

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – MAY 2023**

*Thomas A. Isekenegebe, Ph.D.*

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It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of the spring 2023 semester with final examinations next week. I am looking forward to the various celebrations leading up to Commencement that signify the end of the semester and close out the 2022-23 academic year.

For me, this is my last senate meeting as President of BCC. Since the Fall semester of 2015, I have had the honor and privilege of serving as Bronx Community College President and represent the students, faculty and staff of this great institution. Just as I informed the college community in January; I will be leaving my post as President of BCC at the end of the summer.

As I reflect on my time as President, I am filled with pride and gratitude. I have had the privilege of working with so many talented and dedicated individuals. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the students, faculty, staff and administrative team of this great institution. Your hard work and dedication to our shared mission has been truly inspiring.

As I leave this fine institution, I am optimistic about the future of BCC. However, for this optimism to be everlasting, the faculty, staff and administration must work together and collaborate in the best interest of our students. The senate floor and other college forums must focus the discussions on ways to improve successful outcomes and other key indicators that affect our students. If the students are our primary focus, it is critical that the college community come together to enhance their lives and experiences.

**ENROLLMENT:** As of this week (May 9, 2023), there are 1,263 students registered for the Summer 2023 Semester generating 1,475 FTEs. In addition, there are 1,988 students registered for the Fall 2023 Semester generating 1,422 FTEs. We are about 7% down compared to last year at this time but we are still in the early stages of enrollment and anticipate continued enrollment success. The admissions office is busy processing all of the 4700 application inquires received from CUNY Central admissions.

**DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIONS:** I am happy to announce newly re-elected Chairs: Sara Brady, Communication Arts and Sciences; Howard Clampman, Business and Information Systems; Jalil Moghaddasi, Engineering, Physics & Technology and Roni Ben-Nun, Art & Music. Stacia Reader Health, Physical Ed & Rec has stepped down as Chairperson and Kelvin Cooper has been elected to complete that term. Congratulations to all.

**PRESIDENT’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE:** I am happy to share that our inaugural President’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service winners have been selected. This year’s awardees are:

- President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching: Monique Guishard, Associate Professor, Social Sciences
- President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching - Adjunct: Amy Van Natter, Adjunct Assistant Professor, History
- President’s Award for Excellence in Research: Eugene Mananga, Associate Professor, Engineering, Physics and Technology
- President’s Award for Excellence in Service: Tiffany Dubon, Student Life Specialist, Student Life

**RUN THE BRONX:** On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Bronx Community College hosted the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Roscoe Brown – Run the Bronx. 1,264 registered runners and walkers participated in the 10K, 5K, or 2-mile walk. The group of runners included international participants from Canada, Brazil, France, and Poland, as well as local students of all ages from grades K-12. Thank you to our sponsors; Morris Heights, Bronx Terminal Market, Bronx Care, US Air Force Recruiting, Banco Popular (Popular Bank), and Hostos Community College. A special thanks to all the faculty and staff who volunteered their time to make this event a success. We could not have done it without you.

**GML RIBBON CUTTING:** On Thursday, May 18th, from 12:00pm – 1:00pm, The College will host a Ribbon Cutting to celebrate the completed renovation of Gould Memorial Library. The Capital funding provided by the State and City of New York has allowed for a complete renovation of the roof, dome, windows, and egress for the marble column-filled rotunda to expand the capacity use of the building. Additionally, the Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson and Council Members Sanchez and Dinowitz will present a check for \$1 million in Capital funding as partial support to assist in the installation of an elevator in this historic building for ADA accessibility.

**GRANTS:** The Affinity Legacy Community Grant Program provided \$460,000 in support of the Kalief Browder Social Justice Center. The Center will broaden Future Now’s best practices and impact by accessing the needs and experiences of Future Now students as they transition to BCC. The Center will use the assessment and additional research to develop curriculum, tools, related training, and learning communities for faculty, staff, and students to identify socio-cultural barriers to college completion and securing meaningful employment.

Additionally, the Keith Haring Foundation provided \$15,000 in support of Workforce Development training for our Future Now students.

The New York State Department of Labor approved a grant of \$250,000 for the BCC IT Work-Ready and Accelerated IT Credentials Programs.

**COMMENCEMENT:** This year’s Commencement will take place on Friday, June 2, 2023 with New York Attorney General, Letitia James serving as this year’s commencement speaker. Everyone is eagerly preparing for one of the most cherished events on our campus. We cannot wait to celebrate our students’ achievements, honor their hard work, and share their joy as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Commencement is a symbol of hope, a reminder of the endless possibilities that await our graduates, and a testament to their resilience and determination. This day will be a momentous occasion, one that will be etched in their memories forever.

As we approach the end of the spring 2023 semester, let’s remain focused on helping our students cross that finish line. I look forward to seeing all of you at commencement. I hope everyone has a restful and joyous summer.