THE PROVOST'S REPORT

April 2022

Volume 2 Issue 3

- A NOTE FROM THE PROVOST -SPRING AT BCC

It is difficult to believe midterms are over, signifying the first half of the Spring term is in the rear-view mirror.

It has been, as it always is at BCC, a

busy time. It is great to see more students and faculty on campus, and equally exciting to see that the strong work of our faculty continues unabated in applying for and receiving grants, forging partnerships, and developing articulation agreements.

Not surprisingly this high quality is reflected in our students, with four of our best and brightest, finalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship.

But BCC is not an island of its own; it operates in the larger world—local, national, international—that informs its work. So, as we rejoice in our successes, we must be cognizant of the problems facing our

> city, the health crisis that may not be over, the increasing political schism in this country, and the international tragedy in the Ukraine that worsens every day. It is my fervent hope that our mission, to instill in our students "the

value of informed and engaged citizenship and service," will bear fruit and our students will use their skills to address and help solve the many challenges that await them.

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

"If people did not love one another, I really don't see what use there would be in having any spring."

GRANTS, PARTNERSHIPS, ARTICULATION & SCHOLARSHIPS

BCC RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Professor Neal Phillip, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Earth Science and Environment Science and his colleague Paramita Sen, a lecturer in the Department, a \$300,000 grant. The grant covers the cost of sending 33 BCC students to research air pollution and climate change in Mumbai and New Delhi, for four weeks every January between 2023 to 2025. In addition, the grant funds a conference in the United States on climate change, all related travel costs for students and PIs, as well as the cost of research tools to measure air pollution. This is the first research grant to BCC with a study abroad component. The research activities will include installing solar powered automatic weather stations in Mumbai and the use of novel air pollution sensor platforms to understand the pollution dynamics during the dry Indian Monsoon. The prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Delhi campuses are collaborators on the grant. Dr. Brian Vant-Hull, a research scientist at City College is also one of the co-PIs. Dr. Phillip noted that it is difficult for community colleges to get research grants as it is a highly competitive process.

NY JOBS CEO COUNCIL PARTNERSHIP

With the support of the New York Jobs CEO Council, BCC and the Business and Information Systems Department have partnered with Ernst & Young (EY), a multinational professional services organization, to accept Computer Information Systems AAS students into an immersive, 12-week paid apprenticeship, with the ultimate goal being continued employment upon successful completion. The first cohort of four students began their apprenticeships on January 31, 2022. EY has already expressed an interest in recruiting a second cohort of students for spring 2023 apprenticeship positions.

GOOGLE PARTNERS WITH BCC AND 3 OTHER CUNY SCHOOLS TO BOLSTER DIGITAL LITERACY

The Grow with Google HSI (Hispanics Serving Institutions) Career Readiness program will see \$2 million allocated in a partnership with Bronx Community College and three other CUNY schools (Guttman Community College, Hostos Community College, and Borough of Manhattan Community College), all of which historically have served students of color, in particular Latino students. The goal of the partnership is to bridge the technological gap that Latino students encounter when trying to enter the workforce.

This initiative will provide a semester- long in person and online digital skills training program including career workshops, career counseling, and instruction on design thinking, project management and professional brand building. It will help students get ready to walk into either an internship or job. Hopefully maybe even one with Google!

Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Lester Rápalo said, "BCC and other CUNY community college students will be participating in this nationwide program. [The program] is transformative! After students graduate with an AS or BS degree students can also apply for a 6-month (6-10 PM) internship with a Google career program which will put them in excellent position for a position in the digital world."

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE AWARDED \$1.5 MILLION MELLON FOUNDATION GRANT TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE HUMANITIES JOB OPENINGS

Sarah Lawrence College, in partnership with Bronx Community College, has been awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to rethink the humanities through the lens of climate and environmental justice and to develop creative, collaborative pedagogies to address the climate crisis. The award was the largest programmatic grant in Sarah Lawrence history and supports the nascent Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment (SLICE).

