

STATE OF THE COLLEGE – MARCH 9, 2022
BMCC PRESIDENT DR. ANTHONY E. MUNROE

HELLO EVERYONE,

I'M DR. ANTHONY MUNROE, AND I'M PROUD TO BE SERVING AS THE 11TH PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE HERE ON CAMPUS. I AM DELIGHTED TO SEE MANY OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS JOINING US IN-PERSON IN OUR AMAZING THEATER LOCATED IN LOWER MANHATTAN. WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU!

I ALSO WANT TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO EVERYONE WHO IS WATCHING ON OUR LIVE STREAM. THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME THIS MORNING AS I SHARE WITH YOU INFORMATION THAT IS SUPPORTING OUR TRANSITION AS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.

TODAY, MARKS ALMOST EXACTLY TWO YEARS SINCE BMCC TRANSITIONED TO REMOTE INSTRUCTION AND WORK AT THE START OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. WE CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE THE SEISMIC IMPACTS OF THE PANDEMIC WITHIN CUNY, ACROSS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECTOR, AND THROUGHOUT HIGHER EDUCATION. THE CHANGES WE HAVE EXPERIENCED, PERSONALLY AND WITHIN OUR INSTITUTION, HAVE BEEN BOTH TRAUMATIC AND TRANSFORMATIVE, BUT WITH CHALLENGE THERE IS OPPORTUNITY.

I WANT TO THANK OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF FOR ALL OF THEIR HARD WORK OVER THE PAST 24 MONTHS. YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED, AND YOU MAKE BMCC AN INCREDIBLE INSTITUTION. DESPITE MANY MANDATES BEING LIFTED AND NORMAL ACTIVITIES RESUMING, WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHILE WANING, IS NOT OVER. CONTINUING TO ENGAGE IN THE IMPORTANT WORK OF EDUCATION HAS TAKEN A TREMENDOUS PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND EMOTIONAL TOLL ON ALL OF US, AND I WANT TO TAKE THIS TIME TO RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND PERSEVERANCE. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRACTICE SELF-CARE, BREATHE, AND GIVE YOURSELVES A ROUND OF APPLAUSE. WILL ALL STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS PLEASE STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.

BEFORE I BEGIN, LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO SAY HOW DEEPLY TROUBLED WE ARE BY RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED INVASION OF UKRAINE AND HEARTBROKEN BY THE ESCALATING HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE. THIS VIOLATION OF UKRAINE'S NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY GOES AGAINST ALL WE STAND FOR AS AN INSTITUTION PROMOTING THE POWER OF LEARNING TO ELEVATE SOCIETY AND BRING OPPORTUNITY TO EVERYONE AT EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD. LET US TAKE MOMENT TO REFLECT. (PAUSE). THANK YOU.

I AM EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU THE STATUS OF BMCC AND PRESENT OUR STRATEGIES TO MOVE FORWARD, WITH BOTH REFLECTION AND AN URGENCY TO REIMAGINE OUR

INSTITUTION, BY USING A FRAMEWORK THAT EXAMINES THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FACTORS IMPACTING OUR COLLEGE.

LET ME BEGIN BY TALKING ABOUT THE REASON WE ARE HERE TODAY – OUR STUDENTS. THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, BMCC HAS PRODUCED EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS WHO HAVE GONE INTO THE WORKFORCE AS LEADERS IN MANY INDUSTRIES INCLUDING BUSINESS, NURSING, EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ARTS. OUR STUDENTS ARE THE REASONS WE ALL DO WHAT WE DO.

DESPITE HAVING MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST YEAR, INCLUDING OUR INCREASE IN THE THREE-YEAR GRADUATION RATE OF FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN AND OUR IMPROVEMENT IN THE PERCENTAGE OF BLACK AND HISPANIC MEN COMPLETING GATEWAY MATH AND ENGLISH COURSES – WE HAVE AREAS THAT NEED OUR ATTENTION.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES EXPERIENCED THE STEEPEST DECLINE OF ANY COLLEGE SECTOR WHILE PUBLIC 4-YEAR COLLEGES HAVE SEEN THE GREATEST OVERALL GROWTH. IN GENERAL, CHANGES TO ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS, SUSPENSION AND ELIMINATION OF STANDARDIZED TESTING, AND A NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO ELIMINATE NON-CREDIT, MANDATORY DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION ALONG WITH A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN STUDENTS SEEKING AA DEGREES HAVE IMPACTED COMMUNITY COLLEGES AS A WHOLE, NOT JUST THOSE WITHIN CUNY.

