



B R O N X C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E
Transforming Lives One Student at a Time | Annual Report 2023

*“The function
of education is
to teach one
to think intensively
and to think critically.
Intelligence plus
character — that is
the goal of true
education.”*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

B R O N X
C O M M U N I T Y
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Transforming Lives One Student at a Time
Annual Report 2023

*Change is Inevitable,
but transformation
is intentional*

As we celebrate the accomplishments of our BCC community in the pages of this annual report, we reflect on our mission to help students transform their lives ... one student at a time. We know that change in all of our students' lives is inevitable, but BCC's endeavor to transform is intentional.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This annual report highlights many of the special moments that occurred at BCC over the last year. Collectively, these moments transcended our hopes for the individual student experience; together, they amounted to meaningful change and transformation, underscoring the power of higher education and our faculty, staff and administrators' tireless work each day to transform the lives of our students.

Take, for instance, Zouberou Sayibou, a Future Now Graduate and 2022 Robin Hood Foundation Hero, who received the support he needed at BCC to move on to a full-ride scholarship at Stanford University, studying computer science to help people back home in his native West Africa. Or our Salutatorian Rubi Larancuent, a native of the Dominican Republic, who is now pursuing her undergraduate degree in mathematics at Princeton and received the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship providing up to \$55,000 each year in scholarships. The small achievements of our students add up, and their incremental progress leads to the big day when they walk across that stage at commencement.

Traditions continued, such as the 45th annual "Run the Bronx", which drew more than 2,000 runners from BCC and beyond. Our college's presence was felt in the community we serve.

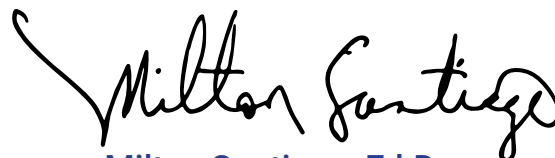
During this calendar year, BCC was awarded a total of over \$22.5 million in grants to enhance educational outcomes of our students.

Reflected in this report are so many pockets of excellence. Our students and faculty traveled far and wide to install weather stations across western India and study climate change. They also took full advantage of our campus's urban location using New York City's subway system as the backdrop for short student films produced and presented in an inspiring film festival at the Director's Guild of America in Manhattan.

We are a community of many communities. Our students come from some 100 different countries and speak more than 50 languages. Within our gates, we have campus resources, student clubs and special events that speak to the diversity of religion, race, gender, orientation, age and physical ability that are the hallmark of our college. Our faculty and staff also come from many different backgrounds and perspectives and show the deepest sense of care for our students.

The academic year ended with 1,216 graduates receiving their diplomas for our 63rd commencement on Ohio Field. With many elected officials in attendance, the dedication of BCC and the broader community working side-by-side for the betterment of our students was more evident than ever. And we paid special thanks to retiring BCC President Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe, who left an impressive footprint here at this fine institution.

We have a lot to celebrate. Let's celebrate the small moments, as well as the big ones, transforming lives, one student at a time!



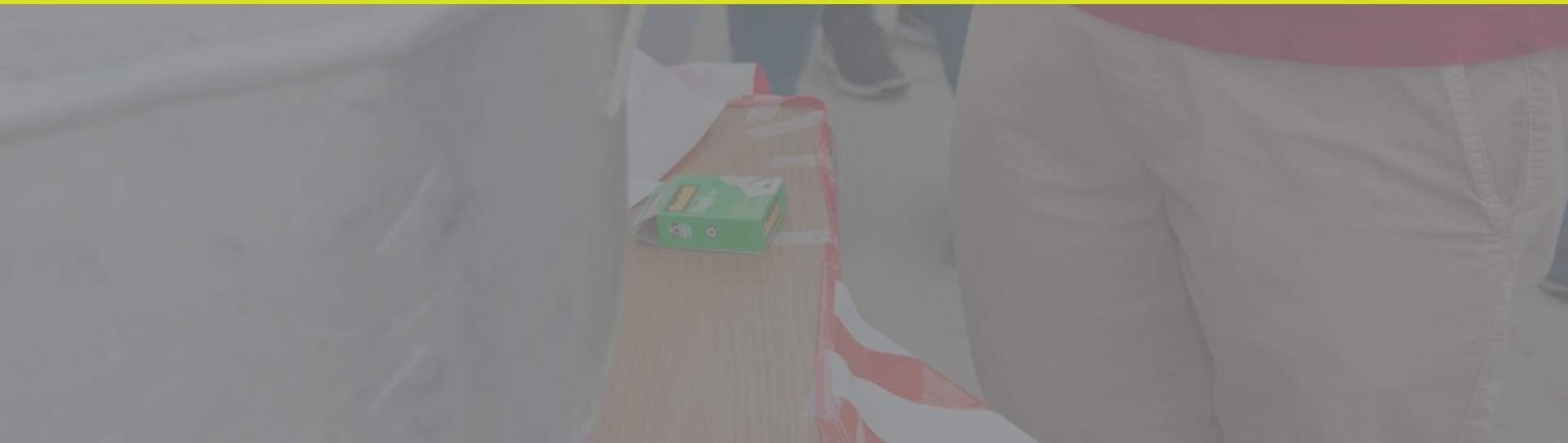
Milton Santiago, Ed.D.

Interim President, Bronx Community College





STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS





Valedictorian, Ekinadose Elizabeth Asemota

was born and raised in Nigeria. She enrolled at BCC in fall 2020, majoring in public health and held a 4.0 GPA. She graduated in summer 2022 and is an aspiring pediatric nurse currently enrolled at the University of Buffalo.

While at BCC, Elizabeth served as the Student Government Association President; a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the BCC Male Empowerment Network; and the vice-chairperson for various college committees, including the college senate committee, auxiliary enterprise committee and student activity committee. She aims to use her knowledge, leadership and advocacy skills to improve healthcare systems within her

community, nation and throughout the world.

Elizabeth was also the recipient of the 2021 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize and BCC Foundation General Scholarship and is a winner of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Transfer Scholarship. She attributes most of her knowledge, leadership, skills, and experiences to her time spent schooling at BCC.

Elizabeth is thankful to Bronx Community College for the impact it has had on her higher education career and the lifelong friendships built. "It is an honor to be the Valedictorian of this great class of graduating students," she remarked.



Salutarian, Rubi Larancuent

was one of three graduating CUNY community college students selected as a recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, joining 60 nationwide student winners of the highly competitive award. The scholarship provides students who have earned an associate degree with up to \$55,000 annually for three years to earn a bachelor's degree.

Rubi took full advantage of the opportunities that CUNY provided — both in and outside the classroom — and was an active participant in the campus community. As a Cooke Transfer Scholar, she received educational advising to ease her transition to a four-year college and beyond, along with opportunities for funding to support internships, study-abroad programs and graduate school.

A Passionate Advocate

Rubi Larancuent was a mathematics major at Bronx Community College, where she served as treasurer of the college's student government and was salutarian of her graduating class. A native of the Dominican

Republic, she gained her passion for advocacy from her parents' work at a nonprofit in her home country.

"Winning the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship means a dream come true, having the chance to join such a supportive community as the Cooke Scholars," said Larancuent. "I am thankful to my high school math teacher for helping me find my passion for the subject and to professors at Bronx Community College who encouraged me to apply since they saw potential in me. As a future math professor, I hope to increase the representation of women of color and Latinas in mathematics."

Larancuent, who began her studies at BCC at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in fall 2020, is also a Kaplan Leadership Program scholar and served as a student fellow for America Needs You, a nonprofit organization that provides leadership training and career development for first-generation college students. She also served as a math tutor at the college and as a peer mentor for CUNY ASAP. Larancuent is currently attending Princeton University.



Zouberou Sayibou Receives Full-Ride Scholarship to Stanford, Named a Robin Hood HERO

Zouberou Sayibou grew up in Togo, where there were limited opportunities to seek higher education. He arrived in New York City so he could pursue his dream of going to college – but he needed help. Future Now, a Bronx Community College prep program, helped Zouberou pass his GED and provided guidance as he applied to attend four-year colleges. The result: a full-ride scholarship to Stanford University. Zouberou now studies computer science, which he hopes to use to help others, including those back home in West Africa.

Blackstone LaunchPad®

GOT IDEAS?

Blackstone LaunchPad Competition Winners

Bronx Community College ran the Blackstone LaunchPad Ideas Competition powered by StartupTree. This network-wide competition offered students a chance to win \$1,000 each to start the next big thing. All current students with an idea, regardless of their major or career plans, were invited to apply.

Judges considered whether each applicant has a unique and compelling product or service, a solid plan of how they will sell, and the overall strength of the application. The judges included Members of BCC's Blackstone LaunchPad Stewardship Council. Four finalists were selected:

Leilani Agostini is studying Biology. Leilani submitted "Less Plastic is Fantastic!" under the Social & Climate Impact track. Less Plastic

is Fantastic! focuses on providing plastic alternatives on campus.

Lachoy Harris is studying nursing. Lachoy submitted "Rx Synergy" under the Health & Life Sciences track. Rx Synergy is a software application that doctors use to communicate with insurance companies.

Jaheim Archibald is studying Computer Science. Jaheim submitted "Acumen Technologies" under the Consumer Products & Services track. Acumen Technologies is time management software.

Minhazul Islam is studying Computer Science. Minhazul submitted "LetsLink" under the General track. LetsLink is a social platform bringing together key features from platforms we currently use in one place.

JAHEIM ARCHIBALD ACCEPTED INTO BLACKSTONE LAUNCHPAD SUMMER FELLOWSHIP 2023

Jaheim Archibald was accepted into the Blackstone LaunchPad Summer Fellowship 2023 cohort! He was awarded \$5,000 in prize money to support his time working on advancing his technology venture. The Fellowship included weekly skill-development workshops, goal setting and peer and professional networking opportunities.



Student's Pursuit of Neuroscience Inspired by Work in National Lab

Aissata Diop never imagined she would be working at a Department of Energy National Laboratory when she started her studies at Bronx Community College, CUNY. Born in New York and raised in Mali, she was fascinated by computers and technology at a young age, but it was her studies with Professor Eugene Mananga, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics at BCC, that would change her academic and career trajectory.

Professor Mananga and three students worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory as part of the Sustainable Research Pathways High-Performance

Computing (HPC) program, designed to connect students from underrepresented groups with National Laboratory scientists to encourage lasting collaborations and jump start careers.

"I wasn't aware of computation chemistry until this research," Aissata said. "I didn't know what HPC could do, its capabilities and its purpose. So to actually work with a National Lab on HPC was amazing. It really opened my eyes."

Aissata earned her Associate degree in Engineering Sciences and is now at Smith College pursuing a major in Neuroscience with a minor in Arts & Technology.

She hopes to create innovative technologies that can help neuroscientists better understand the human brain through integrated software stack and exascale hardware technology advances.

"This opportunity helped me grow as a scientist and as a person," Aissata added. "I have never been a part of such a diverse community before. It helped me further develop my interpersonal skills and recognize how to understand others from different traditional backgrounds. You get to see the beauty of diversity."



