

**BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**PRESIDENT’S COMMUNITY REPORT – APRIL 2024**  
*Interim President Milton Santiago, Ed.D.*

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It is hard to believe that we are less than six weeks away from the end of the semester. Commencement is almost here. The College’s 64th Commencement Ceremony will be in person on BCC’s Ohio Field on Friday, May 31, 2024. Let us focus 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.

**BCC PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH:** Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, has announced the official kick-off of the search for the next permanent President for Bronx Community College. Let your voice be heard by completing the survey [HERE](#) for input in identifying the college’s current needs and priorities, and the qualities you believe are important for the next leader of the college. RPA, Inc., the search firm assisting with the search and members from CUNY’s Executive Search Office staff, will be meeting with key stakeholders for even more input and feedback in the next few weeks.

**ENROLLMENT:** Registration for summer classes and fall 2024 is open and ongoing. Please continue encouraging your students to register now. **A Bronco Reconnect Mixer** is scheduled for April 18, 2024, 10am-6pm; Colston Hall, Lower Level.

Several exciting new enrollment marketing initiatives are underway, including cable TV spots in both English and Spanish focusing on enrollment and highlighting programs that lead to well-paying jobs with a two-year degree. ASAP is featured with testimonials from a current student as well as an alum, and our fully online degree programs are featured for their appeal to the adult learner population.

**OFFICE OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:** I am happy to report that CUNY has approved BCC’s submission for the Transformation Fund Allocation submitted last month. The initiatives are one-time expenditures related to CUNY’s use of “transformational funding,” and funds must be used for initiatives that help support innovation, meet future workforce needs, enhance student support services, improve academic programs, increase enrollment, and modernize campus operations. The majority of the funding will be provided in FY’25, however, there are a few which will receive monies for FY’24. BCC submitted a total of eleven (11) proposals and all were accepted for a total allocation of \$695,013. The approved initiatives are the following:

*Office of Academic Affairs:*

- Modernization of biology laboratories: \$75,000 FY’24; \$150,995 FY’25 total \$225,995
- Development and implementation of a distance education certificate in nuclear medicine technology: total: \$37,653; FY’25.
- Revision of the existing Computer Information Systems AAS degree to develop and implement two new 12-credit degree options (Artificial Intelligence and Programming) alongside the development and implementation of two 36-credit certificates \$79,000 FY’24
- Preparing for Promotion Mentoring Program; total \$32,000 [PS \$25K, FY’25- OTPS \$7K; \$4K FY’24; \$3K FY’25]
- Brightspace Faculty Trainer program: total \$24,000 FY’24
- Ensure all academic programs--credit and non-credit--are preparing students for career pathways OTPS \$40,865 [11,500 FY ‘24/\$29,365 FY’25]
- Publication Mentoring Program: Total \$42,000 [\$3,000 FY’24/\$39,000 FY’25]

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***Human Resources:***

- Procurement of Document Management System For Personnel Records: Total \$50,000 FY'25

***Enrollment Management:***

- Bronco Re-connect Center (BRC) \$20,000 FY'25
- Office of International Student Services (OISS); \$35,000 FY'25
- Integrated Communication Center (ICC) \$20,000 FY'25

***Student Success:***

- Customer Service Professional Development: \$30,000 FY'25
- Food Pantry Equipment: \$30,000 FY'25
- BCC Spirit Week: \$8,500 FY'25
- Ohio Field Soccer Club Shelter: \$20,000 FY'25

**BUSINESS OFFICE:** The University Budget Office has released a **draft** 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter financial report and is currently being reviewed for BCC's response. The budget office will begin distributing FY 2025 budget templates during the first week of May.

The Accounts Payable Office holds travel and expense training online every Wednesday at 1pm. until June 12th. Staff can register for the sessions on the BCC website via the IT training office.

The cafeteria RFP advertisement has been placed on the State and City websites. The finance and budget team is coordinating to facilitate the procurement of new equipment for the cafeteria. The team is working diligently to prepare all campus food service areas, including the removal of old equipment and a general uplift of the site including, cleaning, electrical and painting, for the site visit of prospective RFP vendor respondents scheduled on May 2, 2024. The Food Truck RFEI has not resulted in any proposals from interested vendors to date.

**CAMPUS PLANNING/CAMPUS OPERATIONS:** It is an exciting time around campus as we see progress on so many campus projects. Meister Hall *Bronx Express*, the long-awaited project to house Registrar, Admissions, Financial Aid and Bursar together in a one-stop locale has finally kicked off with site surveys by the contractors. The Meister Hall re-lighting project is scheduled to be completed during spring break. Ongoing projects include the Phase VI Boiler Upgrade Project; the New Hall Plaza/Terrace roof design which will replace the entire terrace, and provide an accessible ramp, parapet and railings; the Hall of Fame roof protection; and the fire alarm upgrades continue in 12-Buildings - CO, CM, LH, PH, BU, NI, LO, HL HA, GU, BL, GH: for review and coordinating with FDNY for inspections.

