



BMCC Invest in a Future.

Annual Report of the Borough of Manhattan Community College Foundation 2013-2014





Antonio Pérez, President
Borough of Manhattan
Community College

A Message From **the President**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2013-2014 BMCC Foundation Annual Report.

It isn't often that I get to look back on an academic year and unequivocally apply the adjective "historic." But as I write these words, I can't think of a more fitting description. The BMCC Foundation raised some \$3 million during the 2013-2014 academic year—the most ever in the college's 51-year history.

Among the year's achievements, over \$1 million in philanthropic gifts was raised at the BMCC Foundation's 2014 Gala, *Reaching for the Stars: The Next 50 Years at BMCC*, the highest amount ever for a CUNY community college fundraising event.

In the years since its inception, the money raised by the BMCC Foundation has helped fund scholarships for more than 2,500 outstanding BMCC students. Absent the generosity of alumni, faculty, friends and other donors, many of those students would have been financially hard pressed to stay in school.

Given the means to continue their education, they have gone on to pursue their dreams at some of the nation's most esteemed senior colleges and build careers in a wide range of fields. The future is every bit as bright for the scholars profiled in this report.

Phyllis Williams emigrated from West Africa to the U.S., where she overcame daunting obstacles to excel academically and now looks forward to continuing her education at Hunter College and a career in mental health counseling for children. Ray Sukhu, who came here with his parents from Guyana, plans to become a physician, with a view to developing new treatments for a serious visual condition—one that he himself has. Humeyra Celik was born in Turkey, grew up in the U.S. and commutes between Pennsylvania and New York four days a week to attend classes and prepare for a career as a film director.

I have always regarded the words, "Start Here, Go Anywhere" as not merely a slogan but a promise—one that we're able to keep because of the BMCC Foundation and your unwavering generosity.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks—and my wishes for a year of health, happiness and peace.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Antonio Pérez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Ways to Support BMCC Students

The BMCC Foundation is grateful for contributions of all types, from gifts to the Annual Fund, to scholarships and to name programs and spaces throughout

A Message From **the Chair of the BMCC Foundation Board**

I am proud to share with you the 2013-14 Annual Report of the BMCC Foundation, marking a year filled with growing support for our deserving students.

My office at First Data Corporation, on the 29th Floor of Brookfield Place, looks out over both BMCC and the World Trade Center Memorial, and the two are inexorably linked. As you probably know, BMCC's Fiterman Hall—across the street from World Trade 7—was severely damaged on 9/11, and a newly rebuilt Fiterman Hall opened its doors to students in August 2012.

BMCC, now the largest college within the City University of New York system, is an integral and evolving part of New York City's history. What has remained constant since BMCC's founding a half century ago, is its commitment to provide high-quality higher education to a diverse urban constituency, enabling students to transfer to four-year colleges and gain career mobility.

Many BMCC students are first in their families to attend college, and more than 75 percent are from families whose annual income is less than \$30,000. Consistent with a city—and a global economy—that never sleeps, BMCC remains open seven days a week, morning and night, so students can attend college while maintaining jobs, holding internships and working for the betterment of their communities.

I am pleased to report that the BMCC Foundation has awarded, to date, more than \$8 million in scholarships, helping more than 2,500 students pursue their dreams. Among other successful events, this year's Annual Fundraising Gala, *Reaching for the Stars: The Next 50 Years at BMCC*, raised over \$1 million for scholarships, its unprecedented success due to hundreds of individual contributions, not to mention the inspiring vision of our honorees: Robert De Niro, Kurt D. Woetzel and Elizabeth Margaritis Butson.

On behalf of the BMCC Foundation Board, I invite you to join us at our celebrations this year, to meet our students and learn more about BMCC and the incredible work going on in its classrooms, research labs and learning centers.

Thank you for your friendship and support.




Christine Larsen, Chair
BMCC Foundation Board

the College. Non-Gala Gifts of \$10,000 and more are recognized on our Donor Wall in Fiterman Hall.



*Donor
Wall in
Fiterman
Hall*

A photograph of Robert De Niro speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit and glasses, looking down at a piece of paper he is holding. Behind him, another man in a suit and glasses is visible, and to the right, a woman is partially visible. The podium has a microphone and a sign that reads "BMCC Borough of Manhattan Community College The City University of New York". The background is a blue curtain.

