

THE PROVOST'S REPORT

January 2022

Volume 2 Issue 2

- A NOTE FROM THE PROVOST -

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

As I write to wish you all health and prosperity in the coming year, we are once more in the grip of a COVID surge. A variant of the stubborn virus has entered our personal and professional lives, and a return of many of the safety measures that defined our lives beginning March 2020 are back in place. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Omicron variant, while apparently milder in its physical effects, especially for those who are vaccinated, is many times more contagious, and so infections have greatly increased across our nation.

"Vaxed" now describes those who have received an additional booster. In response to the surge, remote work has returned for many, and once more we implore one another to be "safe." What the latest surge means for the coming semester remains to be seen.

As I write this, we are nearing the end of our Winter session and fast approaching the start of Spring 2022. In spite of all the challenges of the past year, we remain committed to our vision for our students, to help them "thrive in and contribute to a 21st century global community marked by diversity, change and expanded opportunities for lifelong learning and growth." Notice especially the word "change." None of the many changes we have confronted (or that have confronted us) has come easily in the past twenty months, but the resolve of our faculty and staff, our willingness to remain flexible, and our continued ability to adapt to the many challenges that the virus has thrown down in our visionary path, have only proven our mettle. We mean business. We have and will continue to uphold our promises to BCC students, as well as to one another as we work together to ensure paths of success remain open. BCC has always operated with the un-

derstanding that our students' successes are in fact our own successes. Our empathy and our championing of the historically underserved in the Bronx reveals our sense of justice to all people as evidenced in this issue of the Provost's Report.

We begin with an introduction and interview with BCC's new Director of Admissions. Mr. Joshua A. Lopez, a native of the South Bronx, comes to us via BMCC with many skills and experiences in academia, a hefty dose of optimism, and insightful perspectives



on going forward to facilitate student success. Inside there is also a link to an interview with Dr. Barbara Flores Caballero (Education & Academic Literacy) on Telemundo 47, in which she discusses our community, our students, and her insights on emotional intelligence. Dr. Caballero is an outstanding ambassador for BCC. Congratulations to our Department of Nursing, which has been designated one of the finest nursing departments in New York State by the national Nursing School Almanac. As usual, our students continue to achieve on-campus recognition and off-campus acco-

lades. Click the link inside to see another year of fine student work from the Digital Design and Studio Art Show. Five BCC students have been awarded prestigious paid internships from Ernst & Young, a global professional services firm that provides accounting and consulting services and is part of the "Big 4" accounting firms. And, as always, you'll find the latest faculty and staff accomplishments and awards listed inside.

Once more, I wish you all a happy 2022, filled with discoveries and accomplishments. Be safe. Stay well.

**As always, my appreciation for your
commitment to our students is unwavering.**

**"When we work with love we renew the spirit; that
renewal is an act of self-love, it nurtures our growth."**

— Bell Hooks

MEET JOSHUA PEREZ, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

BIOGRAPHY



Joshua Anthony Perez was born and raised in the South Bronx. Growing up in the neighborhoods of Jackson Ave, Southern Boulevard, Prospect Avenue, and Coop City provided him with various experiences to advocate for community needs. His father came to NYC as a Dominican immigrant and was a successful blue-collar worker for over 20+ years. His experiences showed Joshua the needs and benefits of an education. His mother, a social worker and graduate of Lehman college, provided an example for Joshua to follow.

Mr. Perez graduated from Lehman High and went on to attend Manhattanville College where he received his BA in Management with a minor in Music. Joshua aspired to work in the music business, but after experiencing his first recruitment job at Boricua College in the Bronx, his focus shifted. He worked at Mercy College as an admissions recruiter where he also received his MBA in General Management. He later served at Metropolitan College as Associate Director of Recruitment and Admissions. He became campus Director and led the charge in opening a new 20,000 sq. ft. campus near 149th street and Third Avenue. His leadership experi-

ences brought him to CUNY where he served as Associate Director of Admissions and Recruitment at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Eventually, he came to BCC, and most importantly, back home to the Bronx.

Joshua is a HUGE sports fan: Yankees, Jets, and Knicks. Cool fact: As an undergraduate, Joshua had his own college radio show and hosted rap battles and open mics on campus.

INTERVIEW

You've worked for CUNY in different capacities over the years and recently came to BCC as Director of Admissions and Recruitment. What are some of your impressions of the College so far?

