

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – MARCH 2023**

*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

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We have now passed the three year “anniversary” of the Covid-19 pandemic’s initial ravages and the College’s move to an unprecedented shift to a mostly online modality. Now, life is moving on and we are contemplating life with COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror. Of course, we are not completely out of the woods yet, but as spring approaches we feel energized and remain hopeful. We can sense new beginnings and the promise of growth and renewal. Despite all of the challenges ahead of our institution, I remain optimistic about the future. Staying motivated and optimistic during austere budgetary times can be challenging, but it is essential that we maintain a positive mindset and remain persistent to help the College meet its goals. We must do what we can with our very limited resources to help our students achieve their goals.

**BUDGET PLANNING:** All CUNY Colleges were directed by the University to reduce their FY 2024 budget by 5-6%. For BCC, this amounted to reductions of approximately \$4.2 million dollars. Our targeted savings plan was submitted to CUNY on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> after the appropriate consultation with campus stakeholders. The plan outlined some spending reductions along with revenue generating goals so as to reach our overall target. Specifically, the plan calls for a modest enrollment increase of 2%, which translates to an increase in anticipated revenue of \$369K; a 5% increase in collections would yield \$736K; anticipated savings in personnel services of \$1.034 million; and a reduction in instructional services of \$2.1 million dollars.

**ENROLLMENT:** As of today, there are 6,807 students registered for the Spring 2023 semester based on enrollment (pre-Form A) data. We are in the final stages of Form A clean-up and once the Form A is finalized, the data for Spring 2023 will be updated. While our overall retention rate has increased to 64.07% (pre-Form A), our percentage of full-time/part-time has an inverted relationship compared to prior years. Our percentage of part-time students has increased, therefore adversely affecting our FTE headcount.

The Summer/Fall 2023 enrollment period is underway. I am appealing to faculty to encourage all your students to register for summer and fall classes. Based on this past year’s performance, we are projecting a 2% increase going into next year. This is a conservative projection and amounts to an enrollment of 6,850 students and FTEs of 4,809. We are basing our ability to make this projection on our growth in incoming student recruitment of freshmen and transfer students.

One of the College’s top priorities, indeed a mission critical undertaking, is to increase not only enrollment, but our retention numbers for the 2023 summer and fall semesters. In an effort to improve our overall retention, I have asked our VP for Enrollment Management to engage the Retention & Student Success Committee to implement the following strategies:

1. Continue the collaboration with Administration & Finance to encourage students to pay their outstanding balance for the Fall 2022 and/or Spring 2023 semesters.
2. Continue strengthening the first-year experience through enhancing faculty and student connections in our first-year seminar course (FYS), improving the effectiveness and promoting opportunities that offer student engagement and support for freshmen.
3. Support initiatives that foster student success, re-assess and strengthen early alert communications, enhance advising approaches, enhance student life cycle experiences, increase participation in NSO communications, and enhance collaboration among academic/student support service units and faculty/student connections, with emphasis on the specific needs of different student populations.
4. Increase the number of students taking a full-time course load with emphasis on maximizing the number of students who are eligible and capable of handling a 15-credit course load.
5. Better integrate faculty in retention efforts.
6. Improve the support services for students who historically have been less likely to persist (i.e., SAP and readmitted students) and more recently, incoming freshmen.

Our retention efforts require a campus-wide commitment involving stakeholders across the college, titles and offices. We need to continue implementing outreach strategies to foster retention among our incoming students. To that end, I am asking faculty to volunteer their time this summer to assist in any way possible to continue these efforts.

**EXECUTIVE VICE-CHANCELLOR AND UNIVERSITY PROVOST:** On Thursday, April 27, the campus will be hosting CUNY's Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, Wendy Hensel. EVC Hensel will meet with student and faculty leaders and later in the day will attend a town hall for discussion and questions. Please stay tuned for further details on her visit.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** Five (5) BCC students have been named as Jack Kent Cooke semi-finalists; Congratulations to Bernice Agyeiwaa, Dietetics & Nutri Science AS; Mathilda Asemota, Computer Science AS; Laisha Gonzalez De Pena Liberal Arts and Sciences AA/ Performing Arts; Rubi Larancuent, Mathematics AS; Enger Polanco Tejada, Liberal Arts and Sciences AA/Psychology. Please join me in extending congratulations to all of the finalists.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society selected Bronx Community College as one of 17 two-year colleges in the United States to participate in a three-year grant to mentor our PTK students. The grant of \$150K will provide access to honors programming, leadership development, peer networking, travel opportunities for to attend conferences and conventions as well as scholarships for our students. The grant will be operated through the Office of Student Life.

**ATHLETICS:** Please join me in congratulating Men's Basketball player Herbert Gary who was named to CUNYAC Men's Basketball All-Star Team, and Dominique Norman who was selected to NJCAA Region XV Sportsmanship Team. Four Men's Soccer players were named to the Fall 2022 CUNYAC Academic All-Star Team (3.2+ GPA).

**GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS:** BCC was awarded \$250,000 from the NYS Department of Labor for Workforce Development. This grant will support A+ certification (Cybersecurity and Networking) training. Ruby Chu is the PI.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Commencement will take place on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Commencement Committee is working diligently to prepare for this favorite event on campus and is looking forward to hosting this momentous occasion for our students.

On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Bronx Community College will host the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Roscoe C. Brown Jr. Hall of Fame "Run the Bronx" and the event returns live to the campus of BCC and the surrounding neighborhoods in the borough! Since 1978, runners and walkers of all ages have been gathering on the BCC campus on the first Saturday in May to take part in this community health event designed to combat poor health in the Bronx and communicate the importance of a healthy and fit lifestyle. "Run the Bronx" offers either a 10K or 5K run through the Grand Concourse as well as a two-mile fitness walk to encourage physical activity at all levels and ages. Register for this historic event [HERE](#).

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.