"I used to think the definition of a good neighbor was one that kept the sidewalks clean, but it's more. A good neighbor makes you proud of your neighborhood. BMCC, you are a great neighbor."

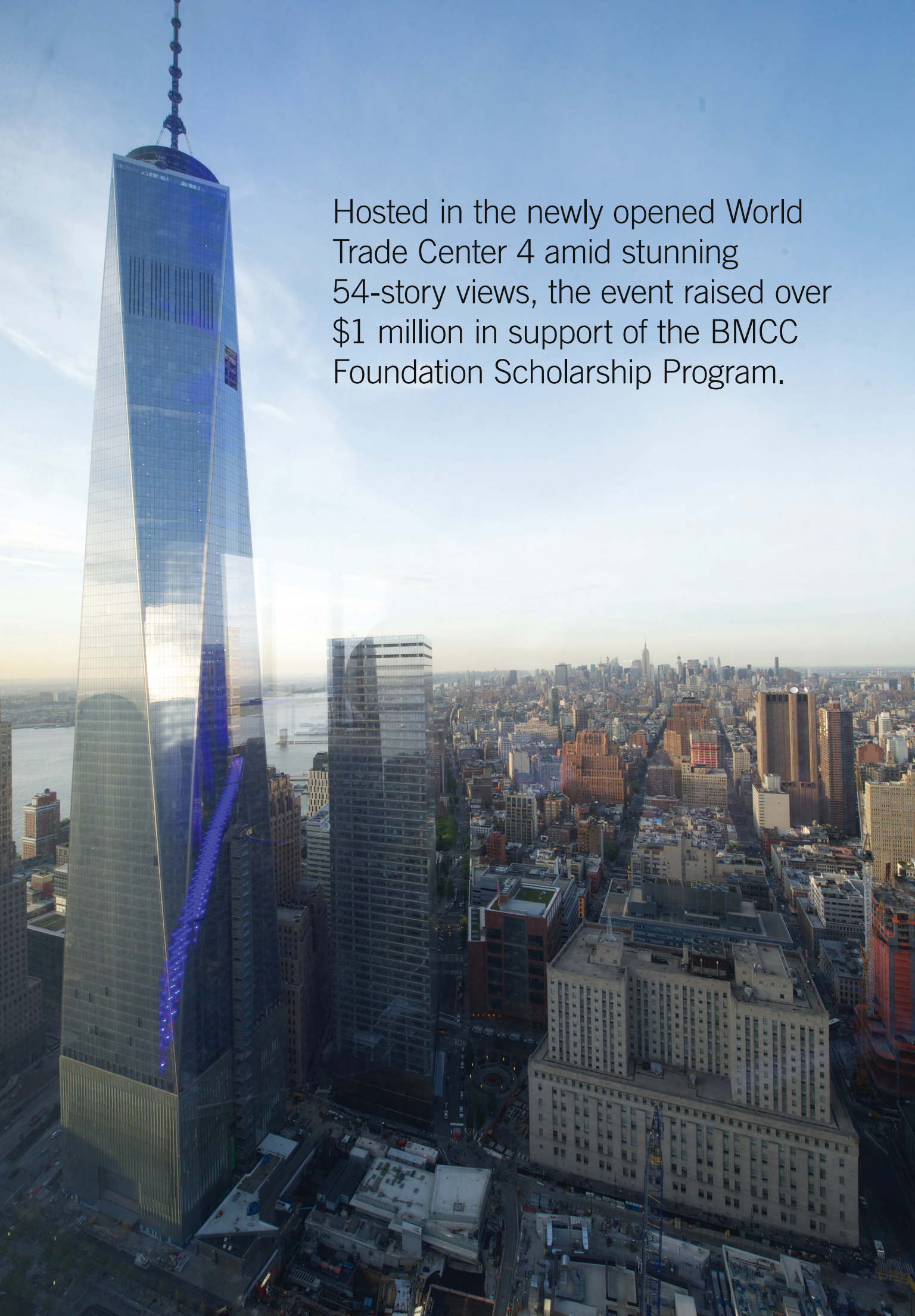
—Robert De Niro, Gala Honoree

Celebrating Excellence

Film legend Robert De Niro, BMCC Foundation board member Elizabeth Margaritis Butson and BNY Mellon CEO of Global Collateral Services Kurt D. Woetzel were honored in Spring 2014 at the Annual BMCC Foundation Gala, *Reaching for the Stars: The Next 50 Years at BMCC*.