WHILE THESE CHANGING DYNAMICS HAVE IMPACTED OUR AND OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGES, WE MUST UNDERSTAND AND ADJUST HOW WE OPERATE GIVEN THE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES THAT HAVE, ARE, AND CONTINUE TO TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA.

INDIVIDUALS, ESPECIALLY MEN, ARE LEAVING LOWER PAID JOBS, DELAYING ENTRY INTO HIGHER EDUCATION, AND COMBINING MULTIPLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY AND A LIVABLE WAGE. ADDITIONALLY, MORE AND MORE INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR 20'S AND 30'S ARE OPTING FOR SHORTER TERM PROGRAMMING THAT PROVIDES THEM WITH MORE IMMEDIATE ENTRY INTO CAREERS.

CERTIFICATES, A.A.S., AND A.S. PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN GROWING, ESPECIALLY IN HEALTHCARE, BUSINESS, AND IT FIELDS. AS WE CONSIDER OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A COLLEGE, THE POWERFUL BENEFITS PROVIDED WITH A COLLEGE EDUCATION, AND THESE CHANGING DYNAMICS, WE MUST REASSESS, REDESIGN, AND MOVE FORWARD WITH RESOLVE.

WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF CUNY AND LISTEN TO OUR STUDENTS, BOTH THOSE WE HAVE TRADITIONALLY SERVED AND THOSE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM A BMCC EDUCATION. WE CANNOT GO BACK TO THE WAY WE OPERATED PRE-PANDEMIC. OUR TRADITIONAL STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR RECRUITING, ENROLLING, RETAINING, ADVISING, AND GRADUATING STUDENTS IS IN NEED OF REVIEW, REIMAGINING, AND REDESIGN – THE FORMER STRATEGIES WILL NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE TODAY AND GOING FORWARD.

THE COLLEGE IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT (SEM) PLAN AS PART OF THE LARGER SET OF BMCC STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS. THE BMCC SEM PLAN WILL PROVIDE OVERALL DIRECTION FOR STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND WILL INCLUDE BROAD GOALS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES THAT CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON HOW INITIATIVES, COLLABORATION AND CONCEPTS ARE DESIGNED AND EXECUTED. ACTING VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT SANJAY RAMDATH WILL BE REACHING OUT THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE BODIES TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL DEVELOP THE PLAN THAT WILL ADDRESS THE AREAS LISTED ON THE SCREEN:

- OFFERING RELEVANT COURSES AND PROGRAMS THAT MEET THE MARKET DEMAND;
- IMPLEMENTING PROGRAMS, COURSES, AND SUPPORT SERVICES THAT CLOSE EQUITY GAPS;
- GATEWAY COURSE COMPLETION;
- PROVIDING EFFECTIVE OUTREACH, RETENTION, AND SUCCESS STRATEGIES THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE, SCALABLE, AND WIDE-REACHING;
- OFFERING PROGRAMS ARE COMPETITIVE;
- ENSURING THERE IS CURRICULAR COHESION;
- OFFERING A SUITABLE MIX OF ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE COURSE SECTION OFFERINGS; AND;
- ARTICULATING COURSE AND PROGRAM OFFERINGS BETWEEN CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT TO WIDEN THE PIPELINE OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS.

THE BMCC COMMUNITY WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT ENROLLMENT DURING A TOWN HALL SCHEDULED ON MARCH 29, AT 11 A.M. ADDITIONALLY, THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY ON RESEARCH AND OTHER BODIES WILL BE LOOKING TO FACULTY AND STAFF, AS WELL AS OUR STUDENTS, TO BETTER ADDRESS STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND SUCCESS.

ANOTHER EFFORT TO ADDRESS ENROLLMENT IS CUNY'S ACADEMIC MOMENTUM 2.0 (OR AC MO 2.0). THIS IS THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS CAMPAIGN THAT ORIGINALLY LAUNCHED IN 2017. THROUGH ITS COLLABORATIVE WORK, BMCC AIMS TO: DOUBLE THE SIX-YEAR BACCALAUREATE COMPLETION RATE FOR ASSOCIATE FRESHMEN, INCREASE THE THREE-YEAR BACCALAUREATE COMPLETION RATE OF TRANSFER STUDENTS WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE, INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, AND INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF FULL-TIME TRANSFER STUDENTS.