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant and for the continued support from the Mellon Foundation," said Sarah Lawrence President Cristle Collins Judd. "It recognizes not only the urgency and need for action around the climate crisis and environmental justice, but also the value of and need for the humanities in all areas of our lives. And it's a clear vote of confidence in the innovative work of our faculty and students."

"I'm so pleased that this grant will foster further collaboration and an expanded partnership with the faculty and students of Bronx Community College," said President Judd. In March 2021, Sarah Lawrence established the Bridges Program, a transfer partnership with Bronx Community College and Westchester Community College to establish new pathways for talented students from community college to Sarah Lawrence.

Sarah Lawrence and Bronx Community College will spend the three year grant period co-creating in several key areas: bringing students from both institutions together for new interdisciplinary curricula, project-based learning, and programming; building a SLICE event series and student symposium; launching an inter-institutional "Climate Justice and the Arts" exhibition, slated for Spring 2024; and supporting students as they collaborate with local environmental organizations, among other initiatives. <u>https://www.sarahlawrence.edu/news-events/news/2021-03-10-sarah-lawrence-college-partners-</u> with-bronx-and-westchester-community-colleges-to-establish-transfer-pipeline-fs.html

OFFSHORE WIND POWER/GREEN ENERGY GRANT

CUNY CENTRAL awarded Bronx Community College a \$38,000 grant through its Offshore Wind Power/Green Energy. This award centers on curricular development of electric vehicle courses as well as equipment and minor capital remodeling of Guggenheim garage (GU 107). Mr. Clement Drummond, Director of the Automotive Technology program, is the PI for this project.

BRONX SEMI-FINALIST IN 2022U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S IDEAS (Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students)

Professor Andy Rowan, who has long been a vociferous advocate for our students' study abroad, received notification from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, that his proposal has made it to the semi-final round. He will be submitting a final application for Phase Two including a calendar of activities, monitoring and evaluation plan, budget documents and other components by May 31, 2022. It is anticipated that the finalists will be announced in July 2022.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENT: JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rationale:

In support of individuals who have been involved in the criminal justice system as they pursue academic and professional opportunities, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice (John Jay) Institute for Justice and Opportunity and John Jay Division of Continuing and Professional Studies are partnering with Bronx Community College (BCC). This agreement serves to reaffirm that the knowledge, skills and competencies obtained in the Navigator Certificate in Human Services and Community Justice program meet the credit-granting requirements for BCC. When students who have successfully complete the Navigator Certificate program enroll at BCC, they will be awarded college credit that reflects their learning as codified in this agreement.

Purpose:

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a pathway to the Associate in Applied Science in Human Services (AAS Human Services) program for participants of the John Jay College Institute for Justice and Opportunity's Navigator Certificate in Human Services and Community Justice (the Navigator Certificate). Participants of the Navigator Certificate program must still meet BCC admissions requirements. Participants who complete and earn the Navigator Certificate can earn academic credits in the noted BCC Human Services programs.

BCC STUDENTS EXCEL IN HIGHLY COMPETITIVE JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships program selected four BCC students from 1,200 applicants at 180 community colleges in 35 states as finalists to receive a scholarship worth \$55,00 per year.

The money will be used to transfer to a four-year institution pursuing any area of study.

The stellar BCC semifinalists are Michael Aidoo, Ekinadose Elizabeth Asemota, Gabriel Morillo and Haouo Sanfo. Ekinadose is the current SGA President; Gabriel was SGA's President last year.

We are so proud of these students for their selection as finalists in this prestigious scholarship competition! They were selected based on exceptional academic ability, financial need, persistence, service to others and leadership. The Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship recipients will be announced in May.



