

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2021
Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.

It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through this academic year. I wanted to take this time to again acknowledge your dedication, perseverance, and unwavering service to our students. We are not done yet and we still have a way to go to finish out the year. I’m grateful to all of you who are supporting our students to the end goal of completing the academic year and on to Commencement for those who are graduating. As Ernest Hemmingway said, *it is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end.* I know we can accomplish great things as we journey together. And I know that we can improve upon what we have already accomplished this fall. As we begin to open our campus to even more faculty, staff, and students this spring, I know we will support one another to the end goal of success for our students.

SPRING ’22 PLANNING: Preparation for the spring semester forges ahead. At this time, BCC is offering 65% of its course options for in-person instruction, consistent with CUNY’s goal of offering 70% in this modality. I urge all faculty to continue to remind our students to register for spring 2022.

As you may be aware, the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) has announced a target of 70% or in person learning for Spring 2022. To support this academic target, we will work to align our employee on-site density goal with that of OAA. As such, University-wide, we must increase our in-person target from to 70% effective the first day of the Spring 2022 semester. To reach this goal, employees will be expected to spend 70% of their work time in office or on campus, or 7 out of 10 days of in-person work in a two-week cycle. We encourage you to continue to offer, when feasible, reduced workweek and flex start/end time options.

As I have discussed, reaching our goal of substantially increasing a physical presence on campus requires improving and readying our facilities. I have announced the Administration’s commitment to purchase “scrubbers” or air filtration support systems for many of our classrooms and offices for those buildings without or with limited HVAC systems. A list outlining the number of units per building, per floor is attached [here](#). BCC’s purchasing and procurement team has begun the ordering process and we will work diligently on having these units in place in time for classes this spring.

WINTER AND SPRING REGISTRATION: Registration is underway and ongoing for the Winter session and Spring 2022 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!

The Registrar’s office reports that as of December 6th we have 2843 students enrolled, for 2147 FTE. This is 38% of our target goal (7460) for spring enrollment.

GIVING TUESDAY: Thank you to all who gave in support of Bronx Community College (BCC) on Giving Tuesday. The results are in —171 supporters of BCC’s students contributed \$91,495.40. Thank you for showing your commitment to the BCC mission of education for all.

For those who have yet to contribute, we ask that you join us and continue BCC’s record of being number one. Our continuation of the season of giving will continue to the end of the month. There is still time for you to be a part of this wonderful BCC tradition of charitable giving: make an immediate donation online now at: <https://www.cunytuesday.org/organizations/bronx-community-college>.

CUNY VACCINATION UPDATE: For the Spring 2022 semester, CUNY plans for most courses to be in-person. Students taking in-person or hybrid courses must be fully vaccinated, except for those approved for a medical exemption or a religious exception, when classes begin. Unvaccinated students will be withdrawn before classes begin if they do not meet CUNY guidelines and deadlines. For a list of applicable deadlines for the upcoming winter and spring sessions, please see here: <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus>. A list of New York City vaccination locations can be found here: <https://vaccinefinder.nyc.gov>.

As part of the University's multi-pronged strategy to monitor and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, CUNY has launched a random testing program for vaccinated employees and students accessing CUNY facilities. The random testing program complements CUNY's mandatory weekly testing for employees who have not disclosed their vaccination status and students who obtained a vaccination exemption.

If you are selected in any given week, you will receive an email from no-reply@cleared4.org with instructions to complete your registration and will have to test at a CUNY test site within 7 days (no appointment necessary). Your test result will be available within 48 hours and you will maintain your Access Pass to CUNY facilities while the results are pending. If your test result comes back positive, your Access Pass will be removed, and you will be contacted by a Coronavirus Task Force Liaison for guidance.

If you fail to test within the required 7-day period, you will be contacted by a campus or program representative on next steps. **Being tested when you are notified is not optional and is necessary in order to obtain campus-wide results each week and thus help keep everyone safe.**

For additional information about the program, visit [this FAQ](#) or www.adnas.com/CUNYhelp. If you still have questions, students should contact their campus [Local Vaccine Authority \(LVA\)](#), and employees their [HR office](#).

PREPARATION FOR THE HOLIDAYS: 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 for assistance with questions.

UPCOMING TOWN HALL: Our final Town Hall for the semester will be held virtually, Friday December 17th, 9:30-11:00 am. Registration for the event can be found [HERE](#). Please join the discussion as we wrap up our fall semester and plan for spring challenges. I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire campus community my best wishes for the holiday season. The nearly two years of the pandemic ravages are hopefully concluding, and the vaccination effort continues to keep serious cases lower, even as a new variant surfaces. While I know that you will be looking forward to gathering for celebrations, I urge continued vigilance and adherence to safety precautions as we move into colder temperatures. I hope the holiday break provides an opportunity for respite and restoration as we begin our journey to spring 2022. Thank you for all you have worked and accomplished on behalf of our students. Happy Holidays!

Thomas A. Isekenegebe, Ph.D.
President