

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – MAY 2022

Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.

We are approaching the end of what has been two very challenging academic years. We faced a pandemic; and not only did we need to navigate the personal impact of the pandemic on us and our families, but we were also forced to reimagine the way we teach and engage our students to unprecedented lengths. Our tremendous success proves again, that when we work together, we can accomplish great things. Our work is not over, however; we are slowly learning to live with coronavirus and working to encourage students to return to the campus. As Jonas Salk said, *the reward for work well done, is the opportunity to do more*. I know the BCC community is up to the challenge.

FALL '22 PLANNING: Registration for summer classes and Fall 2022 is open and ongoing. Please continue encouraging your students to register. As we approach and wind down the last of Spring 2022 classes, let's all make the effort to encourage our students to register now. Why wait? The college is offering a variety of modalities based on students' needs including in-person, hybrid, and online courses.

DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIONS: Those academic departments with Chairpersons completing a three-year term held elections last week and I am happy to welcome two new Chairs: Tonya Johnson, Education and Academic Literacy and Evangelia Antonakos, Math and Computer Science. Congratulations! I look forward to working with you. Congratulations to Chris Robinson, Kathleen Urda, and Stacia Reader on their re-elections. My thanks to Michael Miller for continuing to serve as Chair of the Library Department.

ENROLLMENT: As of this week (May 9, 2022), BCC has 1,969 students registered for the Fall 2022 semester compared to 1,871 students registered at this time last year. While we are down in freshman, transfer and readmit categories, we are still early in the enrollment period. We continue to analyze and tweak our approaches, specifically targeting the incoming student population of freshmen and transfer students.

As part of the ongoing efforts of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, the Office of Communications & Marketing has created a new Recruitment Brochure as well as the 2022 BCC Value. The new recruitment brochure, bolstered by a snapshot of the facts and figures supporting the value of the BCC educational experience, will help the Admissions office to reinforce their recruitment efforts. A limited number of hard copies have been distributed, and I urge you to utilize the electronic versions of these tools to help support your respective areas.

STUDENT LIFE: Student Government Elections ended on Tuesday, May 10th, 2022. SERC is in the process of certifying the results and the outcome will be announced to the BCC campus community and CUNY Central on Friday, May 13th, 2022.

RUN THE BRONX RETURNS: On Saturday, May 7, 2022, Bronx Community College hosted the 44th Annual Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Hall of Fame "Run the Bronx." No storm could dampen the enthusiasm of all the participants. Back live for the first time since 2019, Run the Bronx had over 934 registered runners, with most of the registrants from the Bronx, but also including entries from Hawaii and as far as Bangladesh. In addition to the physical challenge of a 10K, 5K, and 2M, the run hosts a Run Pavilion that also focuses on financial health. Various vendors and recruiters participate in the Run Pavilion and share their information.

A special thank you to our sponsors: Montefiore Einstein; BronxCare; Health System; Hostos Community College; Popular Bank; US Army Recruiting Battalion, NYC; Health First; Metro Plus Health; Morris Heights Health Center and Bronx Terminal Market

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP GALA: 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. You can purchase tickets [HERE](#).

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.

CAMPUS CLEANUP: In anticipation of our commencement ceremony, the college will host its second annual campus clean-up on Friday May 20th from 9am-12 noon. Don't miss this opportunity to help beautify the campus for our first in-person Commencement in two years. Lunch will be served to all volunteers. Please register [HERE](#) to join this important initiative.

ASAP SPIRIT: It was so wonderful to participate in the spirit activities planned by the ASAP team. It was fantastic to feel the energy and engagement on campus that day. The smiles and laughter of our students spoke volumes. Many thanks to Nadine Browne and the ASAP team for their work on the event.

After commencement and our brief respite over the summer, I hope we will be able to replicate the ASAP Day and its enthusiasm into our fall semester. The day was a reminder of what we have been missing on campus. For the fall semester, I plan on the return of campus-wide initiatives like, "One Book One College, and the Presidential Grants Program to rekindle our sense of community and bring the spirit of engagement back to campus. I hope you will agree to join me in continuing our work.

I will see you at Commencement as we see so many of our students reach their goal and graduate. Best wishes for a wonderful summer and a well-deserved break!