Robert De Niro with President Antonio Pérez, BMCC students Humeyra Celik and Cengiz Filiz, and Tribeca Film Festival co-founder Jane Rosenthal

An aerial photograph of Lower Manhattan, New York City, featuring the Freedom Tower (One World Trade Center) as the central focus. The tower's glass facade reflects the sky and surrounding buildings. The surrounding cityscape is dense with various skyscrapers and buildings, with the Hudson River visible to the left. The sky is clear and blue.

Hosted in the newly opened World Trade Center 4 amid stunning 54-story views, the event raised over \$1 million in support of the BMCC Foundation Scholarship Program.



Honoree Elizabeth Margaritis Butson, seated, with friends

Honoree Robert De Niro is a co-founder—with Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff—of the Tribeca Film Festival, created after 9/11 to help revitalize Lower Manhattan.

A video tribute to Mr. De Niro featured former NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Ken Chenault, CEO of American Express, and Drew Nierporent, Mr. De Niro's partner in two Lower Manhattan restaurants.

CBS News Anchor Jim Axelrod was the Gala's Master of Ceremonies.

BMCC President Antonio Pérez presented the Award of Excellence to Elizabeth Margaritis Butson, former owner of the *The Villager* and *Downtown Express* newspapers, "for her dedicated leadership, friendship and heartfelt support of BMCC and its students."



Honoree Kurt D. Woetzel, left, with Board member Aniko DeLaney and President Antonio Pérez

BMCC Foundation Board Member Aniko DeLaney welcomed the evening's third Honoree, CEO of Global Collateral Services at BNY Mellon, Kurt D. Woetzel, and President Pérez thanked Mr. Woetzel for his "stalwart support of education, diversity and Lower Manhattan."



BMCC Foundation Board Chair Christine Larsen, left, with Board member Steven Fiterman and his wife, Sussie

A Stellar Year

The BMCC Foundation Board created a number of distinctive fundraising events in fiscal year 2013-14. Funds were raised to support vital student success initiatives and programs at the College, and the BMCC community expanded to welcome many notable new friends.

The Steinway Soiree

BMCC's first Steinway Soiree benefit featured a remarkable line-up of talent—renowned singer Roberta Flack; the iconic Art Garfunkel; jazz trumpeter Lew Soloff and sensational new pianist Peter Cincotti—who followed a performance by BMCC's talented music faculty.

The evening's celebrity showcase was emceed by musical director Paul Shaffer, and held in the spacious Shirley Fiterman Art Center in BMCC's new Fiterman

Hall. The evening was kicked off with a festive hors d'oeuvres-and-champagne mixer where guests viewed the College's premiere exhibit of visual art and sculpture by BMCC faculty.

The Soiree's special guests included BMCC Foundation Board member Elizabeth Margaritis Butson, as well as Steven Fiterman, who attended the event with his wife Susan Fiterman, and whose parents, Miles and Shirley Fiterman, donated the original Fiterman Hall to BMCC.





The Fiterman Trio: Howard Meltzer, Maureen Kaenan, Robert Reed



Lew Soloff



Peter Cincotti



Steinway & Sons graciously lent the Steinway grand piano to BMCC and guests contributed to name keys through the 88-Key Naming Program. Funds raised benefited student scholarships.



Stephen Meringoff and his daughter, Charlotte Meringoff

Stephen J. Meringoff Steinway Piano Dedication

In Fall 2013, Stephen J. Meringoff made a special gift to BMCC of his family's Steinway grand piano, which now graces BMCC's vocal ensemble room, located on the third floor of Fiterman Hall.

In gratitude to Mr. Meringoff and his family for this extraordinary gift, BMCC President Antonio Pérez, together with BMCC faculty, staff and other special friends, gathered to dedicate the piano and present a faculty recital led by Professor Howard Meltzer, Chair of BMCC's Music and Art Department.