**STUDENT SUCCESS:** Please join me in congratulating BCC's Valedictorian: Veronica Urena: AA Liberal Arts and Sciences: Psychology and the Salutatorian: Lia Calderon Castillo: AA Liberal Arts and Sciences: Early Childhood and Childhood Education.

For all faculty who still need to rent a hood and gown, commencement regalia please visit the BCC commencement webpage. Please note, the last date to order regalia is **April 19, 2024.**

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Judy Walia, Early Childcare Director, is presenting at the World Forum on Early Care and Education in Vancouver, Canada. Her presentation is on Family Engagement, titled “Building Stronger Families Together: Effective Family Engagement.”

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Commencement will take place on Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Commencement Committee is working diligently to prepare for this favorite event on campus and is looking forward to hosting this momentous occasion for our students.

Today, we are opening up BCC's Agency Boutique on campus--right next door in Nichols 102 - which provides our students with brand new, no-cost professional attire for their internships and jobs. Access to clothing should never be a barrier to our talented students applying to jobs and internships and attending events like career fairs on campus. Students who have an approved resume will be able to get fitted, pick up a suit, and take a professional headshot for their LinkedIn profile. Once they land a role, they will be able to get multiple outfits. This offering is unique to BCC, and we hope that faculty and advisors will partner with the Office of Career Development to hone your students' professional readiness. Please reach out to Interim Dean Jessica Seliger to discuss partnership opportunities.

The BCC Foundation is looking for your support for the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Run the Bronx. There are 3 ways that you can participate. Take part in the 10K Run, 5K Run, or the 2M Walk; Sponsor a Student through our Healthy Start Initiative; or, volunteer your time and help in the day's activities. We are expecting 1,500 runners and would love to show how our own faculty and staff support this major event in the borough of the Bronx. Click here to register: <https://runsignup.com/Race/NY/Bronx/RunTheBronx>

**GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS:** I hope you had an opportunity to attend the Financial Empowerment Day: Unlocking Your Financial Freedom a collaboration hosted by Blackstone LaunchPad and the First-Year Program, on Tuesday April 16<sup>th</sup>. In partnership with leading financial institutions such as the SIFMA Foundation, Chase Bank, Citizen Bank, Ponce Bank, and Popular Bank, as well as a resource fair attended by several other banking institutions like NY Life and Bank of America, the event offered a unique opportunity for participants to engage directly with industry experts. This community event provided a comprehensive learning experience, equipping the BCC community with the tools to make informed financial decisions and achieve lasting stability.

Nine BCC faculty were awarded PSC-sponsored grants grand totaling \$46,677.

The BCC Foundation would like to introduce our new **Pee-Wee Pavilion**. Inspired by our Run the Bronx Pavilion, the Pee-Wee Pavilion aims to engage children aged five and under in physical activity through Play! The Pee-Wee Pavilion will have a 30-minute obstacle course and continual fun activities with hula hoops, bubbles, bouncy balls, face painting, giveaways, and more. Let's bring our children back to a world of fun and exercise through play, and do our part in addressing the high rate of child obesity in the Bronx. Please come cheer on our tiny participants before the 10 AM Run starts. Hope to see you there.

On Friday, April 12, 2024, BCC hosted over 100 New York University alumni who attended our Heights Campus when it was part of NYU. They were greeted by NYU President Linda Mills, NYU Board Chair and Heights alum Evan Chesler, and Heights alum Freddy Ferrer. During the event, Sam White spoke about Gould Memorial Library and Rob Whelan presented on the longstanding connections between BCC and NYU.

The event was an opportunity for Heights alumni to revisit the campus, tour GML and other buildings, and remember their time here. Many of the NYU alumni have fond memories of their time at the Heights campus and enjoyed the opportunity to explore their old stomping ground.

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As we stand on the cusp of the semester's conclusion, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication exhibited by our students, faculty, and staff. With Commencement drawing near and the promise of brighter days ahead, let us continue to foster an environment of support and encouragement as our students navigate their final academic challenges. As we prepare to celebrate their achievements on Ohio Field, let us reflect on the journey that brought us to this point and look forward to the bright futures awaiting our graduating class. Together, let us ensure that the spirit of community and accomplishment that defines our institution shines brightly at this year's commencement ceremony and beyond.