

BMCC Commons

Spring 2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BMCC and Corporate Partners Put Careers Within Reach

Students engage in paid internships and other opportunities through Aon, BNY Mellon, Goldman Sachs, Google, Transatlantic Reinsurance and Zurich North America.

The Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC/CUNY) Strategic Plan strives to raise equity and inclusivity, improve outcomes for every student and address all aspects of their college experience. An important focus in this strategic work is to integrate career development throughout the student experience.

It's not that BMCC students are unfamiliar with the world of work. According to a recent CUNY Student Experience Survey (2018), 53% of students at BMCC hold jobs outside their class schedules, and of those who work, 30% have full-time jobs.

"Traditionally, however, the jobs many students hold on top of their college classes do not relate to their degrees or career ambitions," says **Sharon Reid**, BMCC Director of Internships and Experiential Learning. "Financial aid covers tuition for many students, but not the cost of books, as well as housing, food and transportation. Often, students rely on a weekly pay check to meet those basic expenses—and the time they spend at jobs outside of class cuts into their time to study, not to mention, cutting into the time they might have spent on extracurricular activities that build their sense of belonging, and other valuable college opportunities."

Paid internships, apprenticeships, mentoring programs, speaker series with industry leaders and other opportunities that relate to students' career goals are changing this scenario.



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Paid internships, mentoring programs, speaker series and other opportunities prepare BMCC students for careers.

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BMCC and Corporate Partners Put Careers Within Reach

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These include BMCC partnerships resulting in the Grow with Google Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Career Readiness Program, the Aon Apprentice Program, the Zurich North America apprenticeship program, Transatlantic Reinsurance (TransRe) internship program, Goldman Sachs College Collaborative Program, BNY Mellon internship program and others.

Students build digital skills in Grow with Google HSI Program

This Spring 2022, the BMCC Center for Career Development is piloting the Grow with Google Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Career Readiness Program and plans to engage 750 students in courses on how to build digital skills, explore career paths, start a self-owned business and more.

“Grow with Google enhances our ongoing efforts to improve equity and socioeconomic mobility for our students through career development,” said BMCC President **Anthony E. Munroe**. “Our Center for Career Development will help lead this timely and exciting partnership with Google and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) which will open doors for our students and give them the tools to enter a career path that resonates with their goals and values. BMCC is proud to be part of this innovative endeavor.”

“Our corporate partnerships open doors for students and give them the tools to enter a career path that resonates with their goals and values.”

ANTHONY E. MUNROE,
PRESIDENT, BMCC

BMCC is one of four HSI CUNY community colleges, and one of 20 colleges nationwide, selected to join the program designed to help Latinx students prepare for rapidly expanding segments of the workforce through digital skills and career workshops.

According to **Christopher Thunberg**, Director of BMCC’s Center

for Career Development, “Google’s Career Readiness lessons will be a terrific complement to the training that the Center for Career Development provides through our workshops and programs. Students will learn fundamental skills for key career activities such as resume building, job search, career exploration, and more, all using key Google tools and platforms.”

“Google’s Career Readiness lessons will be a terrific complement to the training that the Center for Career Development provides through our workshops and programs.”

CHRISTOPHER THUNBERG,
DIRECTOR, BMCC CENTER
FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

BNY Mellon engages students in paid tech internships

BNY Mellon, an innovative leader in the investment banking industry, is a long-time friend to BMCC. Most recently, BNY Mellon has funded a program for BMCC students who are committed to exploring career paths on the IT and digital side of business. The program welcomes students with a 3.0 grade point average, from any major. Fifteen BMCC students filled the Summer 2021 cohort; 48 participated in Fall 2021 and a Summer 2022 cohort is in the works now.

The program at BMCC is managed by Experiential Learning and Internships Director Reid and Computer Informations Systems Department Chair, Professor **Don Wei**.

“BNY Mellon tends to work with college juniors and seniors, but they adapted the program for community college students and have offered mentoring and professional development workshops taught by their executives as well as technical workshops, like how to create a PowerPoint presentation or use an Excel spreadsheet in a business setting,” explains Director Reid.

