadcast was placed last week and already 30 students are placed in the program. We have reached our goal of enrollment.

In Fall 2020, Career Specialists of the Office of Career Development (“OCD”) have placed over 100 students in internships experience. OCD is working with the New Bronx Chamber of Commerce to promote the Federal Work Study Experimental Site Program to their member constituency via a special online platform called "Internship Connector" Platform.

OCD and Google are now officially partnering on the Google Mentorship & Development Program, an experiential learning opportunity currently being offered to 22 students in the Computer Science program.

OCD is partnering with the Portfolio with Purpose Academy to recruit our students for a CUNY-only market investment literacy training program, competitive and with cash prizes to the top three student investors.

BCC is the recipient of a bookstore signing commission due to its successful transition to Akademos. We are happy to report that BCC will be receiving \$229,049, the highest award of all the colleges.

**STUDENT CENTERED:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Bronx Community College organized a virtual symposium on the timely topic “Black Lives Matter: Do They Matter to You?”

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SJ9PMx4HfnO\\_DGYLntbWNyztL9IeKvlo/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SJ9PMx4HfnO_DGYLntbWNyztL9IeKvlo/view?usp=sharing)

Kaplan Leadership Program has identified five (5) BCC students as Kaplan Scholars semifinalists. Kaplan Scholars receive a comprehensive array of financial and academic support, transfer admissions advising and leadership skills development. Congratulations to our scholars!

Abdu Bassett Audi	Dietetics & Nutrition
Abubakari Ibrahim	Computer Science
Ana Abreu	Mathematics
Suleiidy De La Cruz	Early Childhood Education
Zouberou Sayibou	Computer Science

The *Learning Commons* and the Office of Student Life have hosted Zoom sessions to match students with Live Tutors. Sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 12:00 to 1:00 PM and Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM on Zoom. Visit the [Learning Commons website](#) for more information.

A new study space is now available in Meister G01 for those students who are attending classes on campus. The space is available Monday through Saturday from 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

*The Financial Aid* Virtual Counter has extended their presence for students. The links can be accessed on the [Office of Student Success](#) webpage, and via broadcast on the following days:

- Mondays, 10:00am-4:00pm
- Tuesdays & Fridays, 11:00am-4:00pm

*Drop in with the Dean:* “You have Questions, We have Answers” provides students with live connections to administrators from across the college to assist students with general questions. “Drop In” will take place on Friday, 12/11/20, and is available every Friday from 11:00 am-12:00 pm.

The next *Food Pantry Distribution* is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 and Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Students can access the instructions on the updated Food Pantry protocols on the [BCC Access Resource Webpage](#).

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**CUNYAC** announced the cancellation of winter sports schedules Monday, November 23. Athletic Director and CUNYAC Community College Directors' President Ryan McCarthy fielded questions with Executive Director Zak Ivkovic on a CUNYAC webinar December 1<sup>st</sup>. BCC Athletics has shifted its focus to student support, engagement, and retention. Gym, pool and field maintenance is also a priority in preparation for DOH inspection.

CUNY has launched two online courses for faculty and staff intended to support our mental health and wellness. The courses are optional, asynchronous, and self-paced. They are available in Blackboard under My Organizations. Alternatively, hyperlinks to many of the mental health and wellness videos from the online courses are attached for your convenience.

**PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS:** The Early Childhood Center staff will be delivering gifts to the Pre-K children after receiving an early morning message from Santa (pre-recorded). This includes a tablet and head-phone and a many more things for the family and children. All other children are being shipped a box with their gifts along with a holiday message that they will receive next week. To view a holiday message that will go out to the ECC children click here: <https://youtu.be/Q1jKoKJOp1o>; it will surely provide a smile. December 18<sup>th</sup> is our last and big holiday food drive. We encourage you to please spread the word all across CUNY. 200 families will get groceries and holiday trimmings. We will also be providing 100 warm blankets and more.

As we prepare for the holidays, 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. Please reach out to BCC Campus Ethics Officer Susan Fiore [susan.fiore@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:susan.fiore@bcc.cuny.edu) for assistance with questions.

In closing, I remind you all to exercise caution as we gather with loved ones for the holiday season. As we celebrate smaller and perhaps more insular, I wish you a restful and peaceful respite as we reflect on all we have accomplished and endured this past semester. The vaccine is on the horizon and offers hope as we continue to battle the global pandemic. I look forward to returning for the Spring '21 semester and completing the academic year as we continue to support, encourage and lift our students. Happy Holidays and best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy New Year!