OUR TEAMS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND HAVE BEGUN WORKING TO IDENTIFY WAYS OF MAKING IMPROVEMENTS. BMCC COMMUNITY MEMBERS WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AND PROVIDE COMMENTS ON ACMO 2.0 DURING A TOWN HALL, WHICH IS SCHEDULED ON APRIL 11, AT 11 A.M.

THROUGH OUR RESEARCH, WE HAVE FOUND ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO ENSURE BMCC STUDENTS COMPLETING THEIR DEGREES.

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE BMCC AND JOHN JAY CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS REPRESENTS ONE OF WHAT IS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL STUDENT SUCCESS ACTIVITIES AT BMCC. AS A DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM, OUR BMCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE MAJORS ARE DUALY ENROLLED AND GUARANTEED JUNIOR STATUS AT JOHN JAY UPON GRADUATION. THIS COHORT LIKE EXPERIENCE IS CENTRAL TO THE INTENTIONAL PATHWAY MODEL AND PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENTS TO COLLABORATE WITH THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY AT JOHN JAY WHILE STILL TAKING COURSES AND BEING SUPPORTED BY THE BMCC CRIMINAL JUSTICE FACULTY.

WE MUST REMEMBER, WHILE ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS CAN BE A COMPONENT OF A SUCCESSFUL TRANSFER STRATEGY, BMCC MUST WORK TOGETHER WITH FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS ON STUDENT-CENTERED STRATEGIES, INCLUDING STRENGTHENING ADVISING, CREATING GUIDED PATHWAYS AND ALIGNING COURSE CURRICULUM, TO GET TRANSFER STUDENTS THE RESOURCES AND SERVICES THEY NEED. AS WE BEGIN REVIEW OF NEW DATA ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDITS WITHIN CUNY, WE MUST ALSO HOLD OUR PARTNERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR HONORING AGREEMENTS AND WELCOMING OUR STUDENTS. AS PART OF AcMo 2.0 AND THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PROCESS, CUNY HAS STARTED TO FOCUS ON THE INEQUITIES THAT OUR STUDENTS RECEIVE UPON TRANSFER. WE WILL CONTINUE TO UNCOVER ISSUES AND MY ADMINISTRATION WILL WORK WITH FACULTY AND ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS TO CORRECT THESE ISSUES.

WHY IS RETENTION SUCH A CRITICAL NEED? THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROPPING OUT BEFORE GRADUATION CANNOT BE UNDERSTATED. STUDENTS WHO DON'T GRADUATE OFTEN HEAD DOWN A PATH LEADING TO LOWER-PAYING JOBS, FEWER PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCREASED CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS TO THEIR FUTURE ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. IT'S CRITICAL TO CONSIDER THE REASONS WHY STUDENTS SOMETIMES CHOOSE TO LEAVE SCHOOL. MORE OFTEN, STUDENTS LEAVE DUE TO OTHER FACTORS SUCH AS COST, SOCIAL CHALLENGES, ISOLATION, AND UNCLEAR EXPECTATIONS.

AT BMCC, WE HAVE FOUND FINANCIAL STRUGGLES TO BE ONE OF THE LEADING REASONS WHY STUDENTS LEAVE. THIS PAST YEAR, WE TOOK MEASURES TO ENHANCE STUDENT SERVICES AND MEET OUR STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE.

FOOD INSECURITY, MENTAL HEALTH AND FINANCIAL STRUGGLES HAVE ALL BEEN FACTORS INHIBITING OUR STUDENTS' ABILITIES TO ATTEND AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THEIR COURSEWORK. WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CAROLYN MILTON PETRIE FOUNDATION AND THE FOOD BANK OF NEW YORK THROUGH THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, OUR PANTHER PANTRY HAS SEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION FROM STUDENTS, AND WE CONTINUE TO EXPAND THESE SERVICES TO OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES LOCATED AT OUR CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS CAMPUS IN UPPER MANHATTAN.