Leila and Simon Peskoff Nursing Skills Laboratory

In April 2014, Dr. Fred Peskoff, Math Professor, further demonstrated his commitment to BMCC and its students by generously pledging a cash gift as well as a bequest to name the Leila and Simon Peskoff Nursing Skills Laboratory in memory of his beloved parents.

Proceeds from this gift directly benefit the Leila and Simon Peskoff Endowed Scholarship Fund. The Leila and Simon Peskoff Nursing Skills Laboratory makes it possible for BMCC nursing students to practice vital patient treatment skills.





Derfner Communication Center

Thanks to the vision and generosity of The Derfner Foundation and its trustee, Jay Lieberman, BMCC now houses a state-of-the-art Communication Center where students can strengthen their speaking skills with a variety of linguistic exercises, working at soundproof computer carrels and taking part in group discussions, lectures and presentations.

The Center's development has been spearheaded by BMCC Communication Studies Professors Lee Ritchey and Chair of the Speech, Communications and Theatre Arts department, Hollis Glaser.



Chess Victory Reunion

Celebrating BMCC's accomplished alumni, the Office of Development sponsored a Chess Victory Reunion at Fiterman Hall commemorating the 20th anniversary of the BMCC chess team's historic victory against teams from Yale, Princeton, MIT and Harvard.

Coached by library science professor Vicente Revilla, team members Gennady Sagalchik, Cassidhee Santos, Oleg Shalumov and Nikola Duravcevic accomplished what no community college had ever before done: Finish first in the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Tournament. They repeated this win in 1994 and 1997.



Supporting Student Success

Thanks to many generous private donations, the BMCC Foundation Scholarship Fund and other scholarships enable many high-achieving students to accomplish the educational goals that otherwise would have been out of reach. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic record, career objective, financial need, leadership ability, participation in school activities and community service.



Phyllis Williams

“Though I was born in West Africa, I was raised by my aunt in California and then came to live with a relative in New York. I have had to move many times, often living with strangers, but despite these obstacles, I graduated high school with a Regents Diploma in Summer 2011 and will graduate from BMCC with an associate degree in liberal arts. I was recently accepted at Hunter College, where I plan to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology and dance. I want to concentrate in mental health counseling for children, and then attend NYU to complete my masters in applied psychology. Thanks to the BMCC Foundation Scholarship, I can continue my education without the stress of loans and debts. I now feel that anything is possible and one must not give up when all hope seems to be lost.”



Ray Sukhu

“My parents and I have worked tremendously hard to attain the goals we set while we were in Guyana with the ‘Land of Opportunity’ in sight. My goal is to become a medical doctor specializing in ophthalmology. I hope to conduct research on eye ailments, a pursuit fueled by my own condition of macular degeneration. I have chosen to earn my associate degree in nursing at BMCC, then transfer to SUNY Downstate Medical Center. I am currently a full-time student, Vice President of the Scholarship Society, engaged in at least 10 hours of weekly community service and employed 25 hours a week. The subject of money is always an issue for me, but the BMCC Foundation Scholarship enables me to achieve educational success and financial freedom, for which I am extremely appreciative.”



Humeyra Celik

“In the summer of 2001, I moved from Turkey to finally be with my father here in the U.S., and I grew up here. My family settled in Pennsylvania, so I commute back and forth to New York City to attend BMCC as a Video Arts and Technology major. I work three days and attend class on the remaining four. I am very ambitious about my dream to become a successful director, and will do anything it takes. My friends say that I inspire them. My hard work and long commute remind them that they shouldn’t complain. Because of my immigration status, I pay a higher tuition out of pocket, but the BMCC Foundation Scholarship has helped lift the burden off my shoulders during my journey. I cannot thank the Foundation’s generous benefactors enough.”

Professors as Mentors



Student Michelle Naidoo
and Professor Abel Navarro

Research: “A Way of teaching.”

