

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO COLLEGE SENATE – NOVEMBER 2023
MILTON SANTIAGO, ED.D.

The Fall 2023 Semester has flown by. As the holiday season approaches, I want to emphasize how grateful I am for the hard work and dedication shown to our students by the campus community. I have honed my student-centered/student-focused approach to service that our students deserve, and I hope you will continue to reinforce it through the end of the semester. I trust you will continue to strengthen our commitment to delivering exceptional service to students throughout the remainder of the semester. I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to all the faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College. Your dedication and commitment to learning and service all leads to providing our students with the quality education they need and deserve.

SPRING 2024 ENROLLMENT: A reminder that we are beginning the fifth week of student registration for the Winter/Spring 2024 semester. Please encourage all your students to register for spring classes. Currently, 1,956 students are registered. This represents an 8% uptick from this time last year. There are 426 students registered for the Winter Session.

Focusing on the continuing student population is the priority for academic advisors with the goal of advising/registering as many students as possible before the in-person registration period begins on Tuesday, November 28th. Enhanced focus and efforts to meet the new full-time enrollment and overall enrollment targets include – additional funding identified for marketing and recruitment efforts, along with bi-weekly emails to students with registration information.

There will be a Bronco Reconnect Day for readmit students on Thursday, December 14th from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. You can read the flyer [HERE](#).

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: The college received a communication from The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), based on the Commission’s regular review and analysis of data it is charged to collect. For 2023, in the category of Student Achievement and Annual Enrollment- FTE, the Commission has found cause for concern in BCC’s graduation rates, which are below 23%. As a result, BCC has been asked to file a supplemental information report (SIR) providing graduation rates for the last two years (Standard IV) and a narrative analysis and plan for addressing the concerns, (Standard IV). I will be working with all stakeholders to address this issue and plan for the college’s response, which is due by December 13, 2023. More discussion will be taking place across the governance bodies of the college. I look forward to hearing from constituent groups on how we can collectively work together to improve our retention and graduation rates.

Congratulations to Tica Frazer for receiving an award of \$175,000 from the College Completion Innovation Fund (CCIF) for the project titled “Junior Advisor Intervention Model.” CCIF received a significant number of proposals from a variety of community-based organizations and colleges engaged in impressive work, and this project has been selected for the CCIF’s 2023 Award Cycle. Over the next year this project aims to substantially increase college persistence rates for the students that we serve. The award covers the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

BCC is launching a new degree program, the [AS in Health Sciences](#), in Spring 2024. This degree creates an academic home for the many students interested in the health professions. The program exposes students to a variety of health careers while at the same time providing them with industry-aligned, “stackable” certification and experiential learning opportunities. The AS in Health Sciences was developed through a multi-departmental effort led by [Dr. Stacia Reader](#) of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department. Our thanks to Dr. Reader and all those who collaborated in developing and launching this new degree program.

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PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE FOR EXCELLENCE: I am pleased to announce the members selected for the President's Committee on Excellence Awards. The committee, consisting of faculty, instructional staff and a student will select among the nominees the award winners for excellence in teaching and service. My thanks to Melanie Robles, Jeanette Batiz, Monique Guishard, Dickens St.Hilaire, Jacqueline Barbour, Claudia Jacques De Moraes and Cardoso, Latitia for volunteering to serve on this important committee.

FOOD PANTRY: Both the BCC CARES and BCC Foundation are pleased to offer a Friendsgiving Food Pantry to 400 BCC students. Distribution will take place on Wednesday, 11/15 and Thursday, 11/16. Thank you to the 24 staff volunteers and college laborers for their support with making this pantry a success. The College is grateful for your service.

GRANTS AND PARTNERSHIPS: I am thrilled to announce that BCC is the winner of the inaugural Bronx Green Action Challenge, an exciting and important environmental sustainability challenge sponsored by the Bronx Economic Development Corporation (BXEDC). BCC competed in this competitive challenge with other private and public colleges in the Bronx. As the winner of the challenge, BCC will receive a \$1 million award, funded by the New York Power Authority, to develop and implement a plan to both improve campus sustainability and reduce the College's environmental footprint.

This is a big win for BCC, and it would not have been possible without the efforts of Neal Phillip, Paramita Sen, Olaitan Femi-Falade, and Emily Marino, who were instrumental in shaping a winning vision for a more sustainable campus. Special thanks as well to Octavio Gomez and David Taylor, who showed us how our facilities could rise to the Green Action Challenge.

GIVING TUESDAY: As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I want to remind you of our annual Giving Tuesday drive. We know that a large percentage of our Bronx Community College students face food insecurity every day, not only while attending school but, in most cases, working jobs at the same time. Let's join in our collective **mission to ensure that not a single one of our BCC families goes hungry this Thanksgiving**. Your Giving Tuesday donation can be earmarked specifically for providing Thanksgiving meals to our students through our food pantry and enable students to share the upcoming holiday meal together with their families. Donations may also be earmarked for another fund, **the Help a Bronco Graduate Scholarship**. This scholarship is designed to help students over the finish line who are close to earning a diploma, finish BCC and be part of this year's commencement.

You can click the link below to find the CUNY Tuesday Page for our Giving Tuesday Funds including the Student Thanksgiving Dinner Drive. CUNY Giving Tuesday Site: [Give to Bronx Community College | #CUNYTUESDAY 2023](#).

We ask all our alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to join us again for 2023 BCC Giving Tuesday.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. I hope that you can spend time with loved ones and find enjoyment in all that the upcoming holiday season brings.