The college is truly a hidden gem in the Bronx and has such a rich history. This was a pleasant surprise even for someone like me who is Bronx born and raised. The historic architecture and quad add to the traditional collegiate feel BCC provides. A student can make a quick turn and transition from the hustle and bustle of Fordham Road to a beautiful open campus. Most importantly, I immediately recognized the college community's dedication to seeing students excel and providing the best educational experience possible. A student will leave BCC equipped with the necessary skills to succeed. I am excited to be part of that process.

From your perspective, how has COVID changed the landscape of community colleges?

I believe COVID has changed the landscape for every industry imaginable. We have all abruptly shifted from what we considered the norm a few years ago. While this has created plenty of hurdles for us all, it has also opened up the online world of education. Students now seek a more convenient option to obtain their education and more than ever are open to an online/non-traditional educational experience. COVID forcefully exposed many to the online learning experience, which in turn will lead students to either embrace online learning or yearn to return to campus. I believe the biggest challenge now for community colleges is how to enhance that sense of support and togetherness for students in both the physical and virtual world. As our students continue to evolve, we must evolve as well to meet their needs.

Student enrollment across CUNY and BCC has dropped. Is this the result of the pandemic, or are other factors affecting student enrollment?

Students have always faced challenges with juggling everyday life and obtaining an education. These challenges can vary: childcare, finances, health, safety, lack of resources, etc. The pandemic has magnified these issues and forced some students to make very difficult personal choices. During the peak times of the pandemic, stu-

dents not being able to come to campus and take advantage of the services we offer, such as childcare, the food pantry, tutoring, and mentorship, most certainly made dealing with these issues very difficult. I suspect that the social mobility an education furthers is appreciated even more now by the community as we continue to pull through and recover.

At this time, what do you see are the possible roadblocks to increased enrollment of the community BCC serves?

As we continue to transition to some sort of “normal” in our society, we must consider the aftereffects of what we all have gone through the past few years. It will take time for many to feel safe and comfortable in going back to their normal routines. I think we need to continue to work with and to understand our students. We must continue to lend support in a variety of ways as many people recover mentally, physically, and emotionally from all of this. Getting everyone back to some sort of norm will be a challenge as it will take a different amount of time for each of us to get there.

What can be done to encourage students back to campus or to enroll for their first time?

We all are affected by the pandemic and the limitations it presents to us. Education allows for social and financial mobility. When times become difficult, we need to be able to create options for ourselves to continue progressing forward. As we now realize, things can change at the snap of a finger. We must always remind the community of the benefits of obtaining a quality education at BCC. The affordability and return on investment BCC provide a student will most certainly equip them for obstacles life may place in front of them. As my mother always told me, education is power and we must continue empowering ourselves as a community. Returning to campus will once again give students that sense of belonging, community, and support that everyone needs. We must continue to make the campus a safe haven for our students and most importantly communicate our understanding of the challenges they face. As we continue to lead the charge and engage our community, I am confident we will get there together.

Going forward, what changes, if any, do you see in the demographics affecting possible enrollment in the next few years?

Prior to the pandemic more than 70% percent of the Bronx workforce worked in essential or face-to-face industries. These industries were significantly impacted by the pandemic. Students may now start to consider changing careers and/or seeking new degrees. Others may have seen a surge in their industry and with proper education may want to increase their positioning in the field. Overall, people feel the need to be better prepared for situations like the pandemic. This need I feel will lead many people back to the college world with the intention of upward mobility.

Can you share possible next steps in BCC’s outreach to Bronx high schools?

It is crucial that our Bronx high school students can visit, connect, and feel the BCC culture here on campus. Many people within the community know of Bronx Community College, but now they need to fully experience BCC. We plan to connect with our students by exposing them to the benefits of a BCC education, its long-term affordability, the multitude of support services, student resources, and our lovely campus to top it off. As we continue to progress forward to normalcy, our goal is to reignite the conversation on the college experience and how it can empower Bronx communities and beyond.

