

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – MARCH 2022**

*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

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We marked the two year “anniversary” of the Covid-19 pandemic’s initial ravages and the College’s move to a mostly online modality. Now, we are cautiously contemplating life with Covid-19 and looking to transition from pandemic to endemic. We are not fully out of the woods yet, but as spring approaches we remain hopeful that we can begin to look at Covid in the rear-view mirror. As the poet Algernon Swinburne wrote, *Blossom by blossom the spring begins*. I am optimistic about the future, as we prepare for even more in-person classes for the summer and fall 2022 semesters.

**FALL ’22 PLANNING:** The College has posted its course schedule and, in an effort to align with the University’s goal of increased occupancy on campus, has increased its in-person course offerings hoping to reach a total of 70% of in-person classes and 30% online. The fall 2022 semester differs from spring 2022 in that classes offered in the hybrid modality will count toward the in-person percentages. The college will also continue to offer Hyflex courses. Currently, college-wide, in-person and hybrid courses make up 74% of the scheduled courses. Online options are at 26%.

BCC is in the process of expanding the number of degree programs that can be offered in online modality. As you know, we already have one program fully approved for online: the AA Liberal Arts and Sciences. In addition, there are a large number of degree programs in BCC governance that have proposed for online modality approval: AA English, AS Public Health, AAS Computer Information Systems, AS Education, AAS Marketing, AAS Medical Office Assistant, and the AAS Cybersecurity and Networking. In fact, the AAS and Certificate in Cybersecurity and Networking have also been proposed to be offered through the CUNY Online initiative. If accepted, this would allow for a national and perhaps even international reach for the Cyber program. This proposed expansion of online program offerings will support our enrollment for years to come by giving students more options on how to access a BCC education.

**ENROLLMENT:** A reminder that student registration for summer and fall 2022 registration is open. I am asking faculty to please encourage all your students to register for summer and fall classes. One of the College’s top priorities is to increase enrollment numbers during the 2022 summer and fall semesters. To make this possible, I am allocating resources to enhance our marketing and recruitment activities. The newly appointed VP for Enrollment Management has been tasked with rebuilding our outreach to all of our community partners and to coordinate efforts of existing pre-college programs.

**NEW VICE-PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT:** The CUNY Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Dr. Bernard Gantt as Vice President of Enrollment Management who will serve as the principal manager of the newly created division of Enrollment Management at Bronx Community College. He is now a member of the President’s Cabinet and leads various internal committees focused on student enrollment and retention. Dr. Gantt will serve as the primary advisor to the President on policies and strategic matters related to admissions, enrollment, registration, financial aid, and retention at the college. He will also oversee all early and pre-college programs. The Enrollment Management Steering Committee is already hard at work refining a strategic plan for improving BCC’s enrollment and retention. Please stay tuned for more details on the committee’s work.

**COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES:**

**BRONX CARES:** CUNY is launching a support network for students, particularly those facing unprecedented challenges brought by Covid-19. The pilot program gets its start right here in the Bronx with a collaborative effort between all three CUNY Bronx schools: BCC, Lehman and Hostos. Implementation details are still being finalized, but the plan envisions a central and integrated health and wellness network with resources to combat the impediments to student success such as, mental health

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challenges, food insecurity, homelessness, legal issues, tax awareness and many others. Providing a unified resource center equipped with the expertise and community resources to help students tackle these challenges, should support our goal of retaining and helping them reach graduation. It is hoped that the program's launch and success in the Bronx will eventually mean "CARES" access in every borough.

**RE-OCCUPANCY COMMITTEE REIMAGINED:** During the last Re-occupancy Committee meeting, I discussed reconstituting the committee. Formed during the Covid pandemic to assist with campus re-occupancy issues, the committee and three sub-committees provided invaluable feedback and suggestions for a safe return to campus. The new formulated committee will transition to a new mission as Covid restrictions begin to ease, and we begin to approach "normal." The committee will continue in its advisory capacity for input on topics surrounding the full return to in-person work and school, as we contemplate full occupancy again. I have asked Vice President and Provost Lester Rápalo and Vice President Kay Ellis to continue as Chairpersons of the committee. It is my hope to have the committee and its new mission finalized after spring break and fully reconstituted in time for fall semester 2023. Thank you to all the members continuing to serve.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Commencement will take place on Friday, June 3, 2022. This year's ceremony will occur in-person. The Commencement Committee is working diligently to prepare for this favorite event on campus and are looking forward to hosting this momentous occasion for our students.

Bronx Community College will host the 44<sup>th</sup> 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!

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.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> Bronx Community College welcomed back one of our own, an alumna of the Upward Bound Program, Pierina Sanchez. Ms. Sanchez returned to BCC for her swearing in ceremony as the College's New City Council Member, representing District 14 – Morris Heights, Fordham, and Kingsbridge. Attendees included: Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin, US Senator Chuck Schumer, NYS Attorney General Tish James, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Congressman Ritchie Torres, NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, Former NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio, and numerous other elected City, State and Federal officials. In her remarks, Council Member Sanchez stated, "My inauguration at Bronx Community College was a full circle moment. It was here at BCC's TRIO Upward Bound program, in the heart of District 14, that my journey to becoming a Council Member began."

It will not be long before we get a bit of a respite and adjourn for spring break. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful time away. For those of you not on spring break, I hope you find this a productive time during a quieter campus. When we return, we will continue our important work for the semester, and on toward commencement. We must help and encourage our students to get them over that last academic hurdle toward the ultimate finish line. Thank you all for the continued support and collaboration for BCC as we work together toward the future.