FACULTY & STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

PUBLICATIONS

Deborah Lewittes (Art and Music): Berthold Lubetkin's Highpoint II and the Jewish Contribution to Modern English Architecture Shaping the City to Come: Rethinking Modern Architecture and Town Planning in England, c. 1934-51. Liverpool, England; Liverpool University Press, 2022.

Manny Lopez (Associate Dean for Student Development): "Rationale for Designing a Life Purposes Heuristic Informed by Dignity Therapy for Community College Students." in K. Tobin & K. Alexakos (Eds.), *Transforming Learning and Teaching: Heuristics for Educative and Responsible Practices* (pp. 311-322). Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill Publications, 2021.

Kevin Martillo Viner (World Languages and Cultures): "Spanish imperfect subjunctive form – se: possible identity marker for Spaniards?" *Revista Española de Lingüística Aplicada/Spanish Journal of Applied Linguistics*. Advance online publication, 2022, http://doi.org/10.1075/resla.19042.mar

Kevin Martillo Viner (World Languages and Cultures): "Generational Differences in the Placement of Clitic se in New York City Spanish." *International Journal of Bilingualism*, 25(5), 1460-1472, doi: 2021, https://doi.org/10.1177/13670069211016546

Nicole Williams and Emma Antobam-Ntekudzi (Library): "Incorporating Race-Centered & Trauma-Informed Practices into the Reference Interview." *The Community College Library: Instruction and Reference*, eds. Janet Pinkley and Kaela Casey, Association of College & Research Libraries, 2022, pp. 51–62.

PRESENTATIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nicole Williams and Emma Antobam-Ntekudzi. (Library): "*Race-Centered & Trauma-Informed Practices: Creating Inclusive and Equitable Librarian-Student Interactions in the Library.*" Bronx Community College Conference on Community College Excellence, January 21, 2022.

Nicole Williams (Library): was accepted into the City University of New York's 2022 Faculty Fellowship Publication Program.



BCC DESIGN STUDIO

Lisa Amowitz has worked at Bronx Community College since 1996. She is the Director of the Digital Design AAS degree program and teaches upper-level courses. In addition, she is a political activist, exhibiting artist, book cover designer and writer. She has published three award-winning young adult novels and contributed to a young adult anthology released in 2021 titled, *UNBOUND: Stories of Love, Transformation and Monsters*, currently a semi-finalist for Ippy Award for Best Anthology. The Provost's Report staff recently caught up with Professor Amowitz and asked about the Design Studio.



Briefly, tell us the history of the BCC Design Studio and its purpose.

The Bronx Community College Design Studio started as a pipe dream of my former colleague, the now happily retired Jeanine Kelley-Williams. Together we talked about the idea of a functioning design studio to provide real-life experiential learning for our Digital Design majors. We pitched it over the years, got some interest, but the idea never went anywhere until Kenneth Adams, our former Workforce Dean, applied for a special CUNY grant and thus, the Studio launched in the Spring of 2019 under the supervision of distinguished alum David Ulloa with six interns. The Studio started by serving local community start-ups and worked with Career Services on some internal graphics. It was a huge success and the work produced by our first interns garnered enough praise to convince Fashion Institute of Technology to sign an articulation agreement with the Digital Design program.

Sadly, the grant that created the Studio was not renewed. As we scrambled for funding, the Studio closed for Fall of 2019, but then reopened in 2020 through the largesse of President Isekenegbe who immediately recognized its potential and came up with the funding. For a variety of reasons, in February 2020, three of the original interns took the helm as studio supervisors.

Can you describe some of the activities in the Design Studio and how they benefit the institution in general, and our students in particular.



The Design Studio's first and foremost function is to provide a competitive high quality, paid internship working on real-life projects for actual clients. This creates an incentive for current students. The Studio also functions as a great recruiting tool for the College by showcasing the excellent design skills of our students to potential applicants, the community-at-large, and four-year institutions. It also provides excellent pro-bono design services to local start-ups, non-profits and on-campus constituencies such as Career Services, Disability Services, FYS, Admissions, and the Digital Design program itself.