Father and Son Classmates

What if your classmate, best friend and mentor at BCC was also your dad? That was the case for Sirius Lawrence, 18, who joined his dad Michael, 43, to get a degree.

"I enjoyed BCC and wanted my son to have the same opportunities that I had," said Michael, who studied computer science. "We have both benefited from this experience and thank BCC for providing us with a welcoming environment where we could thrive."

Sharing some of the same classes, including math and sociology, helped when it came to homework and exam prep. "Two heads are better than one," Michael said.

While attending school at BCC, they lived together in Castle Hill on the outskirts of The Bronx and would travel together for the hour-and-a-half commute. This provided an opportunity to compare notes about their classes and prepare for the day.

"People thought we were brothers. Some people don't have a good relationship with their fathers, so we stood out," Sirius said.



Empowerment Program Scholar

BCC's Radiologic Technology student Hilary Pitter received a \$2,500 scholarship awarded by the UNCF Associates Scholars Empowerment Program, open to Black/African American students with a minimum 2.25 GPA at two-year institutions.

Daughters of Charity Inc., in partnership with UNCF, created the Associates Scholars Empowerment Program to assist Black/African American students pursuing a certificate or an associate degree. The program awarded 50 students with need-based scholarships of up to \$2,500.

Ms. Pitter's scholarship was for the 2022-2023 academic year and eligible for renewal an additional year.



The Journey of a Mother and Her Son at Bronx Community College

Mr. Luis Mendez, the son of Jeannette Dávila (a BCC employee for more than 30 years), served as a keynote speaker at the 2023 Fall Student Convocation, sharing his powerful story of recovering from a gunshot wound to his head and then going on to graduate from BCC. With his mom by his side, he said his decision to attend BCC was the best one he could have ever made.

“Choose your own happiness. You can do anything you put your mind to, no matter what you’re going through,” said Mendez, who is currently completing his master’s from Lehman College. “You guys attending here and making the

decision to be here is the right step toward something big. Fix your mind to the goal – which is to graduate with a degree from BCC. Focus on the finish line, and you’ll get there.”

Luis’s life obstacles dated back to 2012, when he dropped out of high school. Jeannette immediately enrolled him in BCC’s Future Now program, where he completed his General Equivalency Diploma (GED) and then enrolled in the College to pursue his associate degree. It wasn’t long until he dropped out after having a child. To support his newly born son, Luis looked to the streets to find ways to make money. Jeannette never

gave up on her son and credits BCC with helping him return to school and ultimately get through.

Luis graduated with an associate degree in Liberal Arts and Human Services in 2022. His inspirational journey led Jeannette to establish “The Surviving Warrior Award” through the Association for Latino Faculty and Staff at BCC. She created this award as an inspiration for her son’s hard work and dedication to earning his degrees despite his disabilities. The award continues to be given annually to a student who has experienced gun violence or has suffered a traumatic brain injury.



'23-'24 Kaplan Leadership Scholar

BCC's Shaquana Darden was selected by the Kaplan Educational Foundation as a 2023-2024 Kaplan Leadership Scholar. This prestigious honor will provide support for Shaquana as she continues to pursue her associate degree and successfully transfers to a four-year bachelor's degree program. "We are proud of Shaquana for this exciting achievement. She understands the importance of a great education to obtaining her career goals and is willing to work hard to fulfill them," said Interim BCC President Milton Santiago. "As a Kaplan Leadership Scholar, Shaquana will benefit from

a unique scholarship opportunity to continue her education, develop her career and grow as a leader in her profession and community." Established in 2006, the Kaplan Leadership Program has helped high-potential, low-income and underrepresented community college students earn degrees at the nation's most highly selective schools. The program focuses on a holistic approach – providing extensive tutoring, academic advisement services, leadership and career training, stipends for living expenses and other resources and support to help students expand their personal

goals and eventually attain leadership roles in their professions and communities. "The Kaplan Leadership Program is a dream come true for me," Shaquana said. "I have always wanted to pursue a bachelor's degree at a top institution, but I faced many challenges and barriers along the way. This program will provide me with the support and guidance I need to overcome those obstacles and reach my full potential. I am thrilled to be part of this amazing program, and I can't wait to start this journey."



Mohammed Fuad Takes on EY

Mohammed Fuad and his family came to the U.S. from Bangladesh in 2012 seeking better opportunities. When he moved to The Bronx, he learned about BCC's low tuition and variety of programs and decided to enroll. Through a pilot program partnership between CUNY and the NYC Jobs CEO Council, BCC's Computer Information Systems program was selected to be the first partner school for Ernst & Young's (EY), giving Mohammed the chance to work in a 12-week paid apprenticeship at the company. Upon completing the program, EY offered him a full-time job as an Application Systems Engineer, supporting his plans to continue his education at a four-year college. Due to his achievements, Mohammed was invited to speak at a summer press conference on workforce development held on BCC's campus by NYC Mayor Eric Adams.





FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS





BCC Faculty Receives Black, Race and Ethnic (BRES) Fellowships from CUNY

CUNY announced that three BCC professors received Black, Race and Ethnic (BRES) Fellowships. The Fellowships are designed to enhance BRES studies in scholarship and teaching at CUNY schools as part of a \$3 million initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation.

The BCC winners include:

Laura Barberan Reinares, a Professor of English, and Bryan Betancur, Assistant Professor of World Languages and Culture, each received a BRES Research Faculty Fellowship.

Monique A. Guishard, an Associate Professor of Psychology and Deputy Chair in the Social Sciences Department, received a BRES Curriculum Development grant.

The fellows will be affiliated with the BRES Collaboration Hub, a CUNY-wide, multidisciplinary initiative based at the Graduate Center. BRES Doctoral Fellows will receive stipends of \$4,000 for their dissertation research, and BRES Faculty Fellows will receive stipends of \$2,000 to support research and curriculum development projects.



Outstanding Two-Year College Chemistry Teaching Award

The American Chemical Society (ACS) New York State Chapter recognized Dr. Sunej Hans of BCC's Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences Department with the prestigious Outstanding Two-Year College Chemistry Teaching Award.

Originally from India, Dr. Hans has been a full-time faculty member at BCC since Fall, 2014. The ACS is one of the world's largest scientific societies and the premier home for chemistry professionals.

While her primary responsibility is to teach, Dr. Hans has also conducted research and mentored

students. She was instrumental in supervising 11 BCC students along with others in the CUNY system for her research at Brookhaven National Lab on liquid scintillators for neutrino experiments. The research put BCC students in touch with top scientists from around the world, granting them \$6,000 stipends for their participation in this research.

In addition to this recent award, Dr. Hans co-authored several journal articles with Dr. Arthur B. McDonald, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2015. She also was a co-recipient of the "The 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental

Physics" and shared the \$3,000,000 with other scientists from around the world.

Dr. Neal Phillip, Chairperson of the BCC Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences Department said, "We are fortunate to have Dr. Hans in our department. Her commitment to teaching and research is exemplary, and our students benefit immensely from her dedication." Dr. Hans said, "I enjoy my many interactions with BCC and CUNY students and love providing them with opportunities that change their lives. They have become part of a big family."



Science Department Hosts Fulbright Scholar from India as Part of Multi-Year Climate Change Initiative

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (SIR), Dr. Snehal Donde, arrived at BCC in August, 2023. She taught Environmental Science; conducted collaborative research activities related to water treatment; and engaged with the CUNY and local community on Indian socio-economic and cultural issues. Dr. Donde, the Dean of Research at Bhaktivedanta Research Centre (BRC) at the Govardhan Ecovillage, Palghar, Maharashtra State (affiliated with University of Mumbai), was selected for the Fulbright award by the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Dr. Donde's visit came upon the return of a 23-member BCC/CUNY student and faculty delegation from India, where they installed solar powered weather/air quality stations across western India as part of a climate collaborative public diplomacy grant project with the U.S. Consulate Mumbai. In 2021, Dr. Donde engaged with BCC/CUNY on a weather data awareness campaign for local

and tribal youth in rural Palghar district of Maharashtra.

Dr. Neal Philip, Chairperson, Department of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences, and Prof. Paramita Sen, a lecturer in the same department, have been leading student trips to India tackling climate change in some of the world's most polluted cities for the past five years and prepared the Fulbright application in conjunction with the BCC Office of Academic Affairs. Through the students' installation of advanced weather station technology, they are helping cities in India understand more about climate change and providing local stakeholders with valuable weather and air quality data.

WATCH this CBS News segment

featuring BCC's efforts to fight climate change across western India. Dr. Donde has been engaging with BCC/CUNY on weather data awareness since 2021.

Group work

1. Show students materials
2. Show students the numerical order- Have students put in order

1 4 5 2 7

**FACULTY
ACHIEVEMENTS**

Art & Music

Scholarly Publications:

Deborah Lewittes, *Shaping the City to Come: Rethinking Modern Architecture and Town Planning in England*, c. 1934–51 (Liverpool University Press, 2022).

Andrea M. Ortuño, “German Brass Basins as a Source for Late Fifteenth- and Early Sixteenth-Century Valencian Lusterware Forms,” *Source: Notes in the History of Art* 42, no. 4 (Summer 2023).

Andrea M. Ortuño, “An Early Etching by William Welles Bosworth,” *Metropolitan Museum Journal* 58 (2023): 107–115.

Creative Works:

Stephanie Beck had four pieces included in a group exhibition at the Garvey|Simon Gallery, San Anselmo, CA, July–August 2023 and one of her wood mosaics is on public view until June 2024 at Maker Park, Staten Island.

Roni Ben-Nun exhibited several photographs, including *Magnolias*, Artist Invitational VI International Juried Exhibition, Camelback Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ, April 2023, Bronze Award; *Echinacea*, 7th Colors International Online Juried Art Exhibition, Fusion Art Online Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, April 2023, 5th Place Winner, Photography & Digital Category; *Nymphaea*, 7th Colors International Online Juried Art Exhibition, Fusion Art Online Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, April 2023; *Red 1*, 6th Annual Abstracts with Red

International Juried Art Exhibition, Camelback Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ, March 2023, Finalist; *Unfurling*, Spring 2023, International Juried Exhibition, The Chateau Online Gallery, Louisville, KY, March 2023.

Frank Blanchard exhibited *The Passion of Christ*, a series of 20 panels for a solo show at Revelation Gallery, Greenwich Village, September 6–30.

Steven Burke, *Within You*, chamber music performed by di.vi.sion ensemble: Renée Cometa Briggs (piano), Donald Mokrynski (clarinet), and Matt Goeke (cello) was released September 2023 on Albany Records, TROY1944.

Anthony Gatto, *Small Subversions*, works for solo piano, featuring pianist Karl Larson, was released November 2023 on Gold Bolus Recordings. *Family Heirloom*, an opera for six singers and five players, with libretto by Anthony Gatto and Melisa Tien, commissioned by Experiments in Opera had its workshop premiere November 10, 2023. Its staged premiere will run June 28–30, 2024, at HERE Arts Center, New York City.