BNY Mellon is known for its pivotal work in software development,



Student cohorts gain insight from industry professionals in a variety of fields.

cybersecurity, data science and the development of block chain systems, Professor Wei explains. “Their expertise, which is of great interest to many students, is to secure data transmission without corruption; especially encrypting and protecting financial transactions.”

Students join the program for eight weeks. “In addition to taking professional development workshops where they build their personal brand, gain insight into technology trends, learn to interpret data and other skills, they meet weekly with a BNY Mellon mentor who shares how they built their careers and other topics,” he says.

After completing that initial part of the program, students are selected by BNY Mellon for the six-week summer internship program, where they gain more technical training and networking opportunities. Eventually, some students are hired by BNY Mellon in entry-level roles.

“If you’re hired by BNY Mellon, they will put you into the real world of application development. They are supportive, they will coach you. I’m on a

“The internship with BNY Mellon allowed me to see inside the software development process.”

KONTINA PIPPEN,
(COMPUTER SCIENCE, '21),
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER,
ENTERPRISE RISK
TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT,
BNY MELLON

team where the managers really want you to learn,” says **Kontina Pippen** (Computer Science, '21), who was motivated to start college after she helped her son enroll at BMCC. “I completed the internship program while earning my associate degree and was hired as a software developer at BNY Mellon, in the Enterprise Risk Technology Department. The internship allowed me to see inside the software development process and what I’m doing now is learning all of what I need to know in order to excel at BNY Mellon. Then I’ll pursue a bachelor’s degree.”

Students hold paid apprenticeships with Zurich North America

The first BMCC student cohort for the Zurich North America apprenticeship program came together remotely in Fall 2020 with students majoring in Business Management with a specialization in Risk Management and Insurance. At the end of Summer 2022, four of the participants are graduating from the program.

“Last year, Zurich North America hired 19 of our students for paid tech internships,” says Director Reid. One of the Zurich apprentices, **Jennifer “Jae” Arias**, had two children when she entered the program in Fall 2020, and took off the Spring 2021 semester to give birth to her third child. She returned to BMCC and the Zurich program in Summer 2021 and is now set to graduate in August 2022—with a 4.0 GPA, and as a member of the BMCC Phi Theta Kappa chapter.

“In my apprenticeship at Zurich, which has been fully remote, I’ve been assisting an experienced underwriter,

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BMCC Commons

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the person who sets the terms with the broker for how a certain policy will be worked out,” says Ms. Arias. “In this case, the broker was representing a hotel, and we worked on policy limits for general liability, workers compensation and things like that. As a working mother, I learned and applied a lot of time management skills, as well as learning how to make decisions based on the facts we gathered.”

Since Zurich is an international company, she has also learned how to respectfully interact with clients and colleagues outside the United States. “It’s critical to be culturally sensitive about things like holidays and customs that are different from our own,” she says.

“As a working mother, I learned and applied a lot of time management skills in my apprenticeship, as well as learning how to make decisions based on the facts we gathered.”

**JENNIFER “JAE” ARIAS,
BMCC BUSINESS MAJOR AND
ZURICH NORTH AMERICA
APPRENTICE**

Once she earns her associate degree at BMCC, Ms. Arias plans to continue working with Zurich, and enter their program to earn a bachelor’s degree. “It’s been hard to balance my life, school and work obligations, but the reward has kept me moving forward,” she says. “BMCC and Zurich have been the best partners in this process that you could possibly imagine.”

AON Apprentice Program provides insight into a growing field

The AON Insurance Group has partnered exclusively with BMCC to offer students the opportunity of a paid, full-time salary apprenticeship position—as well as a tuition-free business degree.

As with the Zurich program, participants are Business Management majors specializing in Risk Management and Insurance. The first cohort started Fall 2021, and those students are still enrolled in the program.

Their activities include taking part in Aon-sponsored events, such as virtual panels with working professionals in the industry. Other opportunities include participating in remote events with Aon-involved college students across the country.

On January 14, two Aon apprentices, **Sathyapriya Sunil** and **Edwin Alvarado**, both of whom are BMCC Business Management/Risk Management for

“I’m reporting to a project manager for the IT development team, learning technical skills and meeting people across the company.”