How did the Design Studio fare during the COVID pandemic?

Because of the diligence and dedication of the original team of interns who took over as managers, the pivot to remote work was incredibly smooth. Since March 2020, the Studio has met and worked 100% online. Though we are hopeful it will soon be able to work in a hybrid capacity, its expected growth in Fall 2023 will necessitate a continued online workflow, along with more in-person work. The Studio has thrived through the pandemic and is currently in its sixth semester of operations due to the core team and the continued support President Isekenegbe.



In honor of Women's History Month, the Hall of Fame Art Gallery at Bronx Community College is pleased to present the exhibition *Ruth Bass: Portraits of Women, 1974–2001*, now on display in the Roscoe Brown Student Center [BC], room 211.

A faculty member at BCC from 1965 to 2020, Ruth Gilbert Bass (1938–2021) was not only an educator, but also a curator, critic, and artist. The eighteen works on display span four decades, allowing viewers to appreciate the variety of sitters Bass portrayed throughout the years, while following her stylistic development over time. Portraits of Women will run from March 7 through April 28. Gallery hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 9 AM to 5 PM.

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, contact gallery director Dr. Andrea Ortuño at andrea.ortuno@bcc.cuny.edu.

(From BCC Update 3.11.2022)

DR. BARBARA FLORES-CABALLERO



Dr. Barbara Flores-Caballero is a Latina assistant professor in the Department of Education & Academic Literacy at Bronx Community College. Her passion is inspiring, motivating, and influencing future leaders of our society. She is also a researcher, author, and international writer and an accredited member of the Women Leaders of the Americas Network of the Documentation Sciences Foundation. The Provost's Report staff caught with Professor Flores-Caballero and asked her a few questions.

You have a new book coming out whose English title is Emotional EduLeader. Tell us about the book: Why you wrote it; what is the premise of the book; what you hope to achieve in the book.

I wrote the book in the wake of the pandemic because I began to see that parents were taking on the role of teachers and teachers were lacking tools and skills to deal with the situation, just like the parents. I conducted a survey of over 100 profession-

als and caregivers of young people, teenagers between the ages of 13 and 19. I asked these professionals about their successes and their challenges, and how they hoped to foster a positive emotional change in the lives of the young students. Most said their successes were due to good communication, understanding, and knowing how to listen to our teenagers.

Interestingly, as they specified their challenges, they indicated that young people often reject communication. Caregivers and professionals cited as examples situations where young people had a lack of interest, rejected help, evidenced unhealthy attitudes, behavior issues, including stubbornness. When I asked about the causes they said that certain elements stood out: the bad influence of some peers; struggles with technology; unhealthy social environments; and the "support" received from parents. The need to integrate techniques and strategies of emotional intelligence and educational leadership for the emotional, social, and educational success of our young people was quite clear.

The theme or premise of Emotional EduLeader is the presentation of a formula for becoming the type of leader a young person admires and respects.

What I hope to achieve is to positively impact our international community, here and in Latin America. I wish to impart valuable information with practical content that adult leaders can implement in their homes and schools to transform knowledge into power and achieve changes that positively impact our students and society.

You have also served as Host & Producer of a podcast, "Educational Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Specialist" for almost three years. What is the purpose of the podcast? Can you describe some of the topics you have explored over the years? Your target audience? How the pandemic affected your choice of topics?