Noëlle King exhibited work at *A Larger Idea: 3rd Annual Drawing Exhibition*, LIC Art Space, February 8–March 22, 2023; *Celebrating the Sacred Feminine*, Ludington Center for the Arts, Ludington MI, March 3–31, 2023; and *I Am/You Are Inwood*, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, NYC, online June–July.

Diana Naccarato exhibited several works in group exhibitions including *Flash 12: A Burst of Color* and *Flash 11: Textures and Patterns* at Decagon

Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; *Memory Mirage*, Kunstraum, Brooklyn, NY; and *Black, White and Shades of Gray*, Townhouse Gallery, Stamford, CT, Third Place Award.

Anne Vuagniaux published a short story, “The Field’s Edge,” in *Spun Stories* (Myth and Lore, 2023), 130–134.

Presentations:

Claudia de Moraes Jacques, Co-presenter, “Ecologies to Cosmologies: Technoetic Offerings” (FEMeeting Conference, Women in Art, Science and Technology, July 24–30, 2023)

Claudia de Moraes Jacques, Co-leader, “Five Chairs,” Workshop (FEMeeting Conference, Women in Art, Science and Technology, June 19, 2023).

Andrea M. Ortuño, “Disrupting the Renaissance in the Classroom,” Roundtable Session (Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 26, 2023).

Andrea M. Ortuño, “Nuremberg Brass Basins as a Source for Sixteenth-Century Spanish Lusterware Types” (Annual Conference of the Renaissance Society of America, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 9–11, 2023).

Patricia Sifuentes Cazorla, “Magical Encounters,” Series of bilingual art workshops for teens and families (Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ, Summer 2023).

Rhoda Terry-Seidenberg, “Various Cultures as Depicted in Dolls and Toys” (Cultures and Ethnicities: Character Dolls Around the World

for United Federation of Doll Clubs, Seattle, WA, August 1, 2023).

Anne Vuagniaux, “A History of Housing in Steinway Village: 1870–1900” (Open House New York, Steinway Reformed Church, Astoria, October 22, 2023).

Anne Vuagniaux, “Witch or Widow: Deciphering the Medici Column in Paris” (South-Central Renaissance Conference, Berkeley, CA, April 28, 2023).

Grants:

Deborah Lewittes, PSC-CUNY Grant for “Glassworks: British Modern Architecture and Urbanism through the Lens of Ruth Lazarus Glass.”

Andrea M. Ortuño, PSC-CUNY Grant for “William Welles Bosworth’s Early Work for Religious and Social Reformers, 1888–1896.”

Patricia Sifuentes Cazorla, Newark Artist Accelerator Grant, Project for Empty Space.

Patricia Sifuentes Cazorla, Grant from the City of Newark Creative Catalyst Fund.

Awards and Honors:

Deborah Lewittes has been nominated for an award by the Historians of British Art for best new scholarly book, *Shaping the City to Come: Rethinking Modern Architecture and Town Planning in England, c. 1934–51*.

Claudia de Moraes Jacques was made Associate Editor for the academic journal *Cybernetics and Human Knowing* Vol 30 (1–2).

Diana Naccarato was Artist-in-Residence at Nocefresca in Sardinia, Italy, Spring 2023. She is also one of Decagon Gallery’s 2023 featured photographers.

Biological Sciences

Publications:

Li, G., et al. (2023). Checkpoint kinase 2 controls insulin secretion and glucose homeostasis. *Nature Chemical Biology*.

Presentations:

Li, G. Joint Conference of the International Pancreas and Islet Transplantation Association, International Xenotransplantation Association, and Cell Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Society. Presentation Title: “Functional Subcutaneous Engraftment of Human Islets was Achieved by Co-Transplanting Vasculogenic and Adaptable Endothelial Cells.” 10/29/2023. <https://app.sandiego2023.org/>.

English

Publications:

Reinares, M.B. “In the Name of Awareness: Audience, Venue, and the Politics of Witnessing Human Rights Violations,” has been accepted for publication in *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism* Vol 24, No. 2 (Fall 2025).

Tsegaye Wodajo, self-published novel titled *A New Beginning* (September 2023).

History

Presentation:

Dr. Elizabeth Hardman, “Women, Financial Obligations, and Legal Institutions in Fifteenth-Century Comtat Venaissin,” Annual International Medieval Conference, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK, July 2023.

Library

Jacob Adler accepted into the 2024 CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program! Please see the attached letter for more information and next steps.

Michael Kahn selected as a 2023-2024 Open Education Research Fellow from the Open Education Group in July. (Will support research and attendance at the 2024 Open Education Conference.)

Jesus Sanabria appointed to the ACRL Resources for College Libraries editorial board.

Creative Works:

Cynthia Tobar screened her bilingual documentary short *Mujeres Atrevidas* at Casa Arq, Cali, Colombia on December 1, 2023; at Millennium Film Workshop, Brooklyn, NY on November 11, 2023; and at New York Theatre

Workshop, New York NY on October 31, 2023.

Presentations:

Cynthia Tobar presented a paper on American Icons: Amplifying Community Voices in Public Art as an invited panelist for the "Creating the City: Community Engagement and Accessibility from Civil War to Industrialization to Monumentation" panel at the 10th Urban History Association Annual Conference.

Fellowships:

Cynthia Tobar was selected by the Mellon Foundation-funded Shape of Cities to Come Institute (SCCI) inaugural 2023-2024 "STUDY. PLAY. ACT" peer-to-peership program as an extended peer/project advisor. SCCI is a pedagogical peer-learning platform

supporting the production of socially and environmentally just propositions for the city. It seeks to empower the visions and activism of New York City's working-class neighborhoods and communities of color, fostering a diverse network of urban practitioners for transformative urban change. SCCI is an autonomous institute working in partnership with The New School/Parsons MS in Design and Urban Ecologies and The Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center.

Recognition:

Cynthia Tobar recently concluded her term as a member of the Oral History Association's Council this past October and was elected to the Nominating Committee for the 2023-2025 term.

Mathematics & Computer Science

Article:

Ivan Horozov, joint with Jitendra Bajpai and Matias Moya Giusti, Euler characteristic and cohomology of $Sp_4(\mathbb{Z})$ with nontrivial coefficients. *European Journal of Mathematics*. Online. July 2023. Article DOI: 10.1007/s40879-023-00630-3

World Languages and Cultures Department

Published Book:

Rivera, C.M. (2023). *De intenciones, intensidades*. NY NY: Arte Poética.

Critical Review:

Rivera, C.M. (2023). Review of Frente a las tablas puertorriqueñas: la crítica de teatro de Gloria Waldman para El Nuevo Día (1979-1981). *Latin American Theater Review* 56:02, 127-28.

Lectures:

Rivera, C.M. Pedagogías alternativas 'en lengua propia'. York College, CUNY April 21, 2023. Online via Zoom.

Rivera, C.M. "Other Versions of William Shakespeare's The Tempest": Hispanic-Caribbean and Latin-American perspectives" Davidson College, January 26, 2023. Online via Zoom.

Performances:

Rivera, C.M. Performance "Puerto Rican Diaspora." Diaspora Exhibition, Boricua College, Bronx, NY. November 16, 2023. (Performer).

Rivera, C.M. "La Regla" Festival Internacional del Monólogo, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México. October 26–27, 2023. (Actor Role: La Regla).





**BRONCO
FEATURES** / **STAFF
ACHIEVEMENTS**





Associate Director of ASAP Program Receives New York League of Puerto Rican Women Education Award

The New York League of Puerto Rican Women named Bronx Community College (BCC) Associate Director of ASAP (Accelerated Study in Associates Program), Jessica Cabrera, as the recipient of its Education Award for her career achievements and service to the Hispanic community. Cabrera received the award August 24, 2023, at the League's 15th Anniversary Scholarship Gala, which supports scholarships for incoming college students.

In accepting this honor, Cabrera said, "I couldn't be more proud of my Puerto Rican heritage and, specifically, to be a Puerto Rican woman. It was so amazing to be recognized by my peers and to receive such an outpouring of love and support. My family back in Puerto Rico was very excited that I was representing them here in New York."

Cabrera was nominated for the award by her ASAP colleagues,

including NY League of Puerto Rican Women Board Member Felipe Ayala. In addition to calling attention to Cabrera's impact on the BCC community, her colleagues billed her as caring, humble, hardworking and a leader who looks out for her others.

The gala, held at the Marina Del Rey in the Bronx, has a tradition of recognizing high-ranking NY Puerto Rican officials. Funds raised through the event are aimed at empowering Puerto Rican women to overcome economic obstacles that would prevent them from earning their college degree.

Cabrera received her B.A. in Communication Studies from Alfred University and her M.A. in Higher and Postsecondary Education from Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition to her role with ASAP, Cabrera is an Adjunct Lecturer for the Communication Arts & Sciences Department.



CUNY Chancellor Dr. Félix Matos Rodríguez Visits Early Childhood Center

CUNY Chancellor Dr. Félix Matos Rodríguez visited BCC's Early Childhood Center, joining three-year-old students, The Adventurers, for circle time and a round of "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." He then moved on to the pre-K classroom, the Rising Stars, where he read the story, "What I Like About Me" by Allia Zobel-Nolan.

During the tour, Jitinder Walia, Executive Director of the Early Childhood Center since 2009, spoke about the various resources and extra-curricular activities provided by the school for both children and student-parents. The children enjoy weekly visits from a music teacher, yoga instructor and

puppetry artist and have engaged in martial arts classes. Student-parents enjoy access to the Family Resource Room, a place where they can relax and study just feet from their children's school. Additionally, the Center works with a Behavioral Specialist and Family Engagement Coordinator who hold weekly parent workshops on various child-development topics as well as one-on-one counseling for student-parents who are struggling.

Walia noted her excitement about the new Infant/Toddler room expected to open in 2024, providing an invaluable resource for BCC students with very young children.

She stressed how critical this new addition will be for supporting retention and graduation rates at the college, where many students ultimately need to drop out after having a new baby due to a lack of affordable quality childcare.

Student-parents shared how having access to affordable quality childcare at BCC has been immeasurably beneficial to their success in school. BCC's Office of Institution Research reports (2018) that students who enroll in BCC's Early Childhood Center services persist in school and graduate at nearly twice the rate of BCC students overall.



WomxnUp! Celebrates 5th Anniversary

WomxnUp! at BCC celebrated its 5th Anniversary during Women's History Month with a special event that included presentations of traditional dance and poetry, a reading by Student Government Association (SGA) Senators, and remarks by the BCC president. Attendees also heard from BCC Alumnus Jennifer Bortolami.

The event began with greetings from Professor Gloria Rodriguez, Director of WomxnUp! who has been at BCC for 24 years and teaches a variety of psychology courses in the Department of Social Sciences, including Psychology of Women. In her opening remarks, Professor Rodriguez said, "We are proud of our work at BCC, where our Women's Center offers a welcoming, safe, supportive and inclusive space that serves the need of all female identified students and allies in the BCC community. WomxnUp! is a freedom space for students to be their authentic selves without judgment. We offer empowerment programs, mental health and wellness workshops, sister support groups, feminist leadership development and campus coalitions and collaborations to end domestic and sexual violence. WomxnUp! is an important part of the BCC community."

