

Bronx Community College
PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – DECEMBER 2023
Milton Santiago, Ed.D.

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of the calendar year and already halfway through this academic year. The holiday season and year's end are natural markers for reflection and to assess what we are grateful for in our lives. It is also a time to think about new challenges ahead. I am asking all of the BCC community to continue to come together as one campus and build upon our work together to stay on the student centered, student focused theme I have emphasized all semester. I am grateful and appreciative to all of the faculty and staff who are supporting our students to the end goal of completing the fall semester and the academic year.

GIVING TUESDAY: On Tuesday, November 28th, BCC and all of CUNY celebrated Giving Tuesday. BCC concluded the day ranked #1 among Bronx schools, #2 among all Community Colleges and #9 among the 29 CUNY colleges. Thanks to the generosity and commitment of our faculty, staff, retirees, alumni and friends, our campaign raised over \$74,000 in support of the Help a Bronco Scholarship, the Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship, the Amadou Diallo Memorial Scholarship, and the Food Pantry. If you were unable to make your donation prior to the close of Giving Tuesday, the website is still open. To donate please [CLICK HERE](#). Please consider joining your colleagues, friends, and students by contributing today.

WINTER & SPRING REGISTRATION: We are nearing the end of the ninth week of registration for the Winter/Spring 2024 semester. We currently have 3,616 students registered, which is higher than this time last year. Our FTEs are 2,618 which is also higher than this time last year. We are ahead in our continuing and readmit students maintaining the progress of last semester. Continuing students remain our focus for academic advisors to advise/register as many students as possible before the end of the year. There are 657 students registered for the Winter Session which is also higher than last year at this time.

ENROLLMENT: There is a 400% increase in new student applications and the Central Office has awarded BCC \$40,000 in campus funds to respond to the increase. These funds will be used specifically for relevant admissions staff to review Spring 2024 applications and communicate promptly a student's admission. Additional funds will be awarded for the Fall. The proposed allocation is intended for use from December 1, 2024, to February 15, 2024. This time frame is chosen to ensure students who applied in September and October, receive a prompt response. Members of the enrollment management team are happy to report their participation in the IN-Tech Academy's Inaugural College & Career March. In addition, in collaboration with the DOE, MOUs have been finalized with four NYC high schools to offer dual enrollment opportunities and support for students in grades 9-12. This effort should provide additional enrollment opportunities and increased FTEs. Thanks to all those who made this initiative possible.

CAPITAL PROJECTS: I am happy to report that BCC has received nearly \$25 million in capital funding for the design and construction service to upgrade the campus building management system (BMS). The BMS upgrade will provide a reliable control system to support the campus boiler, chiller and HVAC systems. The changes will also yield energy savings along with a reduction in greenhouse gasses. The project is anticipated to be completed by Dec. 2026.

(MSCHE) SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION RESPONSE: As I have been communicating, BCC's accrediting authority has asked for a Supplemental Information Response in light of our low graduation rates. The response was filed by the deadline on Wed. December 13th. Please review the report [HERE](#).

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: I am happy to announce some wonderful news! Shauqana Darden, Liberal Arts AA, was recently named a Kaplan Leadership Scholar; and Karla Alvarez, Cybersecurity and Networking received the NYC Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Scholarship. Please join me in Congratulating these achieving students.

2024 C3E CONFERENCE: BCC will be holding its Eleventh Annual Conference on Community College Excellence, on Thursday, February 8, 2024, (Via Zoom) and Friday, February 9th, 2024 (In-person). The conference, "Navigating the Education Renaissance for Equitable Transformation, will delve into how

community colleges can harness the potential of an “Education Renaissance” to reimagine learning. Presentations/Discussions will include Equitable College Choices:

- Empowering Lower-Income and Minoritized Students in Community Colleges Post-Pandemic
- Navigating the Online Frontier: Challenges and Opportunities in the Shift of Community Colleges to Online Programs
- Mastering the New Three R's: Recognizing, Reacting, and Reorganizing Education for Today's Incoming College Students
- AI Empowerment: Enhancing Community College Excellence through Artificial Intelligence

Follow the conference URL (<https://bit.ly/bcc-c3e24>) to learn more about the detailed descriptions and sample topics under each theme. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact BCC's Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology (CTLT) at 718-289-5100 ext. 3142, or email Mark.Lennerton@bcc.cuny.edu.

ADVANCEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL RELATIONS: WPIX reported an amazing story featuring one of BCC's students. The interview focuses on the student's battle with homelessness and mental health issues to pursue his dream of becoming a social worker. If you have not had a chance to see the story, you can view it **HERE**. Don't miss it, you will not be disappointed.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS: BCCF was awarded \$25,000 from the Bronx Community Foundation to support CUNY Start at BCC. CUNY Start is an intensive and affordable semester-long program designed for Bronx Community College students who need to boost their Math and English skills before taking credited courses. The PI is Pamela Skinner.

NYC School Bus Umbrella Services (NYCSBUS) and their project partners have been awarded the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) Clean Transportation Prize through the Electric Truck and Bus Challenge. The winning project, “Electrifying School Buses in the Bronx and Beyond (ESB³),” for which BCC won \$1.6 in funding, provides a framework to accelerate the deployment of zero-emission school buses in New York City and throughout the State. The PI is Clement Drummond.

GIFTS: As we prepare for the holidays, it is also important to keep in mind the rules surrounding the acceptance of gifts. Please be reminded that CUNY's Conflicts of Interest Policy and the New York State Public Officers Law prohibit the acceptance of gifts of more than nominal value from interested sources. Accordingly, as a CUNY employee you may not solicit or accept such gifts, either directly or indirectly, from any interested source, regardless of whether the gift was intended to influence or reward you. Please reach out to BCC Campus Ethics Officer Susan Fiore susan.fiore@bcc.cuny.edu for assistance with questions.

HOLIDAY PARTY: Please make sure you stop by for some holiday cheer and celebrate with the BCC family as we mark the holidays. Join in the festivities on Friday, Dec. 15th in Colston Lower Level from 1-4pm.

Please note that the college is closed on Friday, December 22nd through Monday, December 25th 2023 and Friday December 29th through Monday, January 1st, 2024.

Wishing everyone a safe, tranquil, and joy-filled holiday season. With the much-needed respite and the cherished company of family, friends, and our loved ones, I am confident that we will be poised to resume our collective efforts in addressing challenges, collaborating effectively, and serving our students by providing an enriching and supportive educational experience in every possible way.