**EDWIN ALVARADO,
BMCC BUSINESS
MANAGEMENT MAJOR,
AON APPRENTICE**

Insurance majors, were featured with Director Reid in a virtual BMCC-sponsored panel.

Ms. Senthil talked about learning to be an IT business analyst on a litigation team, as an Aon apprentice. “I’m also getting an overview of the many teams and roles at Aon. Someday, I hope to be hired for a team at Aon where I can apply my skills in the most effective way,” she says.

Mr. Alvarado is also learning to be an IT business analyst through his apprenticeship. “I’m reporting to a project manager for the IT development team, learning technical skills and meeting people across the company,” he says. “The apprenticeship at Aon gives you the experience you need, to start in an entry-level position and hit the ground running.”

TransRe provides paid internship and kick-starts careers

Transatlantic Reinsurance, known as “TransRe,” is a leading international reinsurance organization headquartered in New York with operations worldwide. Its website states that, “Through financial assistance, volunteerism and collaboration, we support the development and empowerment of the underserved. We are focused on working closely with the people of the world to bring positive social and cultural change to the local communities through our global network.”

That goal is reflected in TransRe’s exclusive partnership with BMCC. In Fall 2021, two BMCC Business Management majors got a leg up on their career exploration by joining the TransRe program as part-time claims apprenticeships in a TransRe business setting—and drawing a full-time salary.

“This program, still in its initial stage, provides a remarkable opportunity for our students,” says Director Reid. “The students complete targeted coursework at BMCC alongside relevant work experience at TransRe, which pays 100% of their tuition, fees and textbooks—as well as providing on-the-job training. This maximizes the students’ time. They accomplish academic goals while entering a relevant job setting. The full-time salary for part-time work validates the students’ goals. It gives them more time to study, and prepares them for their next important steps.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Spring 2022 Semester Is Marked by Hope and Opportunity

Across many cultures, spring is a time of renewal and rebirth. At BMCC, the spring semester has a palpable sense of optimism and hope. I feel it as I walk through our scenic lower Manhattan campus that looks across the Hudson River, and when I visit our CUNY in The Heights and MEOC campuses in upper Manhattan. I see it in our returning classes at 199 Chambers Street, in our BMCC Library where study carrels are beginning to fill with groups of students, in the faces of students in a Zoom session, and in the busy labs at the BMCC Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, located within view of New York Harbor.



The ambition of our students to complete their studies and enter careers is met with the loyalty and vision of our corporate partners who provide paid internships and apprenticeships, and whose executives share valuable insight into their field, with our students. These opportunities sometimes culminate in part- and full-time jobs for students who have completed intensive programs and gained the skills necessary to begin their careers at companies such as Aon, BNY Mellon, Goldman Sachs, Google, TransRe and Zurich North America.

Our corporate partners join us in supporting a mission to create an equitable and exemplary college experience for all our students, to advance their higher education transfer opportunities and strengthen their engagement with a meaningful career path.

Opportunities exist for our students on many other fronts at BMCC, as well. A range of successful initiatives raising the success of Black, Brown, Hispanic and low-income students is among the reasons why BMCC was named a contender for the 2023 Aspen Prize. Our faculty and staff lead nationally recognized programs in health informatics, early childhood education, the social sciences, business and many other vital areas.

Soon our campuses will show the promise of spring, with longer days and the awakening of our green spaces. The determination of BMCC students, faculty and staff, and the vision and enduring support of our funders, corporate partners and growing community gives meaning to this time of year, and is a constant in every season.

With Warm Regards,



Anthony E. Munroe, President
Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York

Milestones



Music Professor **Jazzmeia Horn** and Her Noble Force have been nominated for a 2022 Grammy

for their song, “Dear Love,” in the category Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album.



Health Education Department Chair **Lesley Green-Rennis** was featured as an NPR Source of the Week.



Modern Languages Deputy Chairperson **Maria Enrico** was one of four

teachers nationwide to receive a Lifetime Achievement award from the Italian Language Foundation.



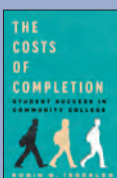
The Inquirer, a journal devoted to teaching, learning and scholarship at BMCC celebrated its 30th Anniversary

issue, Volume 28, Fall 2021.