WomxnUp! sponsored the first BCC Women's March in 2019 ~ chants of "Women's Rights are human rights" and "Our body, Our Choice", followed by a panel of Bronx community activists addressing important issues our students and the broader community face. The organization continues to collaborate with the Office of Student Life, Social Justice Network, Male Empowerment Network (MEN), the Association of the Latino Faculty and Staff, the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) program and other campus groups, offering a wide range of student-centered events.



Dionne Dodson Named as Next Director of Athletics

Following an extensive national search, Bronx Community College (BCC) selected Dionne Dodson as its next leader of Broncos Athletics. Dodson, who has spent more than two decades at the Division I level, joins BCC after coaching Women's Basketball and serving in administration at St. Francis in Brooklyn for 15 years.

For the past year, Dodson was the Associate Athletic Director at St. Francis. Prior to that, she had served four years as the Assistant Athletic Director.

"The support across the BCC campus for student athletes along with the family atmosphere of the community is something very special," Dodson said. "That is why I believe the Broncos are on the road to incredible success both on the court and in the classroom."

Dodson will oversee BCC's five sports teams, including Men's Basketball, Baseball and Soccer and Women's Basketball and Volleyball. At BCC, student athletes graduate at a 2.5 times higher rate than non-athletes. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that athletes excel in the classroom as well as on the field or court.

"It is truly an exciting time for athletics here at Bronx Community College," BCC Vice President for Student Success Dr. Irene R. Delgado said. "The hire of Dionne as Athletic Director solidifies our institution's commitment to bringing seasoned, dynamic, and impactful leaders to the administration and athletics. We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber and whose career has been so successfully dedicated to student athletes and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues in athletics."



The Love Story of a Couple Who Met in 1972 at BCC

BCC congratulates Klaus and Nellie Schneider on their 50th wedding anniversary! Klaus and Nellie met at BCC in 1972, when she was teaching English as a Second Language and he was a student. Nellie said to her sister: "A guy came into my English class today. I think I will marry him. I want his eyes for my kids."

Klaus proposed within a week. They were crossing the color barrier. She is Puerto Rican, and he grew up in Germany. Fifty years ago in New York, people would stop and stare at them. Klaus said it was nothing to do with race. They

were simply an attractive couple.

They first settled in Montreal where Klaus worked as an engineer and Nellie brushed up on her French. Klaus would fly around the world working on projects such as Hibernia Oil Platform in New Foundland and Galerie Lafayette in Berlin.

They had two children and eventually moved to Germany where Klaus could be close to his aging parents. Over the years, Nellie worked on her education and continued teaching. In Berlin, she pursued her dream of becoming an assistant pastor and, a few years

later, a pastor in a large inner city church. Klaus retired and helped Nellie with her church.

They now live in Magdeburg, one of the oldest cities in Germany where Martin Luther once preached (1526). Their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren live there.

Klaus and Nellie offered this advice to other couples: "Love without respect is impossible. Appreciation of each other is indispensable."

BCC salutes Klaus and Nellie on their rich life together and is delighted to be part of their life story.



When Basketball is More than Just Basketball

On a sunny August day, BCC Head Men's Basketball Coach Warren Thompson and Assistant Coach Andre Scott are outside on the track with their team conditioning for the season ahead. "We're on lap 19," one team member shouts as he and his fellow players come around the corner together in one pack. "I don't believe you," Andre says.

Now in Year Two as Head Coach, Thompson says the five miles the team is running really isn't about the running. "It's about them bonding as a team," Thompson remarks. "Just over a month ago, many of these players didn't know each other. Now, they're talking smack about one another, fist-bumping, etc. They show up on Mondays talking about how they played basketball together over the weekend."

Thompson has spent his last 15 years at BCC – first as a volunteer in Athletics, then as a College Assistant for 13 years. Prior to that, he was a NYPD detective for 25 years, covering BCC's precinct and

working with youth. His familiarity with this age group and the Bronx community is evident.

"We take a unique approach. We would love to win, but our primary goal is to increase the number of student athletes who walk across the stage at graduation," Thompson says. "We are a microcosm of the Bronx community at large. Our players get to leave the stresses of their home environments to come here and decompress. This is a safe haven. This is where they want to be."

Thompson adds, "I know this may sound cliché, but I always think of the quote from Dr. Seuss, 'We are here! We are here! We are here!' The kids want to know that the campus has their back. We're looking to change the mindset of our fans, hoping that more fans will show up for games this coming season. Most of all, our mission is to ensure that these good young men leave BCC as better young men."

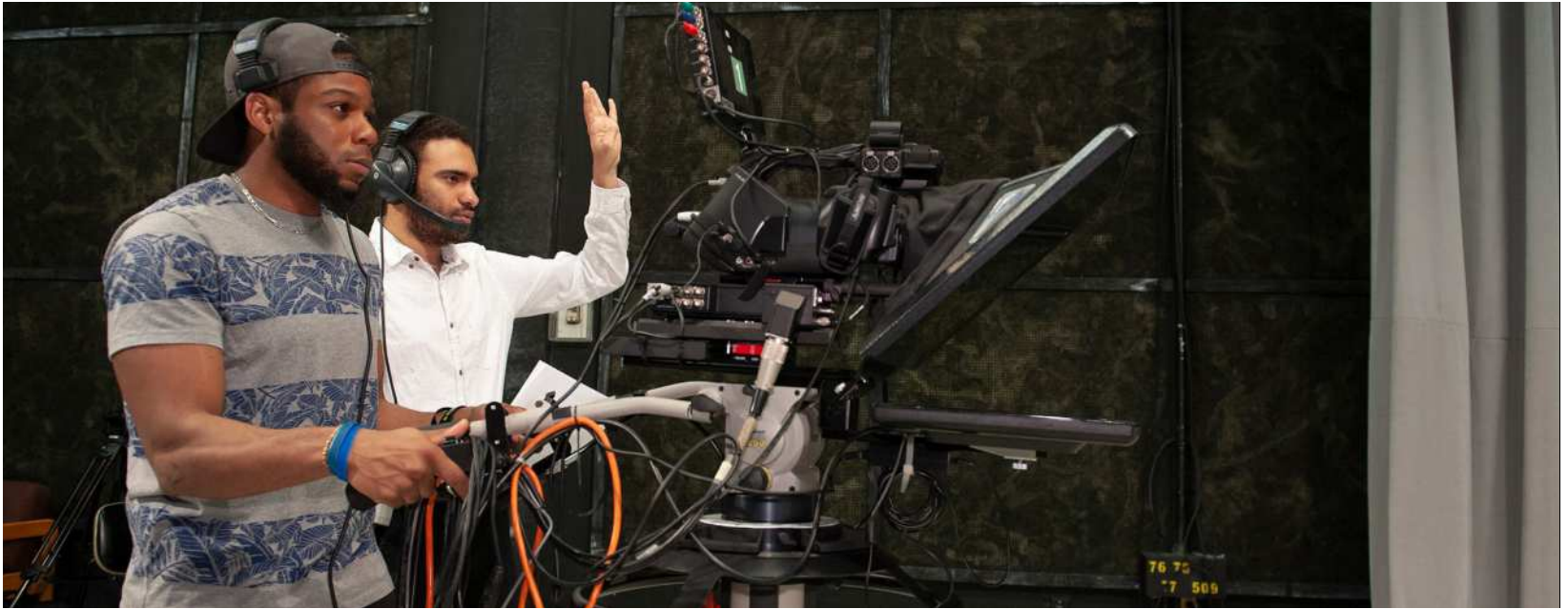


BCC Opens New State-of-the-Art Video and Audio Lab Studio

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to open the newly renovated Video and Audio Lab Studio at BCC. The ceremony was attended by President Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs Lester Sandres Rápalo, Dean of Academic Affairs. Luis Montenegro, Vice President of Student Success Irene R. Delgado, Associate Dean for Student Development Manny Lopez, Director of Male Empowerment Network (M.E.N.) Clifford Marshall and Director of Online Support Albert Robinson.

The Lab houses 4K top-of-the-line cameras, 8 channel video switches, and a 16 channel audio system. Faculty can create video and audio lectures for the classroom or upload their presentations so the students can view them; staff can also create videos about the services they offer to students such as Club Fair and other events on campus that enhance the academic experience.

In addition to their academic work, students are invited to create content for their personal use. For example, if they want to promote their band, they can make a professional video and audio presentation that would cost thousands of dollars to create in a professional studio.



Netflix Hires BCC Workforce Training Participants for Film Production Jobs on Comedy Specials

When Bronx resident Omari Sim Miller began his role as a production assistant for a comedy show being filmed by Netflix, he had just completed BCC's Film and Television Production specialized workforce training program. Through BCC's program, he gained knowledge of the lighting/electrical and Grip aspects required for the job and was looking forward to working on a set for the first time.

"It was a great experience," said Miller, who now plans to pursue more work in this field. "It was good to put my knowledge to use in the work setting. By participating in BCC's program, I felt prepared. I showed up on time, ready and willing to learn, and then everything started to make sense."

Miller is one of four BCC students that Netflix has hired recently as part of its Emerging Talent Initiative, which brings underrepresented talent into the live-to-tape multi-cam production world. The other three students began paid positions at Netflix at the end of August; each has the opportunity to meet with and receive mentorship from key production personnel while working on set.

Madelaine Centeno, BCC Director of Workforce Development and Continuing Education, said 10 students completed the Film Production Workforce Training Program offered in June. Students trained on site at Silver Cup Studios (one of the largest film and television production facilities in New York) for the final portion

of the eight-week program. The Netflix experience enables them to earn an hourly rate and gain exposure at the same time.

"Through our film production program, students learn practical skills that they can use on the job," Centeno said. "Our partnership with Netflix was initiated out of the company's desire to diversify its talent."

Centeno said getting the word out about BCC workforce programs is a challenge. "Hopefully, more people will hear about our successes and how training can lead to opportunities such as those at Netflix," she said.

More than 1,500 students came through BCC's workforce program during the past year.



Professors and Students Conduct Air Pollution Mapping in India

Professor Neal Phillip, Chairperson of the BCC's Department of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Environmental Science, Professor Paramita Sen of the same department and Dr. Brian Vant-Hull of City College of New York (CCNY) were joined by 13 CUNY students – including five BCC students – to conduct air pollution research in Mumbai and New Delhi, India, for one month during December and January. This was a paid internship for the students as part of a \$300,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Internal Research Experiences for Students (IRES) grant.

Mumbai and New Delhi are two of the most polluted megacities in the world. The CUNY team used LoraWAN sensors and other sensors mounted as backpack

units to map pollution on a micro-scale. These GPS enabled sensors indicated the pollution block by block as the CUNY team moved by foot through the Dharavi slum and other underserved communities in the two cities. This was an unprecedented initiative and one reason why BCC received the NSF grant.

As part of the research project to understand the correlation of air pollution and weather parameters (wind speed, wind direction, temperature, etc.), the CUNY team installed two weather stations in Mumbai. One weather station was installed at the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra in Mumbai. The other was installed at SNDT Women's University, India's first and largest university serving women.