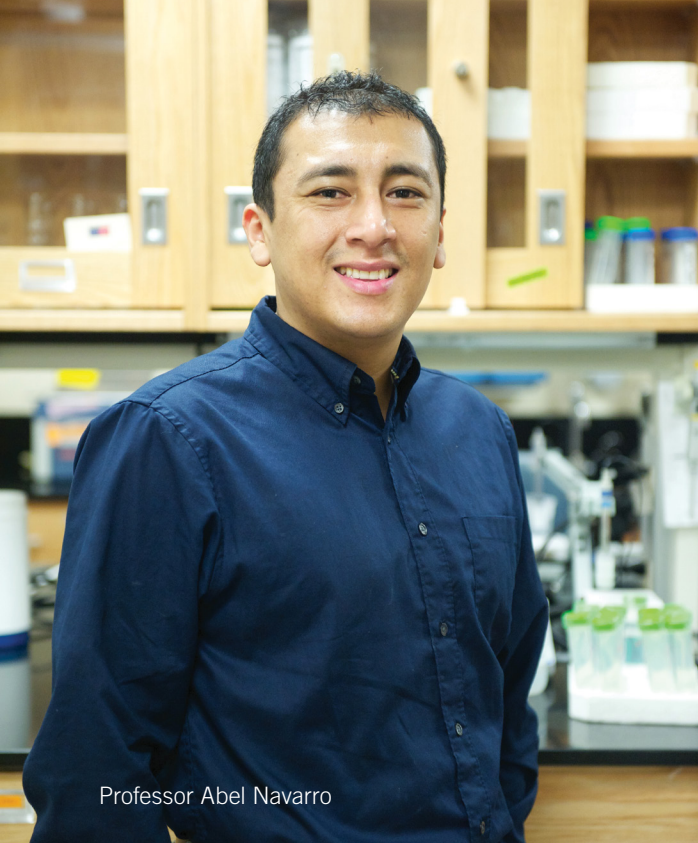
“Research is my way of teaching,” says BMCC science professor Abel Navarro. “There is a common belief that community colleges are exclusively for teaching—not research. But BMCC’s research facilities—for biology, physics, chemistry and environmental science—are outstanding.”

Students working with Professor Navarro have presented their work in talks and poster sessions at major conferences, and published numerous papers in academic journals.

One such student is Michelle Naidoo, a science major who joined Professor Navarro’s environmental research project decontaminating wastewater with methods developed in chemistry lab experiments.

“The water contained significant amounts of toxic dye—red, blue and violet,” says Navarro. “The goal was to come up with an effective way of purging the pollutants.”

Navarro and his mentees have taken part in the highly competitive Annual Beacon Conference for Student Scholars, and “Several of our students have had their findings published in scientific publications,” he says, adding that Naidoo gave a presentation at the Earth Science and Climate Conference in Las Vegas, and co-authored with him, three scholarly, peer-reviewed research papers.



Professor Abel Navarro



Professor Yolanda Martin

Becoming an “agent of change”

Recently, a group of BMCC students conducted on-the-street interviews as part of their research project, “Fear of Crime and Drugs in my Neighborhood” led by Professor Yolanda Martin, Coordinator of the BMCC Criminal Justice program.

Administering a survey to people in their neighborhoods, students considered links between a person’s demographic identity, and his or her perceptions of crime and safety.

They entered their findings into an online database, wrote a research paper, and then a group of them—Michelle Andre, Atheena Frasier, Gabrielle Giordano (and Dylan Giordano, who had participated in the project last fall)—presented a summary of their project at the Left Forum Conference sponsored by John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, and held at the CUNY Graduate Center in midtown Manhattan.

“Over 5,000 people attended the conference and we were the only undergraduates presenting,” says Dylan Giordano. “The audience asked a lot of really fundamental questions, and brought up areas we weren’t familiar with.”

“Being there gave the students a chance to see how people incorporate research into their work,” says Professor Martin, “how you can become an agent of change, not just a passive recipient of information or data that is collected.”

A man in a dark suit and red tie is seen from the side, looking at a wall covered with numerous framed photographs. The photographs are of various sizes and depict different scenes, including people and urban environments. The setting appears to be a gallery or museum with bright, even lighting.

A Unique Venue Joins the NYC Gallery Scene

BMCC's new Shirley Fiterman Art Center is an elegant gallery with a unique mission: to shine light on the work of emerging contemporary artists, students and faculty, as well as featuring exhibits from BMCC's permanent collection, and exciting guest artists.

The Center is located in the heart of Tribeca. Comprised of a spacious North Gallery and South Gallery, it inspires dialogue among BMCC students who explore the exhibits in guided classroom visits, and creates a sanctuary for faculty, staff and neighbors of the college.

