

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT TO COLLEGE SENATE - MARCH 2024
Interim President Milton Santiago, Ed.D.

It is hard to believe that we have completed midterm exams, and the semester is marching to its conclusion and on to Commencement. Our work is not yet complete; however, we have many exciting ongoing projects and events on the horizon. We cannot lose momentum now and I look forward to our collective efforts as we continue the important goal of providing the best service to our students.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: Please join me in offering Congratulations to Dr. Mohammad Nizamuddin from Engineering, Physics and Technology and Dr. Mirabel Bell-Gam, from Biological Sciences. They were selected as **CUNY's 2024-25 Career Success Fellows!** The University received many outstanding applications, and their qualifications and interest stood out. Career Success Fellows focus on curricular alignment related to career preparation to propel CUNY students into successful careers.

The Office of Academic Affairs has launched a pilot initiative called *Explore Your Major: Meet and Greet Week*. By connecting first-year students with their academic departments and programs, the initiative is expected to improve students' sense of academic connection and belonging, making them more likely to stay enrolled at BCC. Many thanks to the departments and programs participating, including *Art and Music; Criminal Justice; Education; and Health, Physical Education and Recreation*. These events are scheduled for the first week of April. My appreciation as well to Jessica Cabrera, ASAP Associate Director, and the Explore Your Major team for organizing the pilot. OAA anticipates a formal roll out of the initiative in the Fall 2024 semester that will include more programs and departments.

BUDGET PLANNING: The College is entering compliance season. This is the time of year when the Business Office must prepare for the close of the fiscal year and participate in the audit and year-end protocols. In order to ensure a seamless FY24 year-end close, CUNY Central Office has issued the following requisition deadline for CUNYBuy procurement activities: Monday, April 1, 2024, is the final day to enter requisitions in CUNYBuy, which means all requisitions must be **entered, approved, and budget checked by Monday, April 1, 2024**. In addition, since this is a CUNY imposed deadline, the Business Office is unable to make any exceptions. All FY24 requisitions submitted or approved **after** the date specified above, will be returned to the creator. **As is customary, any goods and/or services received/rendered after June 30th will be charged to your department's FY 2025 budget.**

ENROLLMENT: Advisement and Registration are open, and the Office of Enrollment Management is gearing up for the Summer/Fall Enrollment Period. Please encourage all your students to register and remind them to visit the OAA's Degree Works information on the website [HERE](#) to plan their semesters. Much helpful information is available from this essential resource.

As a follow-up to the registration process, a survey was sent to faculty, staff, and students seeking information on their experiences. The BARFITA Committee has reviewed the results, and a deep dive will take place to further identify the most frequently identified concerns. An EM Retreat will focus on creating short-term and long-term goals. Several high-profile registration events are being planned: Education Day – Saturday, April 6th ~ STEM Day – Thursday, April 11th ~ and the Guidance Counselor Luncheon – Friday, May 17th

BCC is renewing two MOUs with our Bronx Opportunity Network (BON). The first is with BronxWorks and, the second is with the South Bronx/Brooklyn Job Corps Academy.

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A collaboration event is being planned with Enrollment Management and BCC academic departments to host approximately 1,400 students (various admission choices) for a Meta-Major Event, for those who are registration ready. This will take place between May and August.

The University has been working with all community colleges to revamp the look of the enrollment management sections of their website and increase users' ability to navigate and find resources.

STUDENT SUCCESS: In honor of Women's History "HERSTORY" Month, exciting programming was co-sponsored by the WOMXN Up Program and Student Life: Highlights include: Exhale to Inhale, Trauma Informed Yoga Class; Celebrating Women Professionals of BCC (networking) Gender and Climate Justice Workshop, The Bluest Eye, Barbie and You! And, Celebrating Women in History and Our Lives Workshop.

I am proud to announce that The BCC CARES Office awarded \$141,279 of the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation emergency grants to 64 students from summer 2023 through spring 2024.

Commencement is Coming – Friday, May 31st on Ohio Field. Faculty convene in Meister Lobby at 8:30am. Thirty-six (36) pending graduates are nominated for BCC College awards.

BCC is undertaking efforts to improve customer service and efficiency and a committee has been formed to update website content and to implement *ChatBot*. This update and implementation of the app is a coordinated effort with The Office of Information Technology, the Office of Academic Affairs, Marketing and Communications, and the Center for Teaching and Learning, with other constituent members making up the committee. The IT area will be responsible for application security and system configuration while assigned college colleagues will update content. The IT staff will also assist in marketing efforts and Mobile App configuration. Stay tuned for further developments.

HUMAN RESOURCES: The Office of Human Resources is making strides to increase the knowledge base of its personnel and enhance the service level outcomes to campus stakeholders. We welcome Anesha Bonner to the college, recently hired as HR Coordinator for Civil Service. The office is working diligently to fill four open vacancies. Congratulations to Belkis Soler, recently promoted to HR Benefit Manager.

HR, and IT are working with a third-party vendor to broaden the scope of the TimeClock Plus project to include over 750 ECP, HEO, and Faculty in a data migration into the TCP software. Future use will enable campus stakeholders to view their leave balances at-a-glance.

HR, IT and Central IT are collaborating on the integration of a new human capital management solution, **CUNYWorks**. The project recently launched and will take 3-4 years to complete. The CUNYWorks project will replace CUNYFirst (PeopleSoft) for HR and Finance operations, replacing it with industry standard, WorkDay.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: The CUNY Board of Trustees has required all faculty and staff to complete cybersecurity awareness training. The course covers various cybersecurity risks, such as phishing attacks, spam, protecting CUNY accounts, and best practices for safeguarding data. We are asking all BCC staff to complete the training course by April 30. The course may be accessed from your CUNY Blackboard account's home page. By completing the required annual Cybersecurity Awareness Training course, we will do our part in reducing CUNY's Cybersecurity risk.

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GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS: BCC has received \$850,000 from the department of Housing and Urban Development to renovate Guggenheim Hall for the Autotech program. The renovations will allow for increased instructional space as the program grows. The PIs are Clement Drummond, and Octavio Gomez. BCC received \$681,000 from NYSED to partner with two NYC high schools for the Early College Initiative. This grant funding will increase pathways for NYC students to BCC. The PI is VP Bernard Gantt.

The BCC Foundation is looking for your support for the 46th Annual Run the Bronx. There are three (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>

Financial Empowerment Day: Unlocking Financial Freedom: Join us on April 16th at 10:30 am as Blackstone LaunchPad and the First Year Program come together to celebrate Financial Literacy Month! Our goal is to provide our college community with invaluable knowledge and resources to enhance their financial well-being. Through a series of workshops, a resource fair, and expert-led discussions, we aim to empower students, faculty, and staff with essential financial skills. Dive into topics such as budgeting, credit management, investing, and retirement planning. Explore a variety of resources offered by our partners, including Charles Schwab, SIFMA Foundation, Chase Bank, Citizen Bank, and Ponce Bank. We hope to create a comprehensive learning experience that equips our BCC community with the tools they need to achieve financial stability.

Soon the college will be adjourning for spring break. I would like to wish everyone a very happy and restful break. For those of you not on spring break, I hope you find this a productive time during a quieter campus. When we return, we will continue our important work for the semester. We must help and encourage our students to get them over that last academic hurdle toward the ultimate finish line. Thank you all for the continued support and collaboration for BCC as we work together toward the future.