"The world has become a smaller place. It is important for our students to experience firsthand the scientific and geopolitical issues surrounding air pollution and climate change," noted Professor Sen.

Jake Ortiz, one of the BCC students on the trip who is also head of the BCC Biology Club said, "This was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I am so happy that BCC and other CUNY students had this opportunity to conduct research and learn about the culture in India at the same time. I also absolutely loved the food."

BCC's work in India has put the College and University on the map as an important global research institution.



Meet BCC Groundskeeper Robert Parsons

On any given day, one will see Robert Parsons on his John Deere tractor tending to the landscaping and grounds of BCC's campus. For 35 years, Robert has taken as much pride in ensuring that BCC's grass is cut and litter-free as he would if it were his own backyard.

"I want students to be proud of this campus," said Parsons. He said the biggest compliment he can get is when someone says the lawn looks good, and he can say thank you.

Parsons began at BCC as a cafeteria worker during the Roscoe C. Brown era and then moved on to become a custodian. He recalls that the quad he is standing in during this conversation did not exist and that it took five or six interviews before he was hired. "I had to work hard to get this job," he said. "Even though I've already got the job, I put my heart and soul into it as if I am trying to get it. Whether it was during COVID or on the hottest or coldest of days, I just want to get the job done." His drive and push to meticulously care for the grounds never get old.

Born and raised in Harlem, Robert and his wife Katherine, whom he met while also working at BCC (she is currently a librarian), have four children and four grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, going out to eat and most of all, spending time with family.

"How can you be here all these years and not care about this campus?" Robert remarks. While three decades have brought changes to facilities, buildings and the community, one thing remains constant: "There will always be grass growing," he says. "And as long as I can be here to cut it, I will."



COMMUNITY COLLEGE DEMOCRACY PROJECT★

THE PEOPLE

URIBUS UNUM • OUT OF MANY, ONE • ADD YOUR VOICE

NOTABLE ENDEAVORS





Special Thank You to President Isekenegbe

The BCC community extends its most heartfelt gratitude to President Thomas A. Isekenegbe for his years of service and leadership. Consistently throughout his eight plus years in this role at BCC, Dr. Isekenegbe demonstrated his steadfast care for the students, staff and the community at large. His legacy will live on as a president who worked passionately to help students improve their lives through education.

During the pandemic, Dr. Isekenegbe navigated the complexities of helping to ensure that students, faculty and staff had the tools, tactics, training and support necessary for successful learning in an online environment. Post pandemic, he led the effort to pivot to hybrid and hyflex learning environments and then worked with Administration to offer fully online courses, helping to broaden the BCC student demographic and geographic boundaries.

President Isekenegbe built invaluable relationships with elected officials in the Bronx and beyond, resulting in funding for infrastructure and programs. Frequent visitors to campus included Governor Hochul, Mayor Adams, Senators Gillibrand and Sanders, Senator Chuck Schumer, and Presidential Award recipient Attorney General Letitia James.

Under his leadership, Dr. Isekenegbe championed extensive renovation of Gould Memorial Library (GML) through NY State and City funding. The completion of the reconstruction projects was critical in helping to preserve this national landmark and the history of BCC.

President Isekenegbe will always be remembered for the enthusiasm he showed as he warmly welcomed students at the front gate of campus on the first day of classes. Thank you, President Isekenegbe for your unwavering commitment each and every day.



Staff Members Get Certified as Mental Health First Aid Trainers

A core group of 12 BCC staff members participated in mental health first aid training organized by CARES (Counseling and Resources for Emergency Support) in an ongoing BCC initiative to identify individuals in crisis and build campus capacity to serve students, staff and faculty. These 12 individuals, now certified as trainers, will lead the way in training hundreds of students, staff and faculty members and provide them with tools to know how to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

"We want to give our students every opportunity for success and, in doing so, create a community where mental health is cared

about, discussed and supported," said CARES Director Dawn Daniels, who planned and organized the training, presented by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. "Our goal is to exponentially expand this initiative so that these certified trainers then go on to train other staff members, who will learn how to recognize, identify and support individuals in crisis."

The training addressed a range of complex mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, suicidal ideation and more and provided an easy-to-implement and accessible community approach to creating a safe learning environment for students, faculty and staff.

As a result of their certification, it is expected that these 12 staff members will now each go on to train approximately 30 students, staff and faculty members through one day sessions in which they will become "Mental Health First Aiders." The concept, Daniels said, is that once a wider base is trained, these individuals will be able to call for professional help when necessary and offer support to those in crisis.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the CARES program at BCC provided nearly 7,400 emergency support services to 1000+ students.



Career Readiness Boot Camp Prepares Students for Paid Internships and Jobs

The Office of Career Development facilitated a Career Readiness Boot Camp over the winter break. The Boot Camp was designed to get students ready for paid internships and jobs in their field of study and was held in collaboration with the Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP), CUNY Edge, First Year Program (FYP) and College Discovery.

External partners attending the event included Workforce 1, America Needs You, Blackstone LaunchPad, McDonald's and the NY/NJ Port Authority. Their participation provided students with employment, entrepreneurship, internship and mentorship opportunities.

In total, 36 students attended the Boot Camp and received a "good-to-go" certificate and career-ready pin.

The Boot Camp included workshops in resume writing, cover letters, thank you notes, interview skills and tips on how to succeed in the workplace.

All of the students who attended said they would recommend the Boot Camp to fellow classmates and friends. In addition, 80% of the students expressed feeling confident in applying for paid internships or jobs.

Alán Fuentes, Director of the Office of Career Development, said, "We intend to hold more Career Readiness Boot Camps workshops in the future. We urge more students to take advantage of these opportunities to better prepare themselves moving forward with the tools they need to secure a paid internship or a job in their field of study."

BCC Enhances First-Year Experience Through “Pillars for Student Success” Framework

Bronx Community College has launched a new “Pillars for Student Success” framework, providing first-year students with an essential toolkit for navigating college and excelling in their studies. The four pillars, which will enable students to build a robust foundation for their career at BCC and beyond, are Academic Success, Financial Literacy, Career and Transfer Readiness and Mindset for Success. Additionally, a stock market game was introduced in collaboration with SIFMA.

Several new online resources, including the BCC New Student Resource Webpage; First Year Program YouTube Channel and the Bronco Experience Hub provide valuable information for students. Everything students need to navigate BCC life can be found on these pages.

“The aim this year is to provide a more organized first year experience for our students, with everything all in one place – from financial information to info on academic planning, career paths and student supports,” said Tica Frazer, Associate Director, First Year Program. “Our first-year program staff members are super engaged, grateful and passionate about working with students. They think through the lens of what our students need.”

BCC’s First Year Program includes First Year Seminar (FYS), First Year Advising, a Certified Peer Mentoring Program and Faculty Development Initiative as well as our First Year Connection college-wide organization. Frazer says that 90 percent of the FYS classes are being offered in person on campus. “Of students surveyed, 97% felt that participation in FYS has enabled them to gain a better sense of how to be successful in college. Skill building is centered around teaching critical thinking, which is at the core of making rational decisions and sets the foundation for future years at BCC,” she said.

First-year programs also emphasize the concept of Growth Mindset. Students gain the tools for putting in effort, acquiring strategies and enlisting help from others.



10th Annual Amadou Diallo Youth Arts and Sci-Tech Day Focuses on Careers in Video Gaming Industry

BCC collaborated with the Amadou Diallo Foundation to host the 10th Annual Amadou Diallo Youth Arts and Sci-Tech Day.

Amadou Diallo was killed by four NYPD officers on February 4, 1999. His death sparked 25 years of social and political protests around the killing of unarmed Black and Latino youth by the police across the United States.

The Amadou Diallo Youth Arts and Sci-Tech Day focuses on providing Bronx middle, high school and college students with career information on the billion-dollar video gaming industry. Research

indicates that Black and Latino youth disproportionately spend their time and money on video game technology.

More than 70 students participated in workshops led by professionals in the video game field. Duane Pierre of Connecticut's World Wide Youth Network, an organization dedicated to teaching inner-city students about the business aspects of video gaming, gave the keynote address.

The participants also heard from Mrs. Kadiatou Diallo, the mother of Amadou, who spoke to the audience via Zoom. She

encouraged students to pursue their aspirations in school. "You must acquire the academic skills and social awareness needed to make real changes in this country," she said.

After the workshops and presentations, the youth participated in organized video game competition activities using Nintendo Smash Bros. consoles and PlayStation systems.

BCC was honored to host this prestigious event as part of its Black History Month celebration.

BCC Hosts United Nations Water Conference

BCC was once again featured on the global stage when it hosted an official event of the United Nations Water Conference on campus March 23, 2023.

The subject of the conference was “Climate Resilience: Addressing Drought and Flood.” The event focused on assessing risks of drought and flood for mitigation resources, adaption, and innovation to combat the critical issues of communities around the world.

BCC was chosen for this conference because of the work of Dr. Neal Phillip, Chairperson, Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Environmental Sciences Department, and his colleague Professor Paramita Sen on climate change, air pollution and related water issues in India.

Through a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant and a US State Department Public Diplomacy grant with US Consulate in Hyderabad, India, they have installed weather stations in India and arranged international conferences addressing this issue. They have also visited India twice with students from BCC and other CUNY campuses for research and experiential learning opportunities. Additionally, they have received another US State Department Public Diplomacy Grant with the US Consulate in Mumbai, India.

For BCC, the conference was an opportunity to showcase its work on climate change, exchange research with colleagues from around the world and forge new collaborations. Dr. Phillip said, “The UN Water Conference was an important event for BCC. The College hosted many of the key players in climate change from India, Sweden and the United States. This will help our mission moving forward to be a global research institution on this critical issue.”

Professor Sen noted, “Our students are the next generation of scientists. We welcome this opportunity to introduce them to the international community of scientists in this field.”



First Annual CUNY-Wide Latinas in Higher Ed Conference Held at BCC

BCC hosted its first-ever CUNY-Wide Latinas in Higher Education Conference, created by the BCC Association for Latino Faculty and Staff in collaboration with President Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe and WomXn UP!. This historic event celebrated and highlighted the scholarship, service and contributions of Latinas faculty and staff.

The morning's keynote speaker was Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President of Hostos Community College. Breakout sessions included programs that promote Latinx student success, beyond paving the way for Latina faculty

in higher education, using social science tools in the basic social sciences and creating a culture of career mentoring to help students thrive, among others. In the afternoon, participants could choose from sessions that addressed remaking public spaces; Latinx Contemporary Public Art in NYC, a call for mentoring from the voices of Latina faculty and overcoming seasons of change, presented by Susana Rivera, Director of the College Now Program at BCC.

The closing keynote address was delivered by Dr. Grisel Y. Acosta, author and BCC English professor.

Dr. Acosta said, "I want you to think about what brought you to this path in higher education. Was it your desire for knowledge? Or a parent who encouraged you and your love of teaching or someone who inspired you and saw you for who you are? I am in awe of all of you. If someone had told me as a child that I would have the opportunity to address a room of Latina scholars and leaders I would have had an extremely hard time imagining it. All Latinas in higher education, particularly those at community colleges, are making great strides."





