

**Bronx Community College**  
**PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – February 2024**  
*Interim President Milton Santiago, Ed.D.*

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Spring classes are well underway. I am very excited to contemplate a new semester and I am energized by seeing students and faculty on campus and in the classrooms. The spring semester is always one of renewed hope and new beginnings. As Buddha said “no matter how hard the past is, you can always begin again.” I am never more reminded by new opportunities and new beginnings as I am in the spring.

**ENROLLMENT:** The college has commenced the Form A process for the Winter/Spring 2024 semester. The Form A shows an enrollment of 6,839 students, a total headcount of 6,314 students and 4,006 FTE's. Our enrollment reflects a 3% increase over this time last year, a difference of 183 students. There is a 525 difference between the Form A enrollment count and headcount.

Next steps include an Enrollment Management Town Hall Meeting – **February 27<sup>th</sup>**; College Fair – **March 7<sup>th</sup>** – Time: 4:00pm – 8:00pm; Advisement/Registration – **March 18<sup>th</sup>**; Guidance Counselor Luncheon – **April 19<sup>th</sup>** and Meta-Major Enrollment Events – TBD. The Integrated Communication Center (ICC) will conduct outreach to Fall 2024 Prospects and an Incoming Student Planning Committee will be formed.

**ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE:** BCC's Business Office is working diligently to spend down the monies in the college's reserve account; so far \$1.6 million dollars have been appropriated for various projects across campus. We expect to allocate more in the upcoming fiscal year. Thus far, \$800,000 has been designated to IT for purchase of new computers for faculty and staff, amounting to approximately 700 workstations anticipated to be installed by end of September. Additional allocations will be made after July 1, 2024. BCC is participating in a phone system pilot in collaboration with CUNY to replace BCC's very antiquated system. Please stay tuned for more developments.

The College has received funds from CUNY for Transformational Initiatives in the amount of \$695,000, which must be spent by 06/30/25. The spending plan for the use of the funds is being developed and must be submitted to CUNY by March 8, 2024.

**PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS:** As reported in the fall, CUNY recently rolled out a new framework for its Performance Management Process, familiarly known as the PMP. In October we submitted a letter to the Chancellor indicating how we intend to meet key performance indicators (KPIs) established for us by CUNY. This letter was accompanied by a detailed map, aligning our strategic plan with CUNY's new strategic roadmap, *CUNY Lifting New York*. We received feedback on our submission and in a few weeks, the University will provide each college with a revised set of KPIs, focusing on areas designed to move the needle on the university's most critical priorities. CUNY is referring to these initiatives as areas of “accelerated convergence.” They include, among other things, increased focus on: increasing enrollment, improving retention and graduation rates, improving the transfer experience, becoming a model of academic excellence, preparing students for successful careers, establishing CUNY as the go-to-choice for student recruitment by industry partners, and enhancing automated, data informed systems.

In June, our final submission is due to the Chancellor and we are required to report back on: 1) the actions we are taking to meet each university priority, 2) the expected impact each action will have on meeting the university's targets and 3) the resources we will allocate toward meeting the targets. We may also be selected to discuss our plan with the chancellor during the summer.

**CAFETERIA:** The RFP process for a cafeteria vendor is underway. In the meantime, a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for food trucks has been formally advertised in the New York State Contract Reporter (Please see link below). Food Truck vendors, registered with New York State, received alerts of the advertisement.

Interested vendors can access the NYS Contract Reporter and officially respond with their proposals. The hardcopy document is also attached [here](#) for anyone that wants to share a copy of the RFEI with their favorite food truck vendor and have them respond to the campus directly. This procurement is on-going until we find a vendor. [Food Truck REFI](#)

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH:** Student Success acknowledges Black History throughout the year, however, as we conclude the celebration of Black history month, I want to acknowledge all of our students, faculty and staff of African American descent who have contributed to the history and growth of our country. For the month of February, we have collaborated and led 6 Black History Month events. *The Education Warfare* with Tandra Birkett event covered a historical timeline of American education and the seemingly intentional changes in education systems to suppress Black progress. In collaboration with the Library, Social Justice Network and Womxn Up!, Student Life supported the BCC Reads and Book Party celebrating Toni Morrison's seminal book, *The Bluest Eye*.

One of the best qualities of the Bronx is the diversity of our population; we strive to celebrate our rich diversity year-round with various and thought-provoking events and programs that engage our students, faculty and staff. Keep a look-out for additional BHM programming events throughout the year.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS:** The BCC Early Childcare Center Infant/Toddler Program license was approved on February 7th. The BCC Infant/Toddler program is now open and started to accept children on February 13<sup>th</sup>. BCC is only 1 of 2 CUNY colleges with centers that take kids starting at 6 weeks of age.

I am happy to announce that Janey Gemmell has joined the Office of Disability Services as our new Accessibility Content Manager and the recent appointment of Jessenia Paoli as Interim Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs. Jessenia will report to the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Manny Lopez.

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS:** BCC is requesting \$2 Million dollars in Capital Funding from the Bronx Borough President and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council to upgrade Ohio Track and Field with an outdoor control booth, new audio-visual components, a new electronic digital scoreboard, and new LED field lights for sporting and outdoor events. This initiative will transform the simple Ohio Track and Field into a more attractive and modern athletic facility that will have a positive impact on the College's athletic program for decades into the future. The entire baseball field, soccer field, and track will be transformed as well with a complete redesign and rebranding from the current state. The goal is to modernize this facility to maximize the student experience and to assist in the recruitment and retention efforts of the College.

BCC is also requesting \$100K in Discretionary Funding for the BCC Food Pantry from the Black, Latino, and Asian Caucus of the City Council.; \$81K in Capital Grant funding, to replace outdated and broken exercise equipment for the Alumni Gym and \$200K in Capital Grant Funding for the College's nursing labs.

**ADVANCEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING:** I am excited to share with you the [2023 Bronx Community College annual report](#), *Transforming Lives One Student at a Time* which celebrates the accomplishments of our BCC community and our mission to help students transform their lives ... one student at a time. We know that change in all our students' lives is inevitable, but BCC's endeavor to transform is intentional.

As we navigate the vibrant landscape of the spring semester, witnessing the growth and achievements of our students, we can't help but feel a sense of pride and accomplishment. As the days lengthen and temperatures rise, so does the anticipation for the culmination of this academic journey – commencement. The approaching ceremony serves as a beacon, marking the culmination of hard work, dedication, and countless learning experiences. As we prepare to celebrate the achievements of our graduating class, we look forward to the bright futures that await them beyond the confines of academia. May this spring semester be a testament to the determination, and success that define each student's unique journey, setting the stage for a memorable and promising commencement ahead.