THESE PAST TWO YEARS THE PANDEMIC HAS ELEVATED THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH IN THE LIVES OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF. SELF-CARE AND MENTAL HEALTH ARE ESSENTIAL IN OUR EDUCATIONAL AND WORK ENVIRONMENTS, AND OUR COUNSELING CENTER HAS SERVED OUR STUDENTS BY OFFERING IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL ASSISTANCE. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE TO FACULTY AND STAFF THROUGH OUR HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE WHICH CAN PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE.

PROVIDING THESE BASIC NEEDS HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO IMPROVE STUDENT RETENTION. WE MUST DO MORE TO UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES OUR STUDENTS FACE EVERY DAY.

MANY OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS COULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND GRANTORS.

THE HECKSCHER FOUNDATION HAS AWARDED BMCC WITH NUMEROUS GRANTS THAT HAVE BEEN USED TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY, ENABLING US TO KEEP A HEALTHY STOCK OF FOOD FOR OUR PANTHER PANTRY AND SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN THE PRIMARY FUNDER FOR THE PROJECT IMPACT MENTORING PROGRAM. THIS PROGRAM HAS SUPPORTED MORE THAN 1,000 MENTORS AND MENTEES AND THESE STUDENTS HAVE HIGHER RETENTION, TRANSFER, AND GRADUATION RATES, AS WELL AS HIGHER GPAS THEN SIMILARLY MATCHED PEERS NOT IN THE PROGRAM. BMCC IS WORKING TO SCALE UP PEER MENTORING AS IT HAS PROVEN TO BE ONE OF OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL STUDENT SUPPORTS.

TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET HAS AWARDED BMCC \$2 MILLION TO ADDRESS HOUSING INSECURITY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS. WE ARE WORKING CLOSELY WITH TRINITY TO ADDRESS THIS GROWING PROBLEM AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS IN NEW YORK CITY AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR TRINITY'S SUPPORT OF PROJECT IMPACT, AN INITIATIVE THAT PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC AND LIFE SUPPORTS TO STUDENTS IMPACTED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

IN DECEMBER 2021, ROBIN HOOD, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT FIGHTS POVERTY IN NEW YORK CITY AWARDED \$1.2 MILLION TO BMCC FOR THE LAUNCH OF THE I.T. AND HEALTHCARE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH PROGRAMS IN EDUCATION (IHOPE) PROJECT IN UPPER MANHATTAN AND THE BRONX, INCLUDING AT BMCC'S RENOVATED CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS CAMPUS. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES ACCESS TO SHORT-TERM PROGRAMMING AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS TO A PRIMARILY ADULT POPULATION IN NEED OF GREATER EDUCATIONAL AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

FOR TOO MANY COLLEGE STUDENTS, FOOD INSECURITY AND OTHER UNEXPECTED FINANCIAL NEEDS CAN UNDERMINE THE PROMISE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, DELAYING GRADUATION OR CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR REASONS FOR DROPPING OUT OF COLLEGE. WE KNOW THAT STUDENTS NEED TO BE ABLE FEED AND HOUSE THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ACADEMICALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. WE ARE THANKFUL TO THE PETRIE FOUNDATION FOR

ESTABLISHING THE PETRIE STUDENT EMERGENCY GRANT FUNDS WHICH HELP US PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH FUNDS TO HELP COPE WITH UNEXPECTED CRISES, SUCH AS SUDDEN JOB LOSS OR EVICTION.

IN LATE 2020, WE WERE THRILLED TO HAVE BEEN AWARDED \$30 MILLION, THE COLLEGE'S LARGEST GIFT, BY PHILANTHROPIST AND AUTHOR MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT. THE GIFT WAS USED TO ESTABLISH THE PRESIDENT'S FUND FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION TO SUPPORT AND ALLOW FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN INNOVATIVE PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, AND PROGRAMMING THAT ADVANCE THE COLLEGE'S MISSION. THIS GIFT SUPPORTS BMCC'S MOVEMENT TOWARDS REALIZATION OF ITS VISION, AND HONORS MS. SCOTT'S DESIRE TO FOCUS ON BASIC NEEDS, EQUITY AND INCLUSION, ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND SUPPORT FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS AT BMCC.