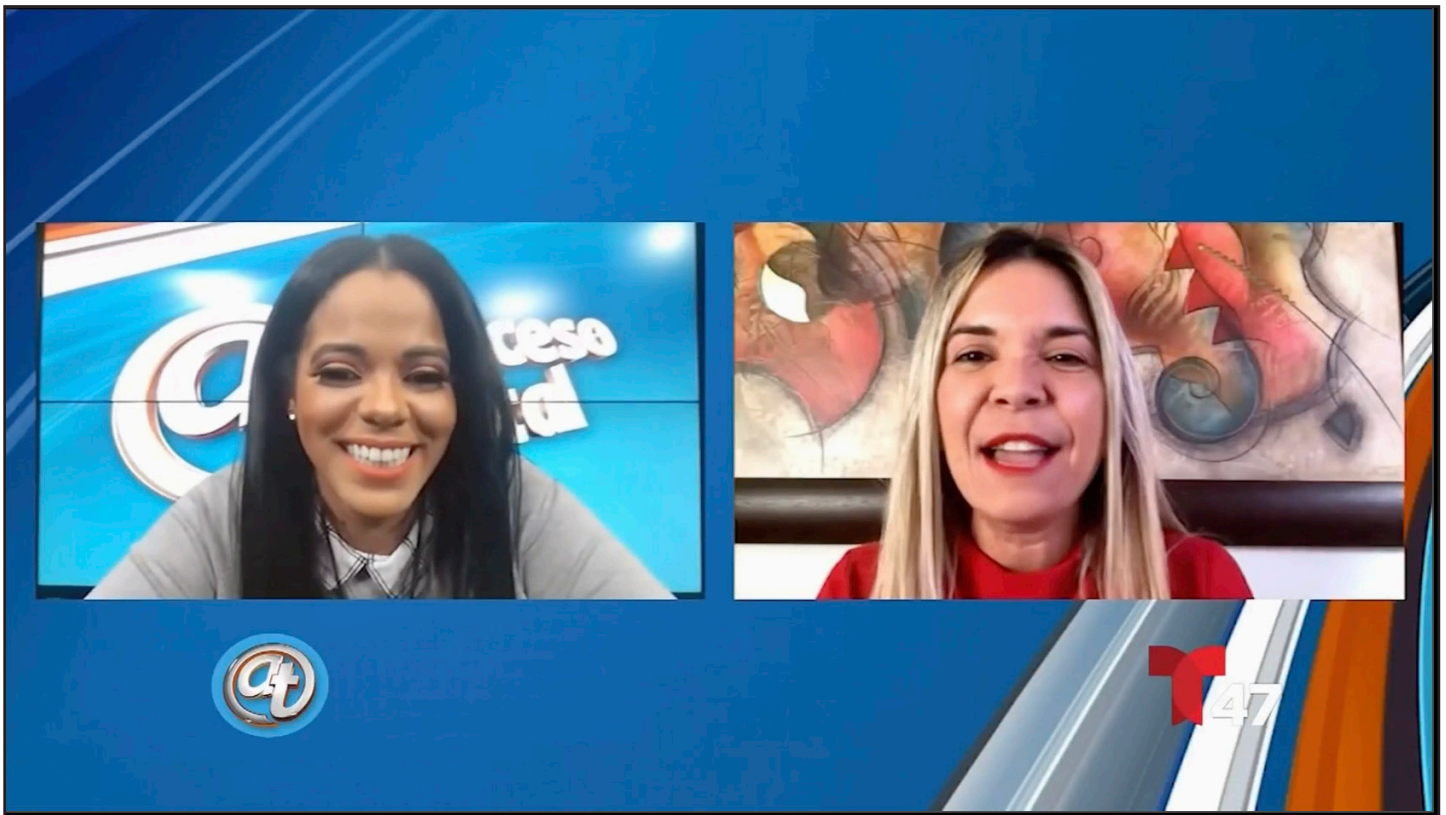
“Many people within the community know of Bronx Community College, but now they need to fully experience BCC.”

FOR COMMUNITY, FOR BCC STUDENTS

Dr. Barbara Flores-Caballero is a Latina assistant professor in the Department of Education & Academic Literacy at Bronx Community College. Her passion is teaching, motivating, inspiring, and influencing the future leaders of our society. She has dedicated her professional career to educating children, adolescents, and adults in Puerto Rico, North Carolina, and New York. In addition to educating students to be future educators, she is also a researcher, author, and international writer. She was awarded the 2020 Latin Podcast Award in the Education category for her Podcast Transforming Knowledge, which she has been broadcasting for over two years. Additionally, she is an accredited member of the Women Leaders of the Americas Network of the Documentation Sciences Foundation. Her calling is to serve the community, which is why her goal is to be an influential figure in the media. She has collaborated in Acceso Total Telemundo 47 NY, is featured on Jukeo Mega 97.9 NY, and is an enlightening YouTuber (Channel Barbara FloresEI). We are pleased to share her enthusiasm for connecting with others, teaching and training to make an impact in the field of Educational Leadership and Emotional Intelligence.

Telemundo 47 Interview:

<https://www.telemundo47.com/acceso-total-2/experta-en-inteligencia-artificial-comparte-recomendaciones-para-celebrar-durante-las-fiestas/2243187/>



(NOTE: In the interview, “Inteligencia artificial” should read “Inteligencia Emocional.” The publishers might not yet have made the correction. Interview is in Spanish.)

