

## PRESIDENT'S COMMUNITY REPORT – OCTOBER, 2024

*Interim President Milton Santiago, Ed.D.*

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It is hard to believe that October is almost over and midterm exams are wrapping up this week. I am so excited to see the many projects taking place improving our infrastructure, increasing our computing capabilities and excellence in the delivery of our many academic and workforce programs to our students. I am thrilled to see our successful enrollment increase and I know that you will all join me in working on the student experience to improve our retention results. I see so many of you working hard for results and I am continuously updated on the progress. I know we can do even better in the upcoming spring semester.

**Fall 2024 Enrollment:** The Form A has been certified for Fall '24 enrollment. BCC is 3<sup>rd</sup> in enrollment growth among Community Colleges and tied for 4<sup>th</sup> in enrollment growth among both Senior and Community colleges, a significant turnaround from our previous position near the bottom of the list a couple of years ago. Total Enrollment for all students included in the CBIL Enrollment Report: is 7,247 (Census) and 7,368 (Current). BCC enrolled 6,785 students, surpassing our target of 6,615. This marks a 5.1% increase from last year's 6,457 and a 5.1% increase over last year's Form A total of 6,456. We achieved 4,526 FTEs, exceeding our goal of 4,451. This represents a 4.4% increase from last year's 4,335 and a 4.2% increase over last year's FTE total of 4,344.

The Division of Enrollment Management hosted a Forum on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> to solicit feedback from faculty, staff, and students on the Fall 2024 enrollment process. In addition, a survey will go out to the college community to solicit feedback from those who could not attend the forum. The collected information and feedback will be used to help make meaningful changes to the process to enhance services to students and be used as a foundation for the development of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan for 2025-2030. The Office of International Student Services hosted a Meet & Greet on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and The College hosted the CUNY Counselor Luncheon on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Finance & Budget:** I am happy to announce that BCC's financial plan has been approved by CUNY along with the college's one time list for reserve funding. Thank you for your patience as the Business Office begins processing the divisional requests.

**2025 Spring Planning:** The Advisement & Registration Period for the Spring 2025 Semester is open and officially began on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Please encourage your students to register for spring classes. Advisors will see students in their offices and the Registrar's staff, peers, and other support services will be available in the Nichol's Hall lab to help students register themselves and use other enrollment tools (i.e., Degree Works, Navigate, Schedule Builder, and CUNY First) toward becoming self-sufficient.

**Student Success:** If you have not done so, try to see *Luna: Our Moon Tree Art Exhibit* on display in Bliss Hall outside of room 104, featuring works by students in Art 21: Drawing Class (Prof. King) and The Rising Stars Pre-K Classroom.

The Early Childcare Center's Fall Festival will take place on Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am. The children will parade around the Quad and trick or treat around the campus. Come out to enjoy music, games, face painting and cotton candy in this time-honored BCC tradition.

Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12:00-2:00pm, join us for the main Pink Power: Strength & Solidarity event in North Hall, Room 123, and the Lobby. The event will feature a panel of speakers, including breast cancer survivors and healthcare professionals, who will share their personal stories, discuss the importance of early detection, and provide insights on prevention and treatment options. After the presentations, we will host a solidarity march in the Quad, where participants can come together in a united effort to raise awareness for breast cancer. We encourage everyone to WEAR PINK as a show of solidarity. This event is co-hosted by ASA, Womxn Up, the BCC Office of Student Diversity Initiatives, NYPIRG, Public Safety, and the Office of Student Life.

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**Health Services:** On Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup> between 10am-3pm. The *Mobile Mammography Unit* will be on campus in front of Roscoe Brown Annex. This event aims to raise awareness and provide access to mammograms for those who may not have access to routine healthcare. There will be no charge for women without health insurance. Our thanks to The Office of Health Services in collaboration with WomXn Up, African Students Association, Office of Student Diversity Initiatives and St. Barnabas Hospital for making this event possible.

**Administration and Capital Projects:** On Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> the college celebrated a historic capital investment in Bronx Community College's Ohio Track and Field. The college was honored to have the Bronx Borough President, Vanessa Gibson, and NYC Council Member, Pierina Sanchez and BCC's own Adolfo De Jesus, coach of the baseball team with members of the team in attendance. BCC received \$4 Million in capital funding from the Bronx Borough President's Office, The New York City Council and NY State. It was a beautiful day to gather on the field to view the renderings of the future track and field while our guests emphasized the importance of Ohio field to the college community and the Bronx community at large.

Contractors continue working on repairs to the Colston and Meister parking areas, though currently on a temporary reduced work schedule during midterm exam schedules. DASNY estimates a schedule of 4/5 weeks of work. The SEP Plant has begun removal of the existing oil tanks in preparation for delivery and installation of four new 25,000-gallon oil tanks expected by mid to end of November 2024. The interior installation of new structural steel for installation of the three new boilers is also underway.

The Contractor for the new Bronx Express is scheduling interior demolition to begin in November. DASNY/ Architects are working on all interior furniture and equipment and coordination with BCC. Installation of new protection fencing will begin this week.

I am excited to announce a campus-wide IT Fiber and Ethernet wiring capital project: Campus Planning, IT and CUNY FPCM are scheduling the pre-kickoff meeting. A funding source has been identified, with an estimated \$3.5 million for fiber and wireless upgrades. An exciting new HVAC project is planned for Language, Gould Memorial and Philosophy Halls. Architects are currently on site for surveys and this project will bring in a new centralized AC system to these buildings

**Advancement, Communications and External Relations:** This year *Giving Tuesday* will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. The College's main focus will be on **Greatest Needs**, followed by **Athletics, Help a Bronco Scholarship, Kalief Browder Memorial Scholarship, and Amadou Diallo Memorial Scholarship**. The CUNY and BCC Website will be open for donations on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and continue until Giving Tuesday. This is later than usual due to CUNY's issues with procurement and the CUNY Tuesday Platform.

Bronx Community College has become the first college in NY State to offer an online Nuclear Medicine Technology Program. CUNY has added this news about the nuclear medicine offering to the Chancellor's State of the University, which will be given on November 20.

Run the Bronx, 10K and 5K course certification is set to expire on December 31, 2024. The college has contracted with a NYRR certifier for a 10-year re-certification of the 10K and 5K course. This will be completed in mid-November.

**Grants & Partnerships:** BCC was recently awarded a two-year renewal from the Robinhood Foundation for nearly \$930k to support the continued work of the Future Now Program. The college was also recently awarded \$850,000 from Congressman Espaillat to support the renovation of Guggenheim Hall for the

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expansion of the Autotech Program. The Bronx Community College Foundation was awarded \$25,000 from the Lincoln Fund to support Nursing scholarships. For FY 25, the Grants Office is currently overseeing a budget of \$27.8 million dollars for sponsored projects across campus.

**Moving Forward:** I know that we can continue the great work of focusing on our students as they continue to finish out the semester. I want to thank all faculty and staff who have shown unwavering commitment and resolve to build our student-focused, student-centered culture. Let's take that momentum and remain focused on our mission of academic excellence and better environment for our students. I look forward to the remaining weeks of the semester and encourage all of us to stay engaged and committed as we pursue our shared goals. I know we are all up to the challenge.