Allied Health Sciences paramedic instructor **Kevin Ramdayal** (right) was part of a two-person team

representing the New York Fire Department that won first place out of 15 teams in the live EMS competition at the annual National Conference on EMS, November 2021 in Atlantic City. The same month, Ramdayal spoke on an EMS panel and competed on a team that won second place at the Texas EMS Conference.



Sociology Professor **Robin G. Isserles** is the author of *The Costs of Completion: Student Success in Community College* (Johns Hopkins

University Press, 2021) featured in a February 2 New Books Network podcast and presented by Isserles at the Center for Excellence at Holyoke Community College.

BMCC Named Contender for 2023 Aspen Prize



The Aspen Institute has named BMCC one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

More than 1,000 community colleges nationwide were considered for their levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from low-income backgrounds. “We pride ourselves on empowering students to transform their lives through the advancement of educational access, equity and socioeconomic mobility,”

said BMCC President Anthony E. Munroe. “I want to thank the Aspen Institute for recognizing BMCC’s commitment to educational excellence and the impact we make on the communities we serve. We work to bring educational and career opportunities to all of our students so they can strive for a better future for themselves and their families.”

\$600K NSF Grant Supports Pathway to Bachelor’s Degree and Careers



L–R: Sangeeta Bishop, Janice Walters, Monica Foust, Kelly Rodgers and Masha Komolova.

Five BMCC faculty members in the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice have been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) program, Advancing Innovation and Impact in Undergraduate STEM Education at Two-year Institutions of Higher Education. Senior Principal Investigators (PIs) for the grant are Department Chair **Sangeeta Bishop** and Deputy Chair **Janice Walters**.

Co-PIs are Professors **Monica Foust**, **Kelly Rodgers** and **Masha Komolova**. Their project, “Creating a Path to STEM Careers in Psychology for Under-Represented Minorities,” will serve 300 students through November 2024 and create a STEM minor curriculum for BMCC Psychology graduates who can then transfer into the Bachelor of Science in Psychology program at City College of New York, CUNY.

Hispanic Outlook on Education Recognizes BMCC in Top 100



BMCC has been named one of the nation’s Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics by *The Hispanic*

Outlook on Education Magazine, ranking as follows for the 2019–2020 academic year: #18, Total Associate Degrees Granted; #23, Total Enrollment 2-year Schools; #6, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services Degrees. The rankings are based on surveys by the U.S. Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and data from all 50 states. In Fall 2020, almost 39% out of 22,496 BMCC students identified as Hispanic, and nearly 90% of the student population is comprised of groups historically underrepresented in college programs.

BMCC Only CUNY College Named 20-Year Top Producer of Gilman Scholars

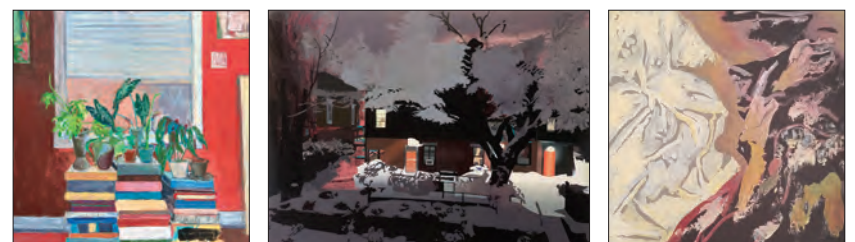
BMCC has been named a Benjamin A. Gilman 20th Anniversary Top Producer Institution. This national honor recognizes that BMCC generated 27 Gilman scholars out of more than 600 Study Abroad participants from Fall 2001 through Summer 2020. Of nearly 1,300 institutions competing for Top Producer status, 77 qualified in four categories: Small, Medium and Large for senior colleges, and Associate Institutions for community colleges. BMCC is the only CUNY college in any category.

Faculty Exhibition Highlights a Variety of Mediums

The Shirley Fiterman Art Center at BMCC is presenting from February 23 through April 1, *In Person*, an exhibition of recent faculty art which can be viewed by appointment with COVID protocols in place, by emailing shirleyfitermanartcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu.

