

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – APRIL 2023**

*Thomas A. Isekenegbe, Ph.D.*

It is hard to believe that we are less than six weeks away from the end of the semester. I hope everyone enjoyed a happy and restful spring break and that you are recharged as we forge to our favorite time of year COMMENCEMENT. The College's 63<sup>rd</sup> Commencement Ceremony will be held at Ohio Field on Friday, June 2, 2022. Please join me for the celebration of our students' success. Let us garner our energy and enthusiasm for this momentous occasion as we encourage our students to get them over that last academic hurdle toward the finish line.

**PROVOST'S VISIT:** Today we are very pleased to welcome CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, Wendy Hensel to BCC. During her visit, EVC/ Provost Hensel will meet with students, faculty and the College's Administration. Following her meeting with faculty, student leaders will join Provost Hensel for Lunch in the President's Conference Room. A Town Hall meeting with the Provost will follow the Senate Meeting at 1:15 p.m., in GML Auditorium. Let's give a big Bronco welcome to EVC/Provost Hensel!

**FALL '23 ENROLLMENT:** Registration for summer and fall 2023 classes is open. BCC's official in-person registration process began on Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to register now. The college is offering a variety of modalities of courses based on students' needs.

As of Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>, there are 1,452 students registered for the Fall 2023 semester. At this time, the numbers represent an 11% decrease compared to last year. However, we are in the early stages of enrollment and anticipate continued enrollment success. Based on this past year's performance, we are projecting a flat 2% increase going into Fall 2023. This is a conservative projection and amounts to an approximate enrollment of 6,850 students and FTEs of 4,809. The growth in incoming freshmen and transfer students during last year's enrollment cycle support the projection of a similar pattern going into the next academic year Fall 2023-2024.

To support fall enrollment efforts, the College has implemented the Bronco Reconnect Center (BRC) and hosted the Bronco Reconnect Mixer for returning students. The BRC located in CO 506 provides outreach and in-person services by Financial Aid and Registrar staff to readmitted students. Additionally, the College had a successful Open House. I want to thank the Open House Committee for a phenomenal job in putting this event together. I also want to thank all faculty and staff for showcasing the jewel that BCC truly is. The tagline for the Open House and this upcoming year is "I AM BCC" – a declarative statement that shows pride in the institution and the students who enroll.

Further supporting enrollment efforts are two upcoming events to continue engaging the community:

- Erasmus Hall Campus College Fair on Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> (5 High Schools)
- Adult Learner Campus Event on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> (Open to the Community)

**THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter financial report was released last week and I am happy to highlight the change in structural deficit expectation. BCC's initial projection was a \$3.2 million deficit and the Third Quarter Report now reflects a \$1.5 million deficit. I am also happy to report that we have made some inroads in increasing our prior years' collections by \$1.6 million. This will all help in absorbing some of the impact of the savings target. You can view the report in its entirety [HERE](#).

**COVID-19 PROTOCOLS UPDATE:** The University has announced the end of the Covid-19 emergency vaccination mandate for students, faculty and staff. Current protocols will remain effective until the last day of the Spring semester, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This change will allow students to enroll in classes, regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, starting with Summer sessions. The decision comports with the federal government's plan to end the national Public Health Emergency next month.

It is important to recognize that the pandemic is not over; we continue to encourage and urge all students, faculty and staff to stay up to date with vaccinations. The University will continue to consult with public health experts, closely monitor data and adhere to pertinent federal, state and city guidance.

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

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** Four BCC student leaders attended the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society Catalyst Conference in Columbus, OH held April 19 -23. PTK Catalyst is Phi Theta Kappa's premier annual event, bringing together members, advisors, and their supporters for professional development. The conference was supported by a 3-year grant awarded to BCC from the National PTK headquarters for annual student membership fees and leadership development opportunities. BCC was represented by the following students.

1. PTK President – Terrance Byrum, Digital Design
2. PTK Vice President – Raquel Gonzalez, Nursing
3. PTK Secretary – Veronica Rivera, Dietetics & Nutrition Science
4. PTK Social Media Coordinator – Daisy Moris, Business Administration: Marketing

**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS:** Blackstone LaunchPad has partnered with the NYC Department of Small Business Services to offer cohorts for BCC students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The first cohort, Introduction to Entrepreneurship, included 35 participants. 33 participants have signed up for the second cohort, Digital Marketing. The cohort is beneficial for anyone wanting to learn more about developing marketing strategies, creating valuable content, building websites, search engine optimization (SEO), email marketing, and/or social media marketing. Eligible students for both cohorts received stipends for their participation and feedback.

BCC was recently awarded \$200,00 in support of the Petrie Emergency Fund from the Petrie Foundation. This continued support will allow the college to provide emergency funds to students for expenses such as rent, food, childcare, utilities, etc., to help them stay in school.

In support of Working Toward the Future Now, Trinity Church Wall Street provided \$125,000 and The Pinkerton Foundation committed a \$100,000 in continued support of a program to provide subsidized job training in allied health and IT for Future Now students.

Other grants include \$50,000 from the Rudin Foundation in scholarship support for Nursing Students; \$10,000 from Bronx Pro Real Estate Group in scholarship support and \$5,000 from Goldman Sachs in scholarship support.

The end of the Spring semester and Commencement is a few weeks away. I am encouraging all to stay on course and let's finish the academic year BCC strong.