The purpose of the podcast is to educate and to transform knowledge with new alternatives that contribute to the development and growth of our society. The audience that tunes in to my podcast is approximately 70% women and 30% men. My target audience is mostly caregivers of adolescents—educators, parents, professionals, and anyone else who is interested in learning more about Emotional Intelligence and Educational Leadership. The podcast has been quite successful. In 2020 it was the winner of the Latin Podcast Award 2020 in Education. Among the topics are the impact of emotional intelligence in education; hope in times of adversity; emotional intelligence in the face of social distancing; the power of morning routines; activating your motivation. I've had the pleasure of hosting interviews with amazing and dedicated people: Carmen Jimenez on effective leadership; Dr. Ofelia García, an expert in bilingual education; Dr. Karen García Pérez on stress in organizations; Dr. Tonya Johnson on making a difference with autistic children; Dr. Edna Oyola on social responsibility; Maria

Acciona on "Women Don't Do Drama, We Do Business," María Francisca Sanhueza on "Health in 4 Dimensions" The topics always center around emotional intelligence and educational leadership; however, during the pandemic I began to open doors in companies by establishing the importance of emotional intelligence and leadership in the workplace. All of the interviews, with the exception of two, are in Spanish.

You serve as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education and Academic Literacy. Earlier in your career you taught mathematics to high school students, what was behind the change in disciplines?

Fresh out of college, I eagerly started working as a math teacher in Puerto Rico. I remember when I asked one of my 10th graders for the answer to a problem on the board and he responded in a defiant tone. "You answer it yourself. If you know the answer, why ask?" I told him, "no problem" and continued with the class. Later, during group activity, I signaled to a young man to join his group, and as soon as I did that, he jumped up angrily and threw his desk on the floor. Enraged, he started yelling, "I will not do anything! I don't care about this *&^% class! Go &&^** yourself!!" Then, he began to approach me aggressively. I looked him straight in the eyes, yelled at him, "Don't come near me, because I don't know how I'm going to respond!" He grabbed me by the throat and pressed me against the blackboard. He didn't stop until a young woman in the room called out his name and managed to get him to free me. This event was so traumatic that it led me to make the decision to leave teaching

Then, my professional course changed (or so I thought), because I decided to venture into graduate studies in the field of human resources, and it was then that I had the opportunity to learn about the subject of emotional intelligence. Everything began to make sense, and I remembered that young man. I thought how would that situation have been different if I had been able to connect with this young man by using my interpersonal skills? The reality is that, with this new knowledge, I felt ready to handle any interpersonal situation, so after finishing my graduate studies in that field, I returned to my calling: Teaching.

In 2020 you published a paper in the Hispanic Educational Technology Services (HETS) Journal, "Factors and Strategies for Student Retention." It seems retention of college students is a problem here and everywhere. What are some things you learned while writing the article and how might that knowledge help BCC and other colleges struggling with retention?

I learned there is a gap in "direction" when a student graduates from high school and enters college. Many lose contact with a helpful counselor or favorite teacher or close friends. To remedy, I would create a program called "Connecting with You" or perhaps "Godmothers" and "Godfathers," adult mentors who can guide, serve as models, help and support this new student entering college. Professors would be part of the process: calling students, sending them text messages or emails to help them through the transition.

Additionally, I suggested making use of social networks and the websites of departments to share valuable information, upload podcast interviews of successful students, including stories of our graduating students to inspire others. My aim is to enhance the Latino community, through television that features short segments of the benefits, experiences and life-changing qualities of a college like BCC. Equally important would be to build a bridge between advisors and professors so they can conspire in ways to help students. And of course, alumni and students could participate in workshops, produce recordings on campus with easy accessibility for students so they could hear from those who have gone before them.

What are the struggles of Latina instructors in American colleges?

Bronx Community College has a student demographic of 58% Hispanic/Latino population. In my experience, it has been a pleasure modeling leadership opportunities to our Latino/x students. Institutionally, some of my challenges have been limited mentorship in promotion and tenure, which is reflected on the 2018 COACHE Survey. In my professional practice, there is a need for more professional development to strengthen and enhance scholarship among faculty of color.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

Bronx Community College was the site of Library Association of the City University of New York's (LACUNY) 2022 Dialogues on February 22nd. Conference Organizer was Professor Nelson Santana and the title of the conference, "The Interdisciplinary Nature of Librarianship." 25 Feb. 2022.