This exhibition of work by faculty artists showcases a variety of approaches to contemporary art-making, from modes of traditional painting and sculptural form, to installation work, experimental photography and works employing new media.

The featured faculty artists are **Aisha Tandiwe Bell**, **Simon Carr**, **Elisa Decker**, **Louis Esposito**, **Pat Genova**, **Xico Greenwald**,



L–R: Louis Esposito, *Finding Light* (2021–22), Oil paint on canvas; Siobhan McBride, *Canopy* (2021), Acrylic gouache on paper on panel; Carol Pereira-Olson, *Untitled*, Acrylic on wood panel.

Sarah Haviland, **Jayne Holsinger**, **Siobhan McBride**, **Lisa Nicchi**, **Carol Pereira-Olson**, **Thaddeus Radell**, **Jessica Ramirez**, **AC Tower** and **Terttu Uibopuu**.

The annual faculty exhibition highlights the College’s commitment to

its growing Music and Art Department. The Art Foundations Program confers an Associate of Art (A.A.) in Art History and an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Studio Art, preparing students for successful transfer to four-year colleges and a career in the arts.

CUNY in The Heights Expands Opportunity for Local Communities

An October 29 ribbon cutting that featured local elected officials, community members and educational leaders celebrated the renovated BMCC/ CUNY in The Heights (CITH) in upper Manhattan. Speakers included CUNY Chancellor **Félix V. Matos Rodríguez** who said CITH has been “a great anchor for this community.” Remarking on the “day of optimism,” BMCC President Anthony E. Munroe said, “We are very proud and excited to bring educational and career opportunities to the residents of upper Manhattan.” The expansion added 15,000 square feet of space, doubling the number of classrooms. In Spring 2022, CITH will offer at least 27 credit-bearing courses serving up to 800 students, and nine non-credit-bearing courses serving around 525 students.



(L–R) Manny the Panther (BMCC mascot); Johanna Garcia, Chief of Staff to State Senator Robert Jackson; Thomas A. Isekenegbe, President, Bronx Community College; Daisy Cocco De Filippis, President, Hostos Community College; Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (former); Félix Matos Rodríguez, Chancellor, CUNY; Anthony Munroe, President, BMCC; Carmen De La Rosa, NYS Assembly Member (former); Adriano Espallat, Member of Congress; Ydanis Rodríguez, City Council Member (former); Ingrid Renderos, Director, CUNY in the Heights.

Health Informatics Program Rated 6th in Nation

Based on data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) of the U.S. Department of Education, EduMed.org named BMCC one of the best schools in the nation for online healthcare education. The number six ranking reflects the Allied Health Sciences Health Informatics program at BMCC, delivered remotely in 2021.

Careers in Cybersecurity Start at BMCC, Thanks to \$600K NSF Grant

Three Computer Information Systems (CIS) faculty members have been awarded \$595,800 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to fund the Advanced Technical Education (ATE) project, “Online Cybersecurity Certificate with Stackable Credentials to Increase the Number and Expertise of Cybersecurity Technicians.” Professor **Ahmet Mete Kök** is Principle Investigator (PI) and co-PIs are Professor

Mohammad Azhar and Department Chair **Ching-Song Wei**. The three-year project will serve at least 100 college and 30 high school students as it recruits workers looking to upgrade their skills in cybersecurity and high school students considering cybersecurity and careers in information technology. Graduates of the program can gain an industry-recognized certificate and earn 30 credits toward an associate degree in CIS at BMCC.

\$1.4 Million DOE Grant Supports Student Parents Through Early Childhood Center

The BMCC Early Childhood Center has been awarded a \$1.4 million Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The mission of the program is to provide high-quality early childhood care and education for low-income student parents so

they can complete degree programs. “The four-year grant project will ensure student parents have access to child care, family engagement activities and mental health support services, to help them persist in their studies,” said **Cecilia Scott-Croff**, Executive Director, BMCC Early Childhood Center.



College Pipeline Program Changes Lives and Receives \$1.36 Million



The State University of New York, Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (Manhattan EOC), administered by BMCC, has received renewal of its \$1.36 million Federal TRIO Programs funding from the U.S. Department of Education. The project will support the TRIO Educational Opportunity Center Program (TRIO EOC) at the Manhattan

EOC as well as its College Connections Project. “This gives us an opportunity to serve 1,000 individuals each year for five years, and to help people navigate the post-secondary environment,” said Manhattan EOC Executive Director **Anthony Watson**. “This program changes lives and I am thrilled that we are in the trenches doing the work.”