THROUGHOUT MY PRESENTATION YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT THE SEVEN PROJECTS THAT WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE SUPPORT THROUGH THE PRESIDENT'S FUND. EACH OF THESE PROJECTS ARE TRUE TO DONOR INTENT AND FOCUSED ON PROVIDING GREATER SERVICE TO STUDENTS INCLUDING ENHANCEMENT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL, LIFE, AND CAREER PREPARATION SUPPORT. HERE ARE SOME OF THE AWARDEES AND THEIR WORK.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES WERE ESTABLISHED TO PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. THEY HAVE HISTORICALLY MAINTAINED A TRI-MISSION TO PROVIDE TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, WORKFORCE AND SKILLS TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DEVELOPMENT.

LOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMPLETION RATES ARE A CONCERN FOR CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS WHO RELY ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO HELP PROVIDE A PATHWAY TO FINANCIAL SECURITY AND A BETTER LIFE. IT IS CLEAR, THERE IS A NEED FOR BETTER CAREER PREPARATION, AND THIS IS WHERE BMCC CAN STEP UP AND LEAD THE EFFORT THROUGH INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE ACCESSIBLE TO ALL RESIDENTS.

SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH D.C. 37 EDUCATION FUND TO PROVIDE I.T. CONTRACT TRAINING IN COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT AND COMPUTER SECURITY FOR INCUMBENT WORKERS. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL HELP NYC'S LARGEST MUNICIPAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ADDRESS THEIR TECH SKILL GAPS BY UPSKILLING THEIR WORKFORCE TO MEET THE I.T. INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT TECH DEMANDS.

BMCC WAS ALSO AWARDED \$648 THOUSAND TO ENHANCE A CYBERSECURITY AND CLOUD COMPUTING PROGRAM THROUGH C.F.A. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS BUILDING UPON OUR WORK IN I.T. AND IT WILL BE LINKED TO CREDIT BEARING PROGRAMS CONNECTED TO AN APPRENTICESHIP.

THROUGH OUR STRATEGIC PLAN, WE ARE STRENGTHENING THE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE THE EXPANSION OF

CAREER PATHWAYS, THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS, AND THE EXPANSION OF CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING. WE ARE ALSO INCREASING THE NUMBER OF STACKABLE CREDENTIALS, MICRO-CREDENTIALS, AND BADGES WITHIN THE COLLEGE'S ACADEMIC PROGRAMS BY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMPANIES IN HIGH-DEMAND INDUSTRIES INCLUDING: CYBERSECURITY, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

BMCC IS LEVERAGING ITS ACADEMIC AND CAREER COMMUNITIES FOR ACADEMIC, CO-CURRICULAR, AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMMING BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY. THIS EFFORT IS EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO ENGAGE AND CONNECT CAREER DEVELOPMENT WITH THEIR ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING.

WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FEDERAL WORK STUDY PROGRAM BY INCREASING APPROVED CAREER PREPARATION INTERNSHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS. BMCC'S OFFICE OF INTERNSHIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING HAS PARTNERED WITH ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING PAID APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AS THEY OBTAIN SKILL-BUILDING AND WORK EXPERIENCE WHILE ATTENDING CLASSES. SOME EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE ZURICH INSURANCE APPRENTICESHIP AND TRANSRE APPRENTICESHIP.

IN THE FALL 2021 SEMESTER BMCC RENOVATED ITS CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS CAMPUS, LOCATED IN UPPER MANHATTAN. SERVING INWOOD, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS AND NORTHERN BRONX COMMUNITIES, CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS IS CREATING MULTIPLE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS TO DEGREES AND CAREERS, OFFERING ACADEMIC CREDIT-BEARING COURSES AND MICRO-CREDENTIALS/CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS. STUDENTS WHO TAKE CLASSES AT CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF SUCCESS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ACCELERATED STUDY IN ASSOCIATE PROGRAMS (ASAP) AND MATH START TO HELP THEM NAVIGATE THEIR LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND EARN THEIR DEGREE. STUDENTS CAN ALSO TAKE COURSES OFFERED THROUGH THE MANHATTAN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER (MEOC) AND BMCC'S CONTINUING EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT. I INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR WONDERFUL FACILITY AND EXPLORE OUR COURSE OFFERINGS AT CUNY IN THE HEIGHTS.

BMCC HAS INITIATED CONVERSATIONS AROUND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ONLINE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM THAT NOT ONLY PROVIDES ENHANCED EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW YORKERS, BUT WHICH ALSO REACHES BEYOND OUR TRADITIONAL SERVICE AREA THROUGH A DIGITAL PORTAL THAT WELCOMES A GLOBAL COMMUNITY INTO MANHATTAN. AS A RESULT, THE COLLEGE IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH CUNY AS IT INITIATES AN OUTWARD FACING ONLINE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM TITLED CUNY ONLINE.

SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL EXISTS TO LEVERAGE AND AMPLIFY THE INNOVATIVE PRACTICES OF CUNY COLLEGES, TREMENDOUS FACULTY EXPERTISE, AND COLLEGE/INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS THAT INCLUDE SOME OF THE MOST HIGHLY PROFITABLE AND POWERFUL CORPORATIONS IN THE WORLD.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND STUDENT SUPPORT UNITS, BMCC HAS PROPOSED ADDING THREE PROGRAMS TO THE INITIAL LAUNCH OF CUNY ONLINE. THESE INCLUDED THE A.A.S. IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, A.A.S. IN COMPUTER NETWORK TECHNOLOGY WITH A FOCUS ON CYBERSECURITY, AND THE A.A. IN PSYCHOLOGY. EACH OF THESE PROGRAMS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT STRIDES IN ENHANCING THE STUDENT EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE ONLINE AND ALL REFLECT SOME OF THE MOST IN-DEMAND ONLINE PROGRAMMING. WE INTEND TO LEARN HOW TO CONTINUE ENHANCING OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CUNY ONLINE AND TO INCORPORATE LESSONS LEARNED INTO OUR BROADER STUDENT LEARNING AND SUPPORT ENVIRONMENT.

THROUGH HARD WORK AND DEDICATION, OUR STUDENTS HAVE GARNERED MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES. HERE ARE JUST A FEW.

FOUR BMCC STUDENTS— ECONOMICS MAJOR BRYAN GARCIA, PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR RAQUEL HERNANDEZ, CHILDHOOD EDUCATION MAJOR QUIANA JAMES AND SCIENCE MAJOR NANA WIAFE ADDAE OWUSU—HAVE BEEN NAMED THIS YEAR'S KAPLAN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS.

FOR THE FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW, A TEAM OF BMCC STUDENTS LED BY FACULTY ADVISERS AND 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.

THIS MONTH, SEVEN BMCC STUDENTS WERE SELECTED AS SEMIFINALISTS FOR THE HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COOKE UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP THAT WILL BE AWARDED IN MAY BY THE JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION. OUR STUDENTS ARE AMONG THIS YEAR'S 440 SEMIFINALISTS WHO WERE CHOSEN FROM A POOL OF MORE THAN 1,200 APPLICANTS FROM 180 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN 35 STATES.

I WANT TO ASK THESE AND ALL BMCC STUDENTS ATTENDING TODAY TO PLEASE STAND. LET'S GIVE ALL OF OUR STUDENTS A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

WHEN CREATING PATHWAYS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, PARTICULARLY FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED STUDENTS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THEIR PERSPECTIVES, STRENGTHS, HISTORIES AND BARRIERS TO LEARNING. COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION AND FEEDBACK ENABLES FACULTY TO UNDERSTAND STUDENTS HOLISTICALLY. WE MUST CONTINUE TO IMPROVE PEDAGOGY AND TEACHING METHODS TO GUIDE OUR STUDENTS THROUGH THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY.

IN ADDITION TO TEACHING OUR STUDENTS, BMCC FACULTY SERVE AS EXPERTS IN MANY FIELDS AND HAVE PRESENTED AT MANY NATIONAL CONFERENCES, WRITTEN A WIDE RANGE OF BOOKS, AND HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED ON LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL ARENAS.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS AT BMCC.

I ASK ALL OF OUR BMCC FACULTY IN ATTENDANCE TO PLEASE STAND. LET'S GIVE THEM A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

BMCC'S SUCCESS AS A QUALITY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY VARIOUS NOTABLE ORGANIZATIONS, GIVING ALL OF US PLENTY OF REASONS TO BE PROUD!

BMCC IS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AS ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR SOCIAL MOBILITY. OVER THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, OUR INSTITUTION HAS RANKED IN THE TOP 20 COMMUNITY COLLEGES NATIONALLY IN HELPING STUDENTS GAIN ACCESS TO CAREERS THAT PULL THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY.