BCC FOUNDATION NEWS





Luz Rosado Recognized by Forbes for Second Consecutive Year

Luz Rosado, a BCC graduate, member of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the 2022 commencement speaker, has once again been recognized by Forbes among "Top Women Wealth Advisors - Best in State." This is the second consecutive year of her recognition. Luz, Senior Vice President of International and Wealth Advisor at Merrill Lynch, joined the company in 2006 and manages accounts ranging from \$1 to \$148 million in assets.

An immigrant from the Dominican Republic, Luz spoke no English when she arrived at BCC in 2002 and enrolled in the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP). After successfully completing this program, she was accepted at BCC and graduated in May 2005 with a degree in Marketing Management. Luz went on to receive her Bachelor's degree in Marketing Management and Psychology from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College in May, 2008.

At Merrill Lynch, Luz collaborates with clients to achieve their individual financial goals by helping them navigate global markets and identify opportunities that align with their objectives. She strives to be a bridge between her client's needs and the vast amount of resources available at Merrill, providing them with the tools to take care of their wealth and aiding in the transition to future generations.

Luz joined the BCC Foundation Board of Directors because she wanted to give back to the school that helped her achieve her goals. It is her hope that other students will have the same opportunities that she did. Her commencement speech focused on two themes: dreaming big and having the courage to pursue these dreams.

The BCC family congratulates Luz on her achievements. We are fortunate to have her expertise on the Foundation's Board.

BCC Foundation Board Members Movin' On Up

Congratulations are in order for three of our BCC Foundation Board members who have recently landed exciting new positions:

Ana Almanzar (retiring Board member)
Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives

Doris Gonzalez Executive Vice President
at Higher Education Services Corporation

Dayanna Torres Vice President-Senior Program
Officer of Ares Charitable Foundation at Ares
Management Corporation



45th Annual Run the Bronx

Once again, the second oldest footrace in the city was held live on the campus of BCC and surrounding neighborhoods. Co-founded in 1978 by BCC President and Tuskegee airman Roscoe C. Brown Jr., the 10K • 5K runs and 2-mile walk, otherwise known as “Run the Bronx,” attracted more than 2,000 participants from around the world as it celebrated fitness and wellness in the borough.

In addition to the race, there were free health screenings, refreshments and medals for all who completed the course and trophies for the outstanding athletes of the day. On this glorious sunny day, Run the Bronx had more than 1,200 registered runners from as far as California and five international runners, including two from Canada and one each from Brazil, France and Poland. The majority of the registrants came from the Bronx.

Congratulations to all of our winners and finishers in their respective categories. A wonderful community event!



BCC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS



Scholarships

Alumni Scholarship

Yoany Barzola

Booker Quattlebaum Scholarship

Bryan Soriano

Con Edison STEM Scholarship

Alondra Lope Perez

David Hernandez Memorial Scholarship

Bernice Agyeiwaa

Dean Dolores J. Bullard Memorial Scholarship

Aryanna Chiraunjilal

Edmund O. Rothschild Memorial Scholarship

Hawa Tiama

Gala Scholarship

Asmaa Abdelrazek
Harriet Abeyie
Phelimon Afram
Lunique Agostini
Benice Agyeiwaa
Daniel Alban

Mia Allen
Lisette Almonte
Margaret Antwiwaah
Mathilda Asemota
Ferdeian Ashimeade
Freda Baidoo
Mohona Bari
Anthony Barzallo
Yoany Barzola
Christabel Boahene
Darren Bridges
Korell Burnham
Raphael Caamano
Victoria Castillo
Aryanna Chiraunjilal
Taslina Chowdhury
Elizabeth Colaj
Mary Dadzie
Iseyaka Darboe
Julio Dominguez
Sovhom Ek
Marielys Espinal Vasquez
Jovani Fernandez
Juana Flores
Melody Flores
Markquis Franks
Carlos Fresneda
Vanessa Garcia
Anastasia Genicoff
Kevin Germy
Kristina Gjoka

Rosemary Guzman
Henry Hernandez
Crystal Irizarry
Jennivette Jimenez
Amber Jimenez
Jennifer Juarez
Maleeka King
Courtney Kolb
Zionna Lewis
Nayrobi Lopez De Melendez
Chiane Marshall
Cynthia Martins
Veronica Mejia Gomez
Fatima Mian
Jebril Mohammed
Edelyn Nunez Abreu
Rapheal Ocran
Jake Ortiz
Krhistina Ortiz
Dora Ortiz
Amanda Osei
Laure Ouoba
Soumeyatou Ouro Bang'Na
Jasnique Outlaw
Hilary Pitter
Nelly Quaminah
Janicce Rivera
Nilselys Rodriguez
Michael Rodriguez
Jennifer Rosario
Winiffer Sanchez

Yaritza Santana Castillo
Mariama-Diarra Seck
Takierra Simpson
Linda Slack
Edilania Sosa De Reyes
Shanice Soto
Nikkia Terrell
Maria Then
Hawa Tiama
Lydia Tomlin-Parker
Giovanni Torres
Korotoumou Tou
Mahamadou Waggeh
Andrew Whyte

General Scholarship

Asmaa Abdelrazek
Harriet Abeyie
Andrew Alabi
Mia Allen
Aryanna Chiraunjilal
Jovani Fernandez
Henry Hernandez
Hilary Pitter
Takierra Simpson

Help a Bronco Graduate Scholarship

Lunique Agostini
Raphel Caamano
Melody Flores

Jennivette Jimenez
Rapheal Ocran
Krhistina Ortiz
Michael Rodriguez
Nilseys Rodriguez
Winiffer Sanchez

Help a Bronco Graduate Parley Scholarship

Mohona Bari
Korell Burnham
Taslina Chowdhury
Elizabeth Colaj
Sovhom Ek
Anastasia Genicoff
Kevin Germy
Courtney Kolb
Nayrobi Lopez De Melendez
Cynthia Martins
Fatima Mian
Dora Ortiz
Soumeyatou Ouro Bang'Na
Mariama-Diarra Seck

ITServe Alliance Corp. Social Responsibility STEM Scholarship

Owen Gibson
Keiry Sanchez

Lincoln Scholarship

Gigi Belete Ademe
Katherine Alegre
Ilse Ambrosio
Alissa Lyvet Corcino
Jennifer Cordero
Jeleiny De La Rosa
Eugenia Diaz
Vivien Amara Ezeani
Herinaida Fermin
Shanna Fisher
Petagay Oneika Forgie-Turner
Lachoy Harris
Anissa Lewis
Chiane Marshall
Carolette McKenzie
Gina Monzon
Roilfrin Moreta
Cabrina Nelson
Oluwatoyin Janet Obatosin-Lawal
Omolaja, Farouk Omolaja
Laura Ramos
Aisha Ruiz
Jocasta Sanders
Adjoua G. Sossouloko
Abigail Ornella Suckoo
Kimone K. Swaby Jimnenez
Tashoya Tanesha Tomlinson
Chelsea S. Toombs
Efrain P. Ufray
Alexander Tiede Whiteside

Haleema Yakim
Stella Kwadede Yeboah

**Martin May Memorial
Scholarship**

Niruka Pena Vasquez

**Media & Digital Film
Production Scholarship**

Robin De’Voir
Joel Garcia
Anthony Lopez
Devin Suazo-Almonte
Brandon Sanchez

**Norman Schaumberger
Memorial Scholarship**

Usama Akram

**Pershing Rifles E-8/Bob
Fernandez Scholarship**

Daniel Alban
Lisette Almonte
Margaret Antwiwaah
Mathilda Asemota
Ferdeain Ashmeade
Victoria Castillo
Iseyaka Darboe
Juana Flores
Carlos Fresneda

**Ponce Minority College
Scholarship**

Erika Espinal

Rudin Scholarship

Gigi Belete Ademe
Katherine Alegre
Ilse Ambrosio
Alissa Lyvet Corcino
Jennifer Cordero
Jeleiny De La Rosa
Eugenia Diaz
Vivien Amara Ezeani
Herinaida Fermin
Shanna Fisher
Petagay Oneika Forgie-Turner
Lachoy Harris
Anissa Lewis
Chiane Marshall
Carolette McKenzie
Gina Monzon
Roilfrin Moreta
Cabrina Nelson
Oluwatoyin Janet Obatosin-Lawal
Omolaja, Farouk Omolaja
Laura Ramos
Aisha Ruiz
Jocasta Sanders
Adjoua G. Sossouloko
Abigail Ornella Suckoo
Kimone K. Swaby Jimnenez

Tashoya Tanesha Tomlinson
Chelsea S. Toombs
Efrain P. Ufray
Alexander Tiede Whiteside
Haleema Yakim
Stella Kwadede Yeboah

**TRIO Pre-Collegiate
Program Scholarship**

Amia Jones
Amy Lilman
Giavanna Rhem
Ohany Villa

**Wallace Sokolsky
Scholarship**

Maxwell Akomeah
Laura Fernandez
Nahomy Canelo
Aserling Ramirez Reyes

Awards

Applied Science Support Award

Augustina Cudjoe
Richard Huang
Salma Issah
Briana Madera
Naydean Rivera

Association of Latino Faculty and Staff Award

Rubi Laracuent
Nayrobi Lopez
Enger Polanco Tejada

BCC GRIT Award

Nayrobi Lopez

Biology Faculty Memorial Award

Courage Agbanyo

Chemistry Award

Lillian Ameling
Majelle Sey
Mohammed Shahbain
Olivia Piankali
Sameera Saeidi
Shiba Bhowmik

Dr. Gloria Hobbs Award for Excellence in World Language Study

Mohammed Miha

Fatima Isekenegbe Service Award- ALFS

Mathilda Asemota
Carlos Sosa

Future Now Award- ALFS

Chanel West

GiveCard Award

Jamall Louis
Joanna Taylor

Herman & Corinne Stein Memorial Chemistry Award

Majelle Sey
Sameera Saeidi

“In Memory of Kalief Browder” Award

Mario Fanas

Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize

Robin De’Voir

Media and Digital Film Production (MEDP) 2022 Video & Film Festival Winners

Robin De’Voir
Joel Garcia
Ashley Josua Quinlon
Kimberly Vega

Nancy Littlefield Memorial Award

Jessica Beltre

Renacimiento en Fortaleza Award

Alondra Lope

Rev. Dr. Samuel Acosta Memorial Award

Ruth & Harvey L. Bass Memorial Award

Kayla M. Marrero
Terrance R. Byrum

Social Justice Film Festival Award

Chelsey M. Thomas

Kieran Firth Bernard

Community Arts Network

Adam Chihiro Wimbush / Karuna Media LLC

SubSathiya Memorial Award

Bajen Ashcroft

The Edelmira Alers Latinas in Nursing Award

Gayra Romero

The Future Educators Award (AA)