HONORS FOR BCC'S NURSING PROGRAM

Nursing Schools Almanac's mission is "to provide aspiring nurses a detailed, comprehensive, and analytical resource for selecting their future nursing school. An integral part of this effort is our annual rankings of the best nursing schools in the country. To provide a complete view for 2021, we collected a wealth of data on over 3,000 nursing schools and campuses nationwide. We then assessed each of these institutions on three critical dimensions:

1. The institution's academic prestige and perceived value (50% of overall score)
2. The breadth and depth of nursing programs offered (20% of overall score)
3. Student success, particularly on the NCLEX licensure examination (30% of overall score)."

(NSA's website: <https://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/>)

(For NCLEX rankings: <https://www.nursingschoolsalmanac.com/rankings/lpn/new-york>)

The Nursing Schools Almanac uses up to ten years of data to calculate each school's pass rate among first-time test-takers. In the 2021 ranking, information from Bronx Community College was listed as one of the best licensed practical nursing (LPN) programs in New York state with a 90.9% NCLEX pass rate. BCC came in eleventh place, and the #1 CUNY school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BCC's NURSING DEPARTMENT!

DIGITAL DESIGN & STUDIO ART SHOW ON DISPLAY

The Hall of Fame Art Gallery at Bronx Community College is pleased to present the Fall 2021 Digital Design and Studio Art Student Show.

This online exhibition celebrates the outstanding work created in BCC's digital and studio art classes. The Fall 2021 Digital Design and Studio Art Student Show will run from now through early February. To view the exhibition, follow the links below:

<https://www.bcc.cuny.edu/academics/academic-departments/art-and-music-department/the-hall-of-fame-art-gallery/>

<https://www.bcc.cuny.edu/academics/academic-departments/art-and-music-department/the-hall-of-fame-art-gallery/art-show/>

Art gallery programming is supported in part by the Music and Art Fund BCC Association Inc., the Art and Music Department, and the Office of Academic and Student Success. For additional information, see the attached poster and/or contact gallery director Dr. Andrea Ortuño at andrea.ortuno@bcc.cuny.edu.



Art 41 – Ariadys Morillo

BCC STUDENTS RECEIVE BUSINESS INTERNSHIPS

Ernst & Young is a global professional services firm. They are known for providing accounting and consulting services and are part of the "Big 4" accounting firms. Ernest & Young has two main offices, New York and London. This is the first semester we have been part of the apprenticeship program, sponsored by the New York Jobs CEO Council. After interviewing 8-10 BCC students, EY has offered five Computer Information Systems (CIS) AAS students 12-week paid apprenticeships (commencing on 2/1/22) which could lead to full-time employment at the end of the semester.

FACULTY AND STAFF PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bryan Betancur
(World Languages & Cultures)

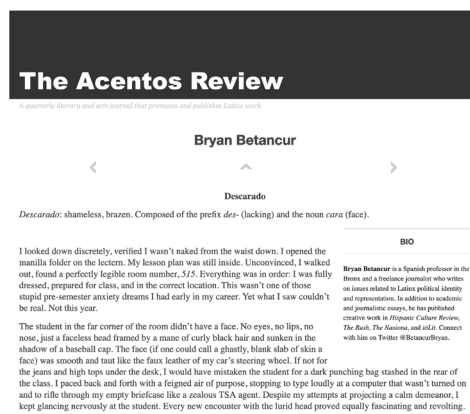
"Descarado." *The Acentos Review*, September 2021.
<https://www.acentosreview.com/September2021/bryan-betancur.html>

"Tragedy, *in vitro*: The Function of Reproductive Science in Simon Stone's Adaptation of *Yerma*." *Trauma and Motherhood in Contemporary Literature and Culture*. Eds. Laura Lazzari and Nathalie Ségeral. Palgrave Macmillan, 2021, pp. 163-83.

Justice Eddie McShan
(Business & Information Systems)

Justice Eddie McShan, adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Business and Information Systems since 1998, has been appointed to the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court. The official announcement from the governor's office reads, "The justices selected today will bring their experience on the trial courts, impressive legal credentials, strong judicial temperament and commitment to justice to the Third Department. These jurists reflect the excellence and diversity of the judicial system throughout New York State." Governor Hochul added, "New Yorkers deserve the best and the brightest upholding their justice system, and I have no doubt that these three appointees will serve with honor and distinction . . . With diverse experience and background, I am proud to appoint these justices to the Appellate Division and am certain that their service will further the interests of justice for New Yorkers."

Congratulations to Bryan Betancur and Justice Eddie McShan.





