

The Office of Research presents:

 **BMCC** Annual Research Symposium

 BARS

May 20th, 2026

**CU
NY** THE CITY
UNIVERSITY
OF
NEW YORK



Run of Show

Morning Session:

Time	Event	Room
9:00am- 10:00am	Registration & Breakfast	Main Building ~ Gymnasium
10:00am-10:15am	Opening Remarks • Anthony E. Munroe, Ed.D., President • Liesl B. Jones, PhD., Provost • Odaelys Pollard, PhD., Director of Research	
10:45am-11:00am	Student Oral Presentations • Marisol Rodriguez – Engineering Science • Ryan Claudio, Nathan Fernandez, & Mi Wan Layane Non-Rot – Chemistry • Madeline Montalvo – Computer Science • Guinevere Hall – Social Sciences	
11:00am - 11:10am	Women in STEM Recognition	
11:10am - 12:00pm	Alumni Panel Discussion "From BMCC to Beyond: Navigating your Next Steps"	

Lunch Break: 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Afternoon Session:

Time	Event	Room
1:00pm-1:15pm	Registration Open for Student Presenters, Judges, & Mentors	Main Building ~ Gymnasium
1:15pm-2:15pm	Poster Judging Session	
2:15pm-3:15pm	Poster Session (Open to the Public) <i>Visit the Women in STEM table during the poster session!</i>	
3:15pm-4:15pm	Keynote Speaker – Nafees Norris, M. A.	
4:15pm-4:45pm	Mentor Recognition Awards & Presenter Recognition Closing Remarks	
4:45pm-5:15pm	Certificate Distribution & Poster Collection	

BARS 2026 Keynote Speaker

Nafees Norris is a cell culture scientist, biopharmaceutical process engineer, and the Founder & CEO of Nafees Innovations, a Philadelphia-based STEM education organization dedicated to making science engaging, practical, and accessible for the next generation. He is also the first African American to earn a master's degree in Biopharmaceutical Process Engineering, a milestone that reflects his commitment to advancing representation and excellence within the life sciences.

With professional experience spanning mammalian cell culture, bioprocessing, and biomanufacturing systems, Nafees has worked hands-on with the industry-scale concepts and technologies that power modern medicines — from upstream cell growth to real-world process optimization.

Through Nafees Innovations, he has built an interactive, lab-based learning environment where students and families participate in hands-on workshops that connect classroom science to real-world applications in medicine, biotechnology, and entrepreneurship. His mission is to increase exposure, confidence, and capability in STEM by giving students opportunities to learn by doing — especially those who may not otherwise have access to high-quality laboratory experiences.

Nafees is recognized for his ability to translate complex scientific concepts into clear, relatable lessons that inspire students to see themselves as future researchers, innovators, and leaders. His work bridges science, education, and community impact — demonstrating how technical excellence and purpose-driven leadership can expand opportunity and transform outcomes.