Milestones



Psychology major **Samantha Escobar** earned a \$5,000 Belle Zeller Scholarship from the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) CUNY.

Business Management majors and Zurich apprenticeship cohort members **Nicholas Yowan**, **Justin Peters** and **Emily Wolfsat** served on a virtual panel during National Apprenticeship Week on November 19.



Writing and Literature major **Christopher Edwards**, Communication Studies major **Romy Levy**, and Liberal Arts majors **Daniel Metter** and **Dennis Phillips** were awarded \$5,000 each in Fall 2021 to take part in BMCC/NBCU.

On January 14, Business Management/Risk Management for Insurance majors **Sathyapriya Sunil** and **Edwin Alvarado** participated alongside Internships and Experiential Learning Director Sharon Reid in a virtual panel to share their experience as apprentices through BMCC’s corporate partner Aon, which sponsored the panel.



2022 Kaplan scholars include Economics major **Bryan Garcia**, Psychology major **Raquel Hernandez** (left), Childhood Education major **Quiana James** (middle) and Science major **Nana Wiafe Addae Owusu** (right).

B-UMLA Designed to Raise Retention of Black and Latino Male Business Majors

The BMCC Business Management Department and Urban Male Leadership Academy (UMLA) received \$130,000 through the BMCC President's Fund for Excellence and Innovation to establish B-UMLA, a program set to raise the retention rate of Black and Latino male business majors from 43% to 53% within two years. B-UMLA creates a transfer pipeline to the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, CUNY and other baccalaureate business programs. To date, 110 BMCC Business majors are enrolled in B-UMLA and 21 faculty have volunteered to serve

as mentors with the program. On January 19–21 in Washington, D.C., B-UMLA representatives delivered a talk, "Drilling Down to Scale Up: CUNY BMCC Brings a Successful Student Support Service Into an Academic Department," at the 2022 annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges & Universities. The B-UMLA Design Team includes B-UMLA Coordinator **Azeez Alimi**, UMLA Assistant Director **Yuleisy Audain**, Business Management Professors **Shawn Grant** and **Peter Hoontis**, and UMLA Director **Ashtian Holmes**.



BMCC Bringss Health Clinic Van for Free Vaccinations, Boosters

Students, faculty and staff joined fellow New Yorkers throughout the Fall 2021 semester to get free COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters on the BMCC campus. BMCC hosted visits by the NYC Mobile Vaccination Clinic, which parked in front of Fiterman Hall, in October, November and December. Students also

received assistance uploading their vaccination verification information on CUNYfirst and those facing a food emergency had access to the BMCC Panther Pantry. Also, on Thursdays throughout the fall semester, BMCC hosted a mobile vaccination clinic for CUNY in The Heights community members.



2021 Paramedic Graduates Persevere Despite Challenges



On November 10, an in-person and live-streamed ceremony in Theatre One at BMCC's 199 Chambers Street campus celebrated the graduating paramedic class of 2021: **Prasad Adhvaryu**, **Ebony Albergottie**, **Abian Delacruz**, **Kezwhani Flynn**, **John Marrero** and **Judah Noel**. BMCC President Anthony E. Munroe, BMCC Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs **Erwin Wong**, and New York

State EMS Bureau Director **Ryan P. Greenberg** spoke at the event. BMCC Paramedic Program Director **Meghan Williams** congratulated the graduates for persevering despite the challenges of hybrid learning, and praised "the character and integrity that you have displayed in the past 12 months. If anyone I know needed emergency medical help, I would choose any one of you to take care of them."

Professors and Staff Provide Insight Into Equity

Teachers College Record, The Voice of Scholarship in Education presented a series of articles on equity and community colleges in February 2022 co-curated by Sociology Professor Robin G. Isserles and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities President Emeritus **David L. Levinson**. The series includes pieces by Academic Literacy and Linguistics Professors **Sharon Avni** and **Heather Finn**; Teacher Education Professors **Rebecca Garte** and **Cara Kronen**; Sociology Professor **Marci Littlefield**; Modern Languages Professor **Angeles Donos Macaya**; Math Professor **Claire Wladis** and Dean of Institutional Effectiveness **Christopher Shults**.