BCC's Ninth Annual

CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE (C3E)

WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXTRAORDINARY?

WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXTRAORDINARY?

Bronx Community College

CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

January 20 and 21, 2022 – Virtual

Program: <https://bit.ly/bcc-c3e22-program>.

Conference ePortfolio: <http://bit.ly/bcc-c3e22>

In response to a worldwide pandemic, this year we examine the struggles of facilitating an excellent educational experience to our students during unprecedented disruptive change. We will showcase the unique environment that community colleges create for our students through empathetic, responsive, and inclusive institutional approaches. These include pedagogical practices contextualized to the cultural and socioeconomic conditions that students inhabit, student-centered support, and creation of a strong sense of belonging. Likewise, we will spotlight thriving institutional, pedagogical, and personal restorative practices that foster continued success for our college community, with a focus on changing our norms for an inclusive culture of diversity, empowerment, and equity.

This year's thematic tracks:

1. Effective Teaching and Learning Environments – Topics may include: engaging students effectively, assessing learning, curating content for online instruction, hybrid and HyFlex pedagogies, trauma-informed pedagogy, synchronous vs. asynchronous online instruction, and the impacts of plagiarism.
2. Ensuring Student Success - Topics may include: social justice initiatives supporting marginalized students, incorporating efforts to support a growth mindset and intelligent practice in instruction and support services, removing barriers to facilitate academic success, aligning services with instruction, faculty, mentoring programs, such as peer mentoring in First Year Programs or faculty mentoring of student research, addressing issues of the digital divide, and facilitating access to services.
3. Beyond Diversity & Inclusion: Pedagogies of Hope, Access, and Belonging - Topics may include: decolonizing curricula, social justice at BCC, empathic teaching, restorative practices, informed care & pedagogy, culturally-responsive pedagogy, critical race praxis, fostering global citizenship across the content areas, difficult classroom discussions on race, gender, culture, and/or sexual orientation, training for culturally competent faculty and/or staff; teacher education and professional development for cultural competence; strategies and activities to integrate diversity and inclusion; the challenges of actualizing anti-racist teaching practices.

CONFERENCE LIBGUIDE

<https://bcc-cuny.libguides.com/c3econference2022>



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THE PROVOST'S REPORT

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Bronx Community College in Partnership with Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, Congressman Richie Torres, State Senator Gustavo Rivera, NYS Assembly Member Yudelka Tapia, NYC Council Member Sanchez, and NYC Council Member Feliz are collecting donations in support of the families affected by the Bronx Fire that happened on Sunday, January 9, 2022. Donations will be accepted by Public Safety at Bronx Community College, Hall of Fame Gate entrance Monday-Saturday, January 11- 26, 2022 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Items Accepted: canned goods, gift cards, water, flashlights, batteries, cleaning products or personal hygiene products

Please note – clothing of any kind, furniture, mattresses, household items, or perishable food items will not be accepted

For more information contact, David Levers 646.468.2179.



The Assessment Review

A City University of New York (CUNY) Publication

The *Assessment Review* is an online publication that supports the work of faculty, staff, and graduate students at the City University of New York (CUNY) as well as academic institutions across the country.

The publication is a platform that showcases innovative articles focused on:

- **Improvement of teaching and learning** - Student learning, curriculum improvement, evidence-based teaching, program development and implementation, academic assessment, and inclusive pedagogy.
- **Improvement of administrative and student support services** - Student learning within nonacademic units, administrative assessment, program development and implementation, as well as service delivery.
- **Theory and policy in higher education** - Theories and policies related to assessment and evaluation in higher education and their impact on teaching, learning, and institutional effectiveness.

The *Assessment Review* also serves as a resource for the Middle States Council on Higher Education (MSCHE) and program accreditation news, past and upcoming conferences, and both system and institutional initiatives.

Sponsored by the CUNY-Wide Assessment Council.

The mission of the City University of New York (CUNY) Assessment Council is to foster a culture of assessment and evidence-based decision making within CUNY and among its constituent colleges by identifying, developing, and communicating best practices in assessment.

Important Dates:

Fall 2021

- Submission Deadline for Fall Issue: Closed
- Fall 2021 Vol.3, Issue 1 Launch: November 1, 2021

Spring 2022

- Submission Deadline for Spring Issue: February 14, 2022
- Spring 2022 Vol 3, Issue 2 Launch: April 18, 2022

Email questions to Editors-in-Chief:

Richard LaManna - Richard.LaManna@bcc.cuny.edu

Brian Buckwald - bbuckwal@hunter.cuny.edu

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 the last 3 months. Next issue deadline: March 4, 2022.