Yafriesi Nunez

The Leadership & Emotional Intelligence Award

Rubi Laracuent

The Medical Laboratory Technician Commendation Award

Elided Nebot

The Surviving Warrior Award

Heidy Leon

The Vicki Flaris Memorial Award

Carolina Perez

Courage Agbanyo

Lillian Ameling

Thomas F. Brennan Memorial Award

Ethan Ayala

Lillian Ameling

Mahfuja Chadni

Malk drwish

Mohammed Shahbain

Olivia Piankli

Shiba Bhowmik

William Coss Memorial Award- ALFS

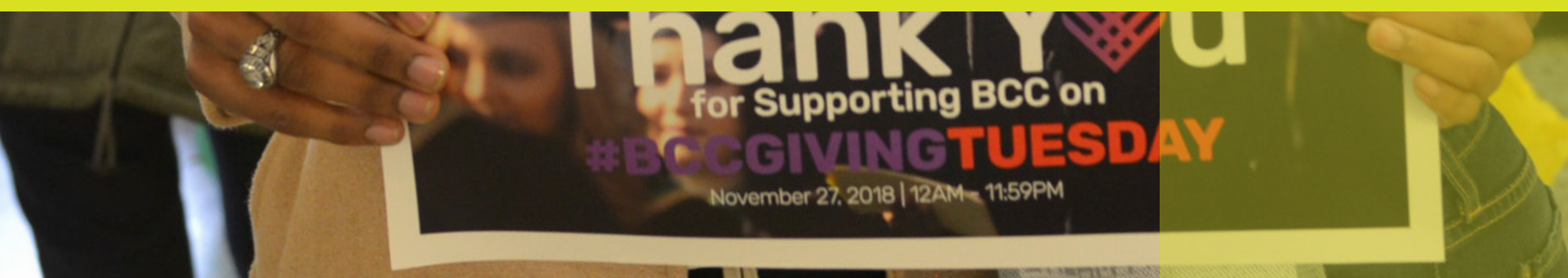
William Rojas

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

—Sydney J. Harris



BCC FOUNDATION DONORS



\$250,000 +

Affinity Legacy
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Morgan Stanley Foundation
National Collegiate Inventors
& Innovators Alliance
Waynesburg University

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\$100,000 - \$249,999

Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Brookhaven Science Associates, LLC
The Carroll and Milton Petrie
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The Pinkerton Foundation
Sarah Lawrence College
Trinity Church Wall Street Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Health Policy Foundation
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New York City School Bus Umbrella
Services, Inc.
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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

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\$25,000 - \$49,999

Business Outreach Center Network
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Carlos Sierra
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Howard M. Wach
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Bronx Community College

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GRANTS ROUNDUP



Patterson Garage Gets Upgrade; Electric/Autonomous Vehicle Courses Now Being Offered

The facilities at Patterson Garage are being upgraded as part of a competitive \$9 million dollar grant from the Governor's Office. The Garage will be the site of new curricula for electric cars. Students studying Automotive Technology can now take courses in Introduction to Electric Vehicles, Autonomous Vehicle Systems and Electric Vehicle Performance and Diagnosis.

Clement Drummond, Director of Automotive Technology, oversaw the 3-year project that made Patterson Garage a state-of-the-art facility preparing students for well-paying jobs in the automotive industry. The annual starting salary for an automotive technician in New York ranges from \$47,000 to \$75,000.

He said, "It was worth the journey to see the smiling faces of my students as they toured the newly renovated facility. This is my legacy to expand the minds of students and open them up to new and exciting possibilities as they enter the workforce."

Patterson Garage is a Nissan Technician Training Academy and is accredited by the Automotive

Service Excellence Education Foundation. The BCC Automotive Technology curriculum, the only one of its kind in CUNY, prepares students for careers as an automotive technician. This curriculum develops an understanding of operational principles, service sequences and diagnostic techniques for automobiles. Upon completion of this curriculum, graduates are prepared for entry-level positions in various areas of the automotive industry dealing with the development, testing, diagnosis and service of mechanical, hydraulic, electrical and thermodynamic automotive systems.

NY State Department of Labor Grant to Support Workforce Development

BCC received a \$250,000 grant from the New York State Department of Labor to support its Unemployed/Underemployed Worker Training Program. The grant is part of NYS's Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) and is important to BCC because the Bronx has the highest unemployment rate among all the boroughs.

According to Ruby Chua Ed.D., BCC's Director of Business and Industry Solutions, Workforce and Economic Development, the grant will support the IT Work-Ready and Accelerated IT Credentials training

programs, which will build BCC's capacity to serve unemployed/underemployed workers effectively. The programs create an ideal career path and in-demand employable and technology-transferable skills for participants to compete in today's economy and job market.

Dr. Chua said, "These two training programs will help BCC students improve their IT skills and quickly find jobs in the high-demand IT industry. Once they have completed the requirements for each program, students will be prepared to get industry certification for Computer Support Technicians, Network Administrators, Computer Analysts and other IT careers. These certifications are recognized globally. Additionally, students who obtained A+ and N+ certifications will receive (6) credits if they pursue their career in the college's AAS Degree in Cybersecurity and Networking. BCC would like to thank Governor Hochul and The New York State Department of Labor for their support."

New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said, "The Department of Labor is committed to ensuring New Yorkers have the skills and training necessary to succeed in high-growth IT occupations. This grant will help equip students with the tools they need to excel in the 21st-century workplace and drive economic growth in our communities."

Black, Race and Ethnic Studies Grants

Eight BCC professors were recipients of CUNY's Black, Race and Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI) grant awards, receiving a total of \$99,762.00 in grant money. More than 500 proposals were submitted, and the BCC awardees were among 126 selections chosen based on qualities such as innovation, focus and impact on the development of ethnic studies and sustainability.

BCC grants, overseen by Grants and Partnership Director Julia Oliva, included the following:

Jumpstarting the Black and Latinx Studies Emerging Scholars Pipeline at Community Colleges; a Collaborative Cross Campus Mentored Student Research Program

Guishard, Monique – \$20,000

Jerome Avenue Revitalization Collaborative (JARC) Internship

Fuentes, Alén – \$26,636

BCC African Services Project

Eugene, Adams – \$3,000

Black Freedom and Schooling in Nineteenth-Century Cuba

Otheguy, Raquel – \$4,250

Black Lives Matter in Higher Education: Empowering Student-Scholar Voices

Tobar, Cynthia – \$12,000

Faculty Research grants at Community Colleges – Red Rock

Katz, Jonathan – \$11,957

First Spanish: The Latinx People/Population of Logan Square

Acosta, Grisel Y. – \$10,000

Teacher-Led Instruction: Creating Asian American & Pacific Islander Curriculum

Choi, Minkyung – \$11,919

The Black, Race and Ethnic Studies Initiative Counsel, now a formal body within CUNY, was initiated by CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez and supported by a generous \$10 million gift from the Mellon Foundation. A total of \$3 million of this historic gift was designated for further development of CUNY programs in Black, race and ethnic studies. The commitment and underlying support for this important work will deepen BCC's pledge to inclusion and the scholarship of the CUNY community.

National Science Foundation Grant

Chemistry, Earth Science and Environmental Sciences Associate Professor Dr. Sheldon Skaggs received a \$200,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant is aimed at improving Undergraduate Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education by developing and testing a novel approach to retaining students who are at-risk of academic failure in STEM courses.

At BCC, a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, three

out of every ten students have a GPA below 2.0, placing them at risk of academic probation and/or dismissal. The primarily low-income students and students of color that BCC serves are traditionally underrepresented in STEM studies and careers. Dr. Skaggs plans to research how to help these students through his 13th Credit Pilot Program designed so that participating students take 12 credits per semester to include STEM gateway courses, Gen Ed/Pathway courses and electives as well as summer courses. The program also includes a research component that is typically only available to the highest-performing students.

"I used my work with BCC high-achieving students to determine how to reach less motivated students and introduce them to STEM," Dr. Skaggs said. "Many students don't know about career opportunities in STEM. Because of COVID, students had no chance to work in a lab, which is critical to success in STEM. I plan to work with student advisors to identify students who would excel in this program."

He added, "We want to establish a blueprint for all CUNY students. My research has shown that these students are more likely to complete their associate degree and get well-paying jobs or go on to four-year institutions if they have an authentic research experience."

Federal Funding for Allied Health Workforce Development Programs

Rep. Richie Torres (NY-15) joined BCC President Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe to announce federal funding for the College's Allied Health Workforce training programs. The \$150,000 investment fully subsidizes Allied Health training through the Workforce Development and Continuing Education Department for 100 residents of the South Bronx.

These funds provide for Phlebotomy Technician, Electrocardiogram (EKG) Technician, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training. Through this type of training, all students will be prepared to sit for the associated industry-recognized certifications, making them job-ready upon completion.

Congressman Torres said, "I am proud to join Bronx Community College to announce this much-needed federal funding to give 100 residents in my district a pathway to high-quality education and good paying jobs. Our borough is striving to reach its full potential, and funding like this is so critical to ensuring Bronxites have the tools they need to succeed. I am grateful for the tireless work of educators in The Bronx, and I am excited to see the positive impact this program will continue to have on our community,"

U.S. Department of Labor Grant for Training Leading to Construction Jobs

Bronx Community College (BCC) was awarded nearly \$5 million in the Round Two: Strengthening Community College (SCC2) grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to build community college capacity for in-demand skills training through strategic partnerships between industry, education industry, education and the workforce system. SCC2 aims to help people in marginalized and underrepresented populations overcome barriers to career and technical education programs they need to connect with quality jobs.

BCC will lead a CUNY Construction Skills Consortium in partnership with LaGuardia Community College and the New York College of Technology to create a construction career pathway that extends from high school completion (or GED) and community-based construction skills training certifications to degree attainment to employment and career advancement.

Emphasis will be given to recruiting predominately minority populations that are typically underrepresented in NYC's construction industry, including Hispanic, Black, Asian American and Pacific Islanders and women workers. The program will provide participants access to comprehensive sector-based training, including the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) credential,

OSHA-30 and HVAC certification, all of which will help trainees gain access to employment in the field.

Grant Enables Students to Participate in Paid Research Opportunities in India

BCC/CUNY and City College of New York/CUNY were jointly awarded a three-year \$300,000 National Science Foundation International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) grant to conduct air pollution research in Mumbai and New Delhi, India with BCC, CCNY and other CUNY colleges students.

BCC was the lead institution on the grant, and the principal investigator on the grant was Professor Neal Phillip (BCC), along with Paramita Sen (BCC) and Brian Vant-Hull (CCNY) as co-principal investigators. The research program was conducted in collaboration with faculty and students from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Delhi campuses. Eleven BCC students were selected to participate in the four-week research trip to India, with all expenses covered; students also received a \$2,000 stipend.

To apply for the trip, students needed to be enrolled at BCC, CCNY or in another branch of CUNY at least through the end of spring 2023; have a cumulative GPA of

at least 3.000/4.000 and have passed at least three of the following subject areas with a grade of B+ or better: Mathematics (Statistics, Calculus or higher level Math), Engineering/Engineering Science, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biology, Physics Environmental Science, Earth Science (Geology, Meteorology or Oceanography) or Astronomy. Additionally, two letters of recommendation were required, including one from a Professor whose class they took recently.

BCC Among Recipients of Electrifying School Buses Grant

BCC will be part of a project led by the NYC School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS) and partner organizations to study large-scale school bus electrification in New York. "Electrifying School Buses in the Bronx and Beyond," which received \$8 million in prize money, provides a framework to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission school buses in New York City and throughout the State.