BMCC Team Wins College Fed Challenge Fourth Year in a Row

For the fourth year in a row, a team of BMCC students led by Business Management Professors **Julian Schroeder** and **Yanni Tournas** has won first place in the Maiden Lane Division of the National College Fed Challenge, New York Region. The 2021 College Fed Challenge student team included Business Administration majors **Sydney Mills**, **Ursula Stando**, **Deep Sukhadwala**, **Yiyang Sun** and **Demi Zhang**; Small Business Entrepreneurship major **Carlene Nelson**; Forensic Accounting major **Giovanna Tomasetti-Rivas**; Accounting major **Jiyei Noh**; Financial Management majors **Bernard Primicias** and **Alejandra Rodriguez**, and Communication Studies major **Danielle Watson**.



\$4.77M DOE Grant Builds STEM Pathway

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$4.77 million for a five-year pipeline partnership, “Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program,” involving three CUNY colleges: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, which is the lead institution, BMCC and Queensborough Community College.

The project will increase retention and graduation rates for Latinx students, women and other underrepresented groups studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). BMCC participants will join the STEM Acceleration Program at John Jay College, where they will eventually transfer to earn a bachelor’s degree.



Interim VP of Institutional Advancement Karen C. Wilson-Stevenson Shares Philosophy of Fundraising



Executive MBA and Certified Fundraising Executive **Karen C. Wilson-Stevenson** joined BMCC as Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement in November 2021. An expert in leading major gift solicitation, Interim VP Wilson-Stevenson managed a collaboration that yielded the largest eight-figure gift to the NAACP. She served as President and CEO of Calyxse Inc. in Columbia, Maryland; as Director of Institutional Advancement at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Los Angeles, and as Vice President for the Office for Institutional Advancement as well as Chief Advancement Officer at Tougaloo College, Mississippi.

What is your philosophy of fundraising?

Fundraising is all about building relationships, especially those that are sustainable and represent a shared commitment to certain core values, such as those held in the BMCC Mission.

We share with our funders a strong desire to support our students and we work together in a partnership that can ultimately result in an investment of resources, funds, time and talent.

I believe it’s also important as a component of fundraising to ensure that BMCC’s presence in the world is visible to our current and potential funders, to share the stories of the folks that we work with—faculty, students, staff, alumni—and show their humanity, unique strengths and resiliency.

At the end of the day, it’s about the people; the donor who has an interest in our initiatives, who understands the potential and needs of the students we serve, and whose own goals to change

the world can be furthered by joining with us to be a catalyst in the community.

Those are the kinds of relationships that represent true philanthropy, people coming together to effect change.

How is fundraising linked to creating equity at BMCC?

Every fundraising effort at BMCC affirms our commitment to equity and inclusivity. Funders join us in addressing the magnitude of challenges students experience at the level of basic needs, including food and housing. They also support our students at the academic level, as well as provide career opportunities for low-income students, Black and Brown students, women, first-generation, returning students and other populations traditionally underserved in higher education or marginalized in many fields.

Our fundraising supports social and racial justice as we join our donors and corporate partners in supporting programs that raise retention and graduation rates at BMCC, encourage matriculation to higher degrees and build access to wrap-around services, peer mentoring, cohort programs and all the strategies proven to bolster student success.

Why are alumni critical to the fundraising goals of BMCC?

BMCC alumni are the most passionate narrators of the BMCC story. They have experienced first-hand what BMCC has to offer and there are few spokespersons better qualified to speak in terms of who we are, as a college.

It makes sense that funders look at contribution rates from our alumni. When alumni give back, it reflects the value they place on the education they received at BMCC. So many of our alumni continue to stay in touch with the professor who engaged them in honors classes and research projects, the tutor who gave them hope,

the staff person who talked them through a difficult time.

Our alumni give back the support they got, by returning to BMCC to appear on speaker panels and class visits, sharing their journey to further degrees and steps building a career. We want to do a much better job of establishing communication with our alumni in every field, from theatre to science to criminal justice and many others.