NEARLY 4 IN 10 BMCC GRADUATES WHOSE FAMILIES WERE EARNING INCOMES BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL HAD ACHIEVED MIDDLE CLASS WAGES AND THE MOST RECENT REPORT FROM BROOKINGS RANKS BMCC AS #3 IN HELPING STUDENTS GAIN ACCESS TO HIGH INCOME CAREERS.

AFTER BEING NAMED A TOP 10 FINALIST FOR THE 2021 ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE, THE NATION'S SIGNATURE RECOGNITION OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE; BMCC IS ONCE AGAIN IN THE RUNNING FOR THIS HIGH HONOR. BMCC WAS NAMED BY THE ASPEN INSTITUTE AS ONE OF THE 150 COMMUNITY COLLEGES ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR THE \$1 MILLION ASPEN PRIZE FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE, WHICH WILL BE AWARDED IN SPRING 2023.

BMCC WAS RECENTLY NAMED ONE OF THE NATION'S "TOP 10 TWO-YEAR SCHOOLS BY REGION 2019-2020" FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS ACCORDING TO RANKINGS RELEASED BY HISPANIC OUTLOOK ON EDUCATION MAGAZINE. BMCC IS ALSO THE TOP-RANKING CUNY COLLEGE AS WELL AS THE TOP-RANKED COLLEGE IN THE ENTIRE NORTHEASTERN REGION FOR AWARDED THE MOST—2,062 TOTAL— ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO HISPANIC STUDENTS. THIS RECOGNITION CEMENTS THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY COLLEGES PLAY IN PROVIDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIRST-GENERATION LEARNERS, FULL-OR PART-TIME WORKERS, SINGLE PARENTS AND MINORITIES.

BMCC IS PROUD TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A LEADING HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI) AND IS, IN FACT, THE LARGEST HSI WITHIN THIS REGION. OUR EVIDENCE-BASED, EQUITY-CENTERED EFFORTS TO RAISE ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND DEGREE RETENTION GREATLY BENEFIT THE LATINX STUDENTS WHO REPRESENT JUST OVER 37% OF OUR STUDENT POPULATION.

THIS PAST FALL, BMCC WAS THE ONLY CUNY COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS A BENJAMIN A. GILMAN 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOP PRODUCER INSTITUTION. THROUGH OUR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM, 27 OF THE GILMAN SCHOLARS OUT OF MORE THAN 600 STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS FROM FALL 2001 THROUGH SUMMER 2020, WERE BMCC STUDENTS.

THESE ACHIEVEMENTS ARE JUST A FEW OF MANY THAT BMCC HAVE RECEIVED. WE MUST CONTINUE TO STRIVE TO BE THE BEST AT OFFERING OUR STUDENTS EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

THE TRAGIC DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD AND THE SUBSEQUENT MASS BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS FUELED A GROWING DISCOURSE ABOUT STRUCTURAL RACISM IN OUR INSTITUTIONS, PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIETY. THE MANY CRIMINAL AND RUTHLESS EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO YEARS HAVE HELPED LEND LEGITIMACY AND URGENCY FOR OUR COLLEGE TO ESTABLISH THE RACE, EQUITY AND INCLUSION STEERING COMMITTEE, OR REI. THIS GROUP ACTIVELY WORKS TO DISMANTLE SYSTEMIC RACISM AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY ACROSS THE BMCC COMMUNITY INCLUDING STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, CONTRACTORS, AND COLLABORATORS.

WORKING AS THE CONSCIENCE OF THE COLLEGE, THE RACE, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION STEERING COMMITTEE (REI) IS AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTION, WITH ACTIONABLE ITEMS FOR THE COLLEGE TO PRIORITIZE AND INSTITUTIONALIZE. ONE OF THESE PROJECTS IS SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK, WHICH IS CURRENTLY SEEKING PROGRAM PROPOSALS FROM ALL MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK IS DESIGNED TO ELEVATE DISCUSSIONS, ENCOURAGE COLLABORATION AND INFORM ALL MEMBERS OF DIVERSE POPULATIONS ACROSS THE COLLEGE. I INVITE YOU TO VISIT THE REI WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE AMAZING WORK BEING DONE.

BMCC IS ALSO TAKING ACTION TO CONTINUE PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND SEEKING SOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE SOUND ECOLOGICAL PRACTICES ACROSS ALL DEPARTMENTS AND TO EDUCATE STUDENTS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES. THE COLLEGE IS RESTARTING ITS SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF OUR ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPUS PLANNING AND FACILITIES JORGE YAFAR.