Black History

Honoring the legacy of the Black diaspora across the world during Black History Month, the conference hosted two scholars, Dr. Marlene Gaynair (Harvard University) and Professor William Gibbons (City College of New York - CUNY).

Diasporic Caribbean Connections: A Conversation with Dr. Marlene Gaynair

Dr. Marlene Gaynair is a cultural and social historian of the Black Atlantic. She is the William Lyon Mackenzie King Postdoctoral Fellow, Canada Program at Harvard University. During the conversation, Dr. Gaynair and Professor Santana discussed Dr. Gaynair's research, her current summer project, and how this research relates to diasporic community and community building.

YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pbg2lpOyZvg

A Conversation with Professor William Gibbons

Professor William Gibbons is a librarian and archivist curator of Archives and Special Collections at The City College of New York. Earlier this year he was awarded a 2022 "I Love My Librarian Award." During this sit-down, Professor Nelson Santana and Professor Jeffrey Delgado (Kingsborough Community College-CUNY) had a conversation with Professor Gibbons in which he reflects upon his career as an academic librarian, his personal experience, and the contributions he has made. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DESTGraxflk

\$10,000 American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grant

Professor Emma Antobam-Ntekudzi and Professor Nelson Santana of the Library secured a \$10,000 grant. The librarians teamed up with editors, writers, and photographers of the cultural digital platform ESENDOM to create an exhibit that highlights Dominican activism in New York, Santiago, and Santo Domingo. Transnational Dominican Activism: Documenting Grassroots Social Movements aims to address one question: What shape has Dominican activism taken in the twelve-year existence of ESENDOM? Founded in 2009 by Emmanuel Espinal and Professor Santana, and serving as the starting point for this project, ESENDOM is an online bilingual (English and Spanish) platform that documents people's experiences from the Dominican Republic through articles, interviews, oral history, photographs, and video. ESENDOM's team of journalists, writers, artists, photographers, and videographers have documented some of the most important social movements of the past 12 years to impact the transnational Dominican community.

BCC Library was selected as one of 200 libraries nationwide for the American Library Association's American Rescue Plan: Humanities Grants for Libraries opportunity, an emergency relief program to assist libraries that have been adversely affected by the pandemic. With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the College will use these funds to anchor itself in the community as a strong humanities institution.







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THE PROVOST'S REPORT

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Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D., represents New York's 16 District, which includes Northern Bronx and areas of Westchester. Bowman, born and raised in NYC, was raised by a single mother and spent his early years in public housing and rent-controlled apartments. He graduated from University of New Haven and worked as a crisis intervention teacher in A Bronx public school. Later, he earned a master's in guidance counseling from Mercy College and doctorate in education from Manhattanville College. Bowman founded and served as principal at the Cornerstone Academy for Social Action (CASA) for ten years where he worked to ensure advanced student involvement in sciences. technology, engineering, art and math. Bowman was elected to Congress in 2020 on a platform of transformative progressive policies to improve the lives of those who have legislated out of the American dream. The Congressman is dedicated to passing visionary policy that infuses climate justice with economic and racial justice and to highlighting the importance of research and investing in communities of color. Dr. Bowman was keynote speaker at BCC's Ninth Annual Conference on Community College Excellence, "What Makes Community College Extraordinary?"

Quote: It makes me happy to see people in love with learning and doing their best to create environments conducive to learning and thriving.

Quote: The work that you are doing will ultimately save our democracy and help us all to thrive. Peace & Love to you all. (Flashed peace sign.)

Conference Program: <u>https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/bccs-ninth-an-nual-conference-on-community-college-excellence-c3e-novem-ber-18-2021/program-1.</u>

Keynote Speaker Pages: <u>https://bcc-cuny.digication.com/</u> bccs-ninth-annual-conference-on-community-college-excellence-c3e-november-18-2021/keynote-speakers

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: May 2, 2022.