

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – APRIL 2022**

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It is hard to believe that we are less than six weeks away from the end of the semester. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful spring break and that you are recharged as we forge to our favorite time of year COMMENCEMENT. The College's 62<sup>nd</sup> Commencement Ceremony will be in person on BCC's Ohio Field on Friday, June 3, 2022. I know you join me in my excitement for our first in-person commencement in two years. Let us garner our energy and enthusiasm for this momentous occasion as we encourage our students to get them over that last academic hurdle toward the finish line.

**FALL '22 PLANNING:** Registration for summer classes and fall 2022 is open and ongoing. Please continue encouraging your students to register now. The college is offering a variety of modalities based on students' needs including in-person, hybrid and online courses.

**ENROLLMENT:** As of this week we have 1,626 students registered for the fall 2022 semester compared to 1,568 students registered at this time last year. While we are down in freshman, transfer and readmit categories, we are early in the enrollment period. We are ahead in our summer 2022 semester enrollment by 190 students, compared to the same time last year. We will work to analyze and tweak our approaches, specifically targeting the incoming student population of freshmen and transfer students.

The college's reorganization of the Strategic Enrollment Management & Retention Committees (SEMRC) is underway. The guiding principles of SEMRC are to develop a culture of enrollment growth, stabilize our short-term enrollment growth, identify new and emerging academic degree programming, revise inefficient processes, facilitate successful degree and certificate completion strategies, prepare students for successful career outcomes, and raise the overall profile of college.

I am heartened by the collaborative and invested efforts of the entire college to improve and increase our enrollment numbers. In response to a call by Provost Rapolo and VP Bernard Gantt, 23 faculty agreed to serve on one of the three enrollment committees. Many of these participating faculty members also supported the Registrar's Office and staff by pitching in to help with Registration Rush Week, a records review process to certify Graduation candidates. My thanks to the chairpersons and faculty for partnering in our enrollment initiatives.

To further facilitate our enrollment activities we are in the process of establishing a 24-7 contact center that will be manned by staff. The contact center will serve as a hub for making targeted outreach to students on various issues.

**CUNY ONLINE:** I am happy to report that BCC has been selected to participate in the initial phase of CUNY Online (CUNYO). Fifteen (15) proposals were submitted for the first round and eight (8) were selected, including BCC's Associate Degree in Cybersecurity. My thanks to Dr. Jalil Mohgaddasi, Dean Alex Ott and Dr. Jordy Getman Eraso and the entire team who worked on this proposal. This is an outstanding result.

**BUDGET:** The New York State FY23 Budget was released and is very positive. The NYC budget was released this week and further details will be shared as they become available.

**CAMPUS FACILITIES:** The search for the administrative superintendent is winding down and strong final candidates have been identified. It is anticipated that final interviews and campus walk throughs will take place over the next two weeks.

The lighting replacement in Meister will begin over the summer with targeted floor-by-floor work to minimize occupant impact. Nichols Hall and Colston Hall demonstration installations have been substantially completed. GML dome is in final stages; work on the Spanish tile portion of the roof and the windows will start pending receipt of materials. Work on the Community Hall exterior continues according to plan. Work on the replacement Colston water main replacement is completed.

Planning is underway with the book vendor, Akademos for the fall semester. The College is planning a soft launch of an insourced shuttle service utilizing 2 shuttles. An RFP is pending for a new food service vendor. In the meantime, University Healthy Choice (AuBon Pain) will be on a month-to-month basis. Earth Week continues with a shredding event on Friday.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** Bronx Community College received a \$500,000 grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation to join its entrepreneurial program Blackstone LaunchPad Network (BLN). Through this innovative program BCC is creating a culture of entrepreneurship in every corner of the campus. The grant provides students with an opportunity to build next generation companies and careers. It helps them succeed as entrepreneurs and contribute to the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

As part of the grant, 4 BCC students: Jennifer Arteta, Medical Lab Technician-December 2022, Kiran Khalid, Psychology and Computer Science-2023, Mariyam Jones, Business Administration- December 2021 and Elhadj Barry, Biology- 2021 were selected to attend the Annual Blackstone LaunchPad four-day event in San Francisco in April. It was a great way to meet with CEOs of startup companies, venture capitalists and web developers, among others.

Grow with Google/Career Readiness Program offers BCC students an opportunity to earn money while increasing their ability to find the tools and training they need to secure jobs and paid internships in their field of study. The program addresses how to build digital skills, explore career paths, land a great job, succeed at a new job and start their own business.

In collaboration with Queensboro Community College, Alex Ott, Michael McShea and Madelaine Centeno have been meeting to discuss building pathways between credit and non-credit. This is a national initiative with other community colleges who are also looking at strengthening bridges between credit and non-credit.

The following upcoming Career Development Workshops: NYPD & BCC Recruitment and Health & Wellness Event, will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup>; McDonald's Informational/Recruitment Event is scheduled for Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at noon; CUNY Career Launch is currently underway as is the CDA Graduate Career Readiness & Placement Assistance. Please encourage our students to take advantage of these initiatives.

**STUDENT LIFE:** I am proud to announce that two BCC Phi Theta Kappa students were selected as members of the 2022 PTK All New York Academic Team in recognition of their Scholarly Achievements. Gabriel Morillo – Criminal Justice and Abubakar Mohammed – Business Administration. Please join me in congratulating them on this significant achievement.

Student Government Elections are now underway. The campaign period runs from April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. Polls open on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and close May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. SERC will certify the results

between May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The Election results will be announced to the BCC campus community and CUNY Central on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**UPCOMING EVENTS: RUN THE BRONX RETURNS:** On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Bronx Community College will host the 44th Annual Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Hall of Fame “Run the Bronx”. And for the first time since the pandemic, the second oldest footrace in the city will be held live on the campus of BCC and the surrounding neighborhoods in the borough! The event hosts a 10K or 5K Runs and 2-Mile Walk. Register here <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Bronx/RunTheBronx?remMeAttempt=>

The Bronx Community College (BCC) Foundation Scholarship Gala is the College’s leading fundraising event in support of BCC students. The Gala is scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, 2022. It attracts approximately 300 industry leaders, educators, entrepreneurs, government officials, community partners and a host of friends and supporters. I hope to see you there.

**COMMENCEMENT:** Commencement will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022. This year’s ceremony will occur in-person. We are working diligently to prepare for this favorite event on campus and looking forward to hosting this momentous occasion for our students. In anticipation of our commencement ceremony, the college will host its second annual campus clean-up on Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> Save the date! The committee is being reconvened and will meet shortly. Let’s get the campus in shape for our first live commencement in two years. Stay tuned for more details shortly.

As we approach the end of the semester and look toward graduation, I want us to be reminded of the important roles we have in the lives of our students. We are in the home stretch of finishing this challenging academic year. Let’s work together these last few weeks to get our students over the finish line!