

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – February 2022**  
*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

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Spring classes are well underway, and I am thrilled to see students back in the classrooms and more faculty and staff back on campus. Now that we are pivoting to an increased campus presence and hybrid modality, I am reminded of what the campus was like prior to the pandemic. The atmosphere and energy that existed on campus when students were engaged in discussions while walking to class or mingling in Roscoe Brown is slowly returning. I am really looking forward to when we can fully meet in person and once again learn and work in an environment rich with energy.

We will meet virtually on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am - 11:00 am for our first Town Hall this semester. During the Town Hall we will discuss campus updates followed by a questions & answers session. Please register [here](#) to participate.

**ENROLLMENT:** For the week ending February, 22<sup>nd</sup> the college enrollment stands at a total headcount of 7,148 for 4,512 FTEs. This decrease from spring 2021 continues the downward enrollment trend across the University and nationwide. These numbers represent an approximate enrollment decline of 17%, with corresponding declines in revenue. Further details regarding our enrollment can be found [here](#). At the upcoming Town Hall meeting, I plan to discuss some changes to our enrollment management to further support our goal of increasing enrollment.

**ACADEMIC MOMENTUM 2.0:** As many of you know, we were joined at Convocation last week by CUNY Associate Vice Chancellor Donna Linderman, who presented on the CUNY Academic Momentum 2.0 (AcMo 2.0) Campaign. This major CUNY campaign will focus on student degree completion, particularly in the context of students transferring from community to senior college. For additional information about AcMo 2.0, including a copy of the presentation from Convocation, please contact Associate Dean Alexander Ott at [alexander.ott@bcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alexander.ott@bcc.cuny.edu).

In news directly related to AcMo 2.0, I am happy to report that Lehman College has recently approved a significant change to their admission policy for transfer students. Current Lehman policy has a 2.3 standard for AAS graduates and recalculates GPA using all previous college coursework. The revised policy will eliminate these two requirements, ensuring admission to Lehman for all BCC graduates with a 2.0 BCC GPA. Pending approval by the Board of Trustees, this change will remove a barrier that has disadvantaged a small but notable percentage of our graduates. This change was initiated through the Bronx Transfer Affinity Group ([BTAG](#)), of which BCC is a founding and very active member. Contact Dean Ott for additional information.

**LECTURER INITIATIVE:** The University has worked diligently to renew the academic core in support of being a student-centered and equity-driven university. This has led the University to create an initiative to assist in balancing the proportion of instructional hours taught by full-time faculty. One of the primary goals of the plan is to increase the number of full-time faculty members whose primary focus is teaching and direct student engagement. To that end, the CUNY Full-time Lecturer Initiative aims to significantly increase the number of full-time instructor lines by adding to campus base budgets and utilizing a portion of the funds currently used to hire adjunct teaching faculty. In the first round of this initiative, BCC has been assigned seven (7) of the lecturer lines. After appropriate consultation with department chairs, the lecturer lines were assigned to the following departments: Art & Music, Biology/Medical Lab Tech, Chemistry/Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences/Economics, Engineering/ Cyber Security, Nursing/LPN. The Provost is currently working with the chairpersons of

these academic departments to begin the recruitment process in filling those lines. More information will be forthcoming.

**STUDENT UPDATES:** Congratulations to our new Student Government President, Elizabeth Ekinadose Asemota - Public Health, newly elected to serve for the spring semester.

Bronx Community College is proud to have four of our students accepted into the Kaplan Leadership Program: Aïssata Diop – Engineering Science, Gabriel Morillo – Criminal Justice; Fambougouri Diane – Engineering Science and Elhadj Boubacar Barry – Science with a Biology Sub-plan. Please join me in congratulating our future leaders.

**RE-OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE UPDATES:** Work of the committee continues as the College works to ready our facilities for increased occupancy. Please review our Spring 2022 reopening guidelines [HERE](#). Efforts are currently focused on community development and are oriented toward working directly with the campus community to identify priority needs, provide sound communication, and develop a collaborative, personalized response that optimizes resources, and leverages the diverse knowledge and skill set of the campus community.

The committee has been meeting routinely throughout the pandemic and continues to meet monthly as we slowly and cautiously begin to live with the Covid-19 virus. The Committee closely monitors the local transmission rates and emerging trends. As reported in the NYS Comptroller Report: “Recent Trends and Impact of COVID-19 in The Bronx<sup>1</sup> and on the NYC Department of Health website and CUNY COVID-19 Safety Tracker<sup>2</sup>, while the Bronx did not have the highest rate of COVID cases in the boroughs, transmission spikes and outcomes were severe. The CUNY Bronx Community College cumulative data from August 2021 through February 2022 shows 117 positive cases from 6271 tests administered or a 1.9% overall positivity rate. CDC has confirmed once a day cleaning help maintain a healthy facility. Disinfecting is used if someone has tested positive within the last 24 hours and the area is a high traffic area or otherwise cannot remain dormant.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** As we conclude the celebration of Black history month, we want to acknowledge all of our students, faculty and staff of African American descent who have contributed to the history and growth of our country. One of the best qualities of the Bronx is the diversity of our population; we strive to celebrate our rich diversity year-round with various and thought-provoking events and programs that engage our students, faculty and staff.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Commencement will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022. This year’s ceremony will occur in-person. We are working diligently and are looking forward to hosting this momentous occasion for our students.

March is Women’s History Month, with our increased presence on campus, please be on the lookout for event announcements occurring around campus.

Bronx Community College will host the 44th annual Run the Bronx, a community health event that includes 10K & 5K runs, and a 2-mile fitness walk beginning on Saturday, May 7, 2022. This year it is live!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/osdc/recent-trends-and-impact-covid-19-bronx>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/safety-tracker/>

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.

In closing, we are fast approaching the two-year mark of the pandemic forced shutdown and move to a remote work and learning environment. These past two years have been challenging and rocky. We became flexible in how we teach and work, while also adapting to new technologies and ways of life. When the pandemic began it was scary and we were thrust into a whole new world almost overnight. Little did we know then that nearly two years later, we would still be coping with the challenges that COVID has brought. Nonetheless, together, we accomplished great work and created an online virtual learning community in the interest of continuity for our students. It is a great example of what we can achieve, when we work together. I look forward to our continued work on behalf of our students as we return to our on-campus community.