BMCC IS AWARE OF THE CRITICAL ROLE IT PLAYS IN THE REGION'S ECOLOGY AND IS COMMITTED TO INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF ITS PHYSICAL CAMPUS OPERATIONS. AS ONE OF NEW YORK CITY'S LARGEST INSTITUTIONS, WE REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WEAVING SUSTAINABILITY AWARENESS INTO THE FABRIC OF COLLEGE LIFE BY INTEGRATING IT INTO ITS CORE ACTIVITIES OF TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH. OUR COMMITTEE WILL MOVE FORWARD IN PLANNING ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE DEMONSTRATING OUR COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT.

IN OUR FORWARD MOMENTUM AS AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, WE ARE HAPPY TO SHARE TWO SIGNIFICANT CELEBRATIONS THAT WILL BE HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE.

FIRST, WE ARE PROUD TO CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES ON JUNE 9, 2022 DURING OUR COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT BARCLAY'S CENTER IN BROOKLYN. THIS WILL BE OUR COLLEGE'S 57TH COMMENCEMENT AND THE FIRST IN-PERSON CEREMONY IN TWO YEARS. OUR

ENTIRE COLLEGE IS READY TO BRING BACK THIS TRADITION THE WAY IT WAS MEANT TO BE CELEBRATED – SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

ON OCTOBER 27, 2022, BMCC IS HOSTING ITS “INVEST IN A FUTURE” GALA TO RAISE FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS. THIS YEAR’S EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT TRIBECA 360, SURROUNDED BY AMAZING VIEWS OF LOWER MANHATTAN. I INVITE ALL OF YOU TO SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS DURING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT.

THE STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS PROVIDES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER UPDATES ON OUR SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS. GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PAST TWO YEARS, THIS CELEBRATION IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT AND I AM HUMBLED BY THIS HONOR. WHILE WE LOOK AT ALL THAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED, WE MUST ALSO TAKE THE TIME TO FOCUS ON WHAT WAS AND WAS NOT WORKING PRE-PANDEMIC. WE MUST NOT REST ON RECOGNITIONS, AWARDS, AND KIND WORDS. RATHER, WE MUST USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH US FORWARD SO THAT WE MAY BETTER SERVE OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY, SUPPORT OUR FACULTY AND STAFF, AND ENSURE A MORE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REVIVAL WITHIN OUR CITY.

TO THAT END, I AM STARTING A NEW TRADITION WITH BMCC’S STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS. I AM SHARING MY INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR. THESE ARE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, BMCC AND CUNY ADMINISTRATORS, AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS; A REVIEW OF OUR INSTIUTITONAL OUTCOMES AGAINST OUR MISSION, VISION, VALUES, AND STRATEGIC PLAN; AND OUR COMMITMENT TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE AS AN INSTITUTION. THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS

- INCREASE ENROLLMENT BY ENHANCING ADMISSIONS AND ADVISING AND ADDRESSING RETENTION AND TRANSFER BARRIERS
- IMPROVE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, STUDENT DEMAND, AND WORKFORCE NEEDS THROUGH PROGRAM REVIEW, ENHANCEMENT OF ONLINE OFFERINGS, AND EXPANSION OF SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS
- REDUCE EQUITY GAPS THROUGH GREATER SUPPORT FOR CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINING PEDAGOGY AND EXPANSION OF COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC AND BASIC NEEDS ASSISTANCE
- EXPAND ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUPPORTS THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH GREATER STUDENT OUTCOMES
- CULTIVATE CAREER PREPARATION, EXPLORATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT STUDENT POPULATIONS
- ENGAGE AND PARTNER WITH CORPORATE AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS TO SUPPORT ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING, STRENGTHEN CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AND GROW FINANCIAL RESOURCES

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE BMCC COMMUNITY IN ACHIEVING THESE IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES.

IN CLOSING, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU JOINING ME IN-PERSON AND ONLINE FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR WELCOMING TO THE BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE. I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THIS GREAT INSTITUTION, AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF THE WORK WE DO TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THE CLASSROOM, IN THE WORKFORCE AND IN OUR SOCIETY.

MAY YOU ALL CONTINUE TO STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME THIS MORNING.