Alumni are a powerful testament to our students, proving by example that they are on the right track, and I think our alumni find it validating to return to BMCC in that role.

What are some of the different ways people can give to BMCC?

There are many ways to give to BMCC and not all of them have to do with money. A gift could be appearing as a guest speaker, or on an industry panel. Our students benefit greatly from meeting successful peers and mentors in the community.

For example, there is growing student interest in entrepreneurship at BMCC, so one option is for an individual to donate their time by giving a virtual or in-person presentation to students about a successful business they are developing. Another way to give is to provide our students with internship opportunities or jobs that relate to and further their career goals.

We provide many options for donors who prefer traditional ways to give, including gifts of stocks and other securities, recurring gifts, one-time gifts, planned gifts, and memorial and tribute gifts. No gift is too small, and we welcome supporters from all parts of the BMCC community and beyond, to contribute to the BMCC programs and initiatives that resonate most with their values and beliefs. My door is open to talk about BMCC and about all the ways to get involved with BMCC.

Milestones



Juliana Campos Hu (Public Health, ’19), named a youth program supervisor in August 2021 at the AIDS Center of Queens County, expects to complete a Master of Public Health at the CUNY School of Public Health and Health Policy, 2023.



Xiangli Huang (Accounting, ’16), hired August 2021 as an asset wealth management associate at Pricewaterhouse Coopers, passed the CPA exam and completed a Master of Accounting degree at Queens College, CUNY in 2020.



Johann Smith (History, ’20), a former international pro-soccer player now majoring in American History at Stanford University, was profiled in the November 2021 Stanford Report in a special piece on transfer students.



Badr Alsaidi (Communication Studies, ’17), named in the Arab America Foundation’s 30 Under 30, Class of 2021, serves as a director at the Yemeni American Merchants Association.

Calling all BMCC Alumni!



Share your “Start Here, Go Anywhere” story with the BMCC community.

Contact Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement Karen Wilson-Stevenson at kwilsonstevenson@bmcc.cuny.edu



Q&A

*Gregory Farrell, Director,
Learning Resource Center*

What is your role at BMCC?

As Director of the Learning Resource Center (LRC), I develop and manage academic support services that meet student learning needs and strengthen their academic skills, increasing the likelihood they will persist and graduate.

What do you really do at BMCC?

I lead the department on best practices in delivering learning assistance services that supplement the student classroom experience. These include Collaborative Tutoring, Peer Assisted Learning

(PAL), supplemental instruction, academic coaching, instructional computer lab services and study skills workshops. I also oversee Learning Assistance Program certification, and serve as co-chairperson of the College's Learning Assistance Committee.

What are some of your proudest accomplishments in your current role?

During the LRC's recent Academic Education Support Service Unit Review, we were recognized by external evaluators for producing high pass rates for students in courses with historically high withdrawal rates. In 2016, I guided the launch of Live Online Tutoring, which led

to a smooth transition to the Virtual Learning Center in Spring 2020. It was also gratifying to implement PAL and Academic Coaching programs.

What is one thing you've noticed about the BMCC community, as you have worked with faculty and staff in your current role?

Over the years I've served on a number of College committees and noticed that members of the BMCC community are very supportive of one another. Also, from the President's Office to College Assistants in Receiving, staff are passionate about student success.

Tell us something about yourself we might not know, but has an impact on the good work you do, at BMCC.

While serving on the Electoral Board as Technology Coordinator/Webmaster for the Association of Colleges for Tutoring & Learning Assistance, I worked to develop National Standards for online tutoring. I also served as publications officer for the National College Learning Center Association to increase professional development opportunities for staff at the LRC. These experiences have enabled me to learn from other learning center professionals on a national level.

Did You Know?



When its doors opened in 1964, BMCC offered three majors: Liberal Arts, Business Administration and Public Health and Safety, which offered a degree in Correction Administration (housed on Rikers Island). A fourth major, Communications Technologies, would debut in 1965. Today, BMCC offers 55 associate degree programs, and the majors that attract the most students are Liberal Arts, Business Administration and Criminal Justice.