

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – February 2023**  
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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.

**ENROLLMENT:** For the week ending February 21<sup>st</sup> the college enrollment stands at a total headcount of 6,820, for 4,296 FTEs. This decrease from spring 2022 represents an approximate 5.5% decline in headcount and FTEs and continues the downward enrollment trend across the community colleges. To mitigate this trend, we will continue implementing outreach strategies to foster retention among our incoming students by utilizing the Integrated Communication Center to make strategic calls to these various categories of students and link them with the appropriate advising staff or service areas. Some categories like new students and new freshman show some promising upticks, however, we still have work to do and must come together as a community to grow our enrollment and retention.

**BUDGET:** Our enrollment decline and revenue collection have impacted the fiscal health of our institution. As repeatedly communicated to the college community, federal stimulus funds received over the pandemic have helped offset our deficits to date. Furthermore, as per a University directive in December 2022, the college was required to find a 2% savings reduction from the FY 2023 budget, amounting to \$1.5 million.

As you know, CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer, Hector Batista circulated a memo on February 3, 2023 implementing an additional \$100 million savings reduction plan University-wide. This translates to a further 5%-6% reduction in BCC's 2024 budget, or a \$4.2 million decrease in the college's budget next year. Achieving this outcome will not be easy. CUNY has directed a closer look at the adjunct faculty budget, collection rates, enrollment and retention. In this regard, the Enrollment Management Committees and Bursar are actively working on plans to pinpoint opportunities for improvement in all aspects.

As part of the University's overall plan, a hiring freeze has been implemented and the centralized Vacancy Review Board (VRB) has been re-established as well as a campus VRB committee. BCC's Human Resources office is working on the protocols for VRB submissions.

BCC must have its budget savings plan submitted to CUNY by March 17<sup>th</sup>. Prior to the submission, a draft plan will be shared with all of our campus stakeholders for consultation.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS:** Our students have been busy with various on and off-campus activities. One of their major efforts was their attendance at the NYS Association of Black and Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislators 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Legislative Conference in Albany, NY from 2/18-2/20. CUNY's participation and attendance at this conference is part of our lobbying efforts and the Student Government Association members in attendance included: Aryanna Chiraunjilal, Charlotte Lezama, Mathilda Asemota, Trai Williams, Collins Anokye, and Rapheal Ocran.

A Club Fair was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, which saw a turnout of nearly 200 students representing 20 clubs, along with 10 faculty advisors. It was great to see so many students in attendance engaging with campus activities.

### **MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

The College's Annual 2022 report is now available on the website. <https://www.flipsnack.com/bronco2020/empowering-individuals-strengthening-communities.html>

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:**

BCC was awarded \$2,018,019 in NYS Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) grant funds: \$1,519,573 over two years in support of the Uptown Future of Work Centers. BCC is the lead and in partnership with Hostos and BMCC, we will work collaboratively to provide allied health training across the three campuses.

BCC's Design Studio received \$498,446 over two years in support of the first student-run graphic design studio on any CUNY campus. It provides professional development and experiential education opportunities to BCC Digital Design majors.

### **PARTNERSHIPS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION:**

Through a partnership with Indeed.com and PCs for People, Workforce Development received 150 laptops for continuing education students. In addition, a new partnership with Jacobi Hospital is offering an internship opportunity in phlebotomy training with the possibility of future employment for students.

A new training with the Local 3 Electrical Union started January 7 with a contract of \$42,000 for two sections of the Project Management program (with three courses: Basic PM, Advanced PM, and PM Exam Prep). BCC provided Project Management training to selected students in CUNY colleges and enrolled a total of 400 students to date. The program prepares students for project management positions in various industries; 95% of students who completed have obtained an industry certification in Master Project Manager (MPM) under the American Academy of Project Management (AAPM). This initiative is now channeled to the CUNY colleges in the credit program (stackable credentials).

In addition, BCC is partnering with the NYC Dept of Environmental Protection to offer project management classes beginning in July 2023.

**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.

As we approach the three-year mark of the pandemic forced shutdown and move to a remote work and learning environment, I am proud to reflect on all that we have achieved together. These past few years have been a true test of our adaptability, as we embraced new technologies and found creative ways to teach and work. Though we faced uncertainty and challenges, we accomplished great things. Looking ahead, we have another milestone to celebrate: 2023 Commencement. We have come a long way, and we should take this opportunity to reflect on our progress and appreciate the hard work and dedication of

our faculty and staff. Despite the obstacles that we still face, including budgetary constraints and infrastructure needs with a reduced workforce, I am confident that we can continue to succeed if we work together. Let's keep our spirits high and continue meeting the needs of our students, who rely on us more than ever.