The state and city have mandated the electrification of all school buses by 2035, and a recently announced infusion of over \$69 million in federal funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide New York with 184 Electric Buses, with 51 of them going to New York City

school districts. However, acquiring the vehicles is not the only barrier to a clean energy bus fleet. Bus companies and school districts need to navigate unfamiliar territory, and overburdened school districts often lack the resources and expertise to manage electric school bus adoption on a large scale.

"We are pleased to be part of the electrification of the NYC school bus program," said Clement Drummond, Director of Automotive Technology at Bronx Community College. "Our courses are designed to advance the knowledge of fleet maintenance personnel into the future. This is a game changer to have zero emissions and advanced driver safety systems that are designed to save lives."

Future Now Program Supported with Two Grants

A \$125,000 grant from Trinity Church Wall Street Philanthropies will provide free job training in the allied health and IT sectors for 100 Future Now students. All participants also will receive job readiness support services, including help finding jobs or internships.

Of the 1,000 BCC students in the Future Now program, 95% have been impacted by the justice system, including personal incarceration, probation, court involvement and/or have family

and friends who have been involved. The ongoing build-out of the Future Now program will speak to the unique needs of the students it serves by providing them with viable pathways to self-sufficiency and lessening their likelihood of recidivism.

Future Now also received a \$100,000 grant from the Pinkerton Foundation to support Workforce Development training programs for students pursuing a degree in healthcare. This grant provides a group of 50 Future Now students with an opportunity to enroll in various allied health trainings, including Phlebotomy and Electrocardiogram (EKG). To best prepare Future Now students for the trainings, medical terminology classes that provide health-related language and scenarios will be required for all students before enrollment.

Elizabeth Payamps, Founder and Director of Future Now, said, "These important grants will help students impacted by the criminal justice system through the delivery of fully subsidized job training services and supports. The success of Future Now over the past 24 years is due to the empowerment of its alumni who assist their current peers and become positive contributors to themselves, their families and their communities. These grants will help us achieve our goal of ensuring that our students succeed."

Medical Laboratory Technician Program Grant

The BCC Medical Laboratory Technician Program (MLT) received a \$25,000 grant from the New York City (NYC) Mayor's Office Young Men's Initiative. The grant will enable up to 30 MLT students to acquire gainful employment while pursuing their studies in the MLT program at BCC.

The new grant is a pilot program initiated by Dr. Patricia Simino Boyce, CUNY's University Dean for Health and Human Services, with funding from the Mayor's Office Young Men's Initiative. The grant gives students in MLT the chance to be employed as Phlebotomists while completing their degree. The career opportunities resulting from these credentials will provide meaningful paid employment for enrolled students; replace non-related jobs for many students; offer valuable experience toward their desired healthcare careers in laboratory science, and present a hiring pipeline by employers and community partners. It also includes costs related to the training and supplies, phlebotomy certification fees and study materials for the national exam.

Dr. Diane Banks, MLT Program Director at BCC, said, "This grant represents an economic opportunity for our MLT students, so they don't have to choose between work and getting an education. We are grateful to the

Mayor's Office and Dr. Boyce at CUNY for providing this support."

BCC Receives a \$24,000 Grant from CUNY to Address Discrimination

In a CUNY sponsored initiative to help its campuses address the uptick in anti-Asian hate, antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, BCC received a \$24,000 Campus Climate Change grant for its "Frameworks for effective conversations about race and religion" proposal. The proposal, written by an interdisciplinary team of BCC faculty, staff and administrators, utilizes Theatre in Education (TIE) techniques, interactive workshops and a common read program to identify, develop and facilitate a framework for having difficult conversations about race and ethnicity, religious differences and issues of equity and diversity.

The project will build upon existing, successful anti-racist and social justice initiatives at BCC, including its Social Justice Leadership Certificate series and the BCC Reads program. Monthly workshops will be held in conjunction with the BCC Social Justice Student Leadership Certificate series, where students, faculty and staff will learn about frameworks for holding positive

conversations about race and religion.

As part of the grant, BCC will present three performances of the play Dissonance to be held at the College's theater. This community-wide event will bring to life an emotionally charged conversation about two lived realities separated by race. The director and cast will lead a discussion about race after the performance.

Two-Year Grant to Support "Uptown Future of Work Centers"

Through a collaborative partnership with Hostos Community College (HCC) and the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), BCC received a \$1,519,573 grant from the New York State Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) to support the "Uptown Future of Work Centers." The partnership focuses on providing allied health training across BCC's and HCC's main Bronx-based campuses and BMCC's Upper Manhattan satellite training site located at The City University of New York (CUNY) in the Heights location.

BCC, HCC and BMCC will work together across each college's respective employer networks to develop and implement new and enhanced allied health curricula across several in-demand, short-term training programs.

BCC will offer Computed Tomography (CT) certification courses for Nuclear Medicine and Radiological Technology students and Certified Medical Administrative Assistant and Phlebotomy training programs for the community. Hostos will provide a Certified Billing and Coding Specialist (CBCS) training program, and BMCC will offer a Patient Navigator Training Program.

The new “Uptown Future of Work Centers” program builds the internal capacity of each college by facilitating cross-collaboration with employers. As a result, students will have access to more jobs and internship opportunities as well as referrals between programs. The training offered by each campus will be open to all students.

Design Studio is Recipient of NY State’s \$498,466 Workforce Development Grant

BCC received a two-year, \$498,466 grant from the New York State Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) in support of its Design Studio. BCC’s Design Studio is the first student-run graphic design studio on any CUNY campus. It aims to provide professional development and experiential education opportunities to Digital Design majors to prepare them for jobs and careers in design-related occupations.

As a bridge between academia and the workforce, the Design Studio provides students with professional experience and mentoring in client management, collaboration and communication. Now in its fifth year, the Design Studio employs paid student interns and serves local businesses, start-ups, not-for-profits and the College community with high-quality graphics. The Design Studio’s work can be viewed on Instagram at

[@bccdesignstudio.](https://www.instagram.com/bccdesignstudio)

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” —Benjamin Franklin

Bronx Community College-CUNY

Preliminary Tax Levy Financial Data

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

Expenditures by Major Purpose	Tax Levy Ledger 2	Tax Levy Ledger 3 Tech Fee	Total
Instruction and Department Research	\$46,692,059	\$0	\$46,692,059
Academic Support Services	\$7,730,127	\$225,902	\$7,956,029
Student Services	\$8,487,364	\$1176,852	\$9,664,216
Maintenance and Operations	\$8,612,634	\$0	\$8,612,634
General Administration	\$5,117,242	\$0	\$5,117,242
General Institutional Services	\$9,601,957	\$400,000	\$10,001,957
College Discovery	\$532,503	\$0	\$532,503
Total CUNYFirst Expenditures	\$86,773,886	\$1,802,754	\$88,576,640

Capital Projects

GML Egress – Creating at second means
of Egress for GML Rotunda

\$1,917,000

GML Roof – Roof replacement for dome and oculus

\$18,754,000

2020 Automobile Technology Lab and
Chemistry/Biology Lab in ME

\$9,300,000

Snow New Hall Elevator

\$1,800,000

Childcare Infant Toddler room

\$150,000

Fire Alarm 12 Buildings - CO, CM, LH, PH,
BU, NI, LO, HL HA, GU, BL, GH

\$13,946,000

Phase V – Electrical Upgrade

\$69,632,000

ME Relighting – Replace all light with new LED lighting

\$5,666,000

Phase VI – Boiler Plant Upgrade

\$44,916,851

BX express – One Stop Shop for Admission, Registrar,
Financial Aid, Bursar

\$23,975,636

New Hall Plaza roof – Replacement of the Plaza
roof over PPS Shops

\$3,000,000

BCC BY THE NUMBERS

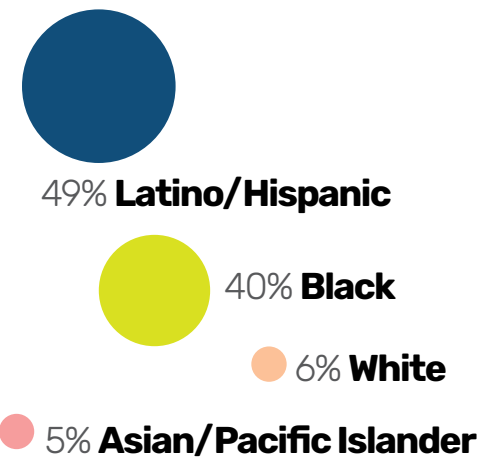
6,152

Total Enrollment

Total full-time enrollment: 3,249

F 3,548 58% M 2,584 42%

Diversity:



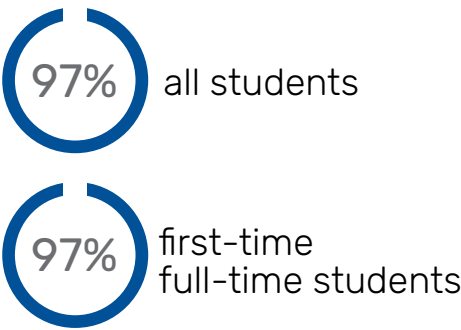
Annual Tuition:

\$2,400 per semester full-time New York City/State residents
\$210 per credit New York City/State residents

Student-Faculty Ratio:

18 to 1

Students on financial aid:



Top Ten Majors:

Liberal Arts and Sciences (AA)	567
Nursing (AAS)	488
Criminal Justice (AA)	388
Psychology (AA)	287
Business Administration (AS)	252
Computer Science (AS)	247
Radiologic Technology (AAS)	218
Early Childhood and Child Educ (AA)	170
Dietetics & Nutrition Science (AS)	145
Medical Laboratory Tech (AAS)	140
Automotive Technology (AAS)	140

Even in the very best of times, Bronx Community College students struggle with financial and personal challenges to earn their diploma. Since the start of this decade, we have faced a global pandemic, unprecedented supply shortages and soaring prices. For so many BCC students, this means working two or three jobs just to cover basic necessities. Where does all of this turmoil leave their education and their future?

Regardless, BCC students remain steadfast in their pursuit of a better life. They are determined to earn their degree. Through you, our alumni, faculty, staff and friends, we can keep our students at BCC, where they can continue to transform not only their lives but also their families' lives.

Please match their resilience with your commitment.



**If you wish to make a gift
in support of BCC students,
please visit us at:**

<https://www.bcc.cuny.edu/about-bcc/bcc-foundation/make-a-gift/>

Mission

BCC prepares, inspires and empowers our richly diverse student body with a quality educational experience that facilitates economic mobility, lifelong learning and engaged citizenship.

Vision

Bronx Community College will actively invest in each student's success by engaging with them in an integrative and supportive environment that facilitates the development and achievement of their educational and career goals. Graduates will be prepared to understand, thrive in and contribute to a 21st-century global community marked by diversity, change and expanded opportunities for lifelong learning and growth.



2155 University Avenue | Bronx, NY 10453
www.bcc.cuny.edu | 718.289.5100