Vast, floor-to-ceiling windows cast natural light on expansive exhibits. Artists at all stages of their careers, working across many disciplines, engage an audience that ranges from BMCC students to art aficionados from the BMCC community and beyond.

The Shirley Fiterman Art Center presented several popular exhibits in fiscal year 2013-14.

Top of the World featured work by Joe Woolhead, lead photographer for Silverstein Properties. This compelling exhibit captured the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site, from the devastating attacks of 9/11 to the completion of WTC 4, the first tower to open on the new World Trade Center site.

Artworks by BMCC Studio Faculty showcased the work of dedicated art professors Simon Carr, Betty Copeland, Pat Genova, Xico Greenwald, Sarah Haviland, Ann Hjelle, Thaddeus Radell, Jessica Ramirez, Jerrold Schoenblum, Anthony Sorce and A.C. Towery.

Marion Moise Lauterstein: Playing with Color presented the work of Professor Emeritus Marion Moise Lauterstein, who retired from BMCC after teaching finance for 43 years and donated the 106 playful, digital works in this exhibition to BMCC's permanent collection.



You Make a Difference: Ways of Giving

Gifts to the BMCC Scholarship Fund make a profound difference in the lives of BMCC students. This support funds critically needed scholarships and emergency grants, enabling hard-working and ambitious students to continue on track to graduation, and move closer to their dreams. It also strengthens results-driven, highly successful academic programs and initiatives. The BMCC Foundation is grateful for contributions of all types and at all levels; by check, credit card, securities, donor-advised funds, in-kind and planned gifts.

Here are some special ways to help ensure student success and make a difference at BMCC:

Permanently Endowed Scholarship Funds

These scholarships, which can bear the name of the donor or be named in honor of a special family member or friend, provide ongoing support for students well into the future, since only the interest earned on the fund can be awarded to students. A minimum gift level of \$25,000 is requested to establish an endowed fund.

Named Outright Scholarship Funds

A donor may contribute \$5,000, \$10,000 or more to name a scholarship fund that will be used to support one or more BMCC Foundation Scholars. After the funds are expended, the named

scholarship will dissolve unless additional funds are contributed.

Named Blended Scholarship Funds

A donor may choose to establish a permanently endowed named scholarship fund (described above), and supplement this fund with an outright gift, so that students can receive scholarships immediately, even as the endowed fund matures to provide future support. Donors may add additional gifts to grow the endowed fund at any time.

President's Fund for Academic Excellence

Unrestricted annual support is critical to help the College provide funds where they are most needed, and to support special priorities in a timely fashion. Annual fund gifts are deeply appreciated and recognized in the BMCC Foundation's Annual

Report. The President's Fund for Academic Excellence provides additional recognition for donors who choose to make annual fund gifts of \$1,000 or more.

Special Program Support

Support is essential to ensure the success of the College's many programmatic endeavors that assist students year after year. These range from the **MoneyWorks** financial literacy program to the College's **Freshman Learning Academies** and **Out in Two** programs.

Donors may also choose to support specific program areas, such as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education, laboratory research, music and art, graphic arts and media, communication studies, theatre, business, faculty development and other areas.

Faculty Development

Faculty Development is essential in providing opportunities for educators at BMCC to expand their practices and ultimately, enhance student learning. Faculty development creates a learning community of seasoned and new professors who share insights and expertise regarding pedagogy and new developments in their fields. This assures that students at BMCC have access to cutting-edge knowledge and academic excellence. Investments in our faculty strengthen our entire institution.

Naming Opportunities

Naming opportunities are found throughout the College, and range from the naming of physical spaces such as classrooms, laboratories, computer centers and performance halls, to special academic and student life programs in all subject areas. These provide an outstanding means to support the College's programs and help ensure their excellence well into the future.

Planned Gifts

Planned gifts—such as bequests and gifts of charitable annuities, life insurance, charitable remainder and lead trusts and other retirement assets—are a wonderful way to support the College well into the future and leave a legacy through one's estate.

For more information about ways of giving or to discuss your personal interest in providing a gift, please call 212-220-8020. A Development Officer will meet with you to discuss your ideas and answer any questions you might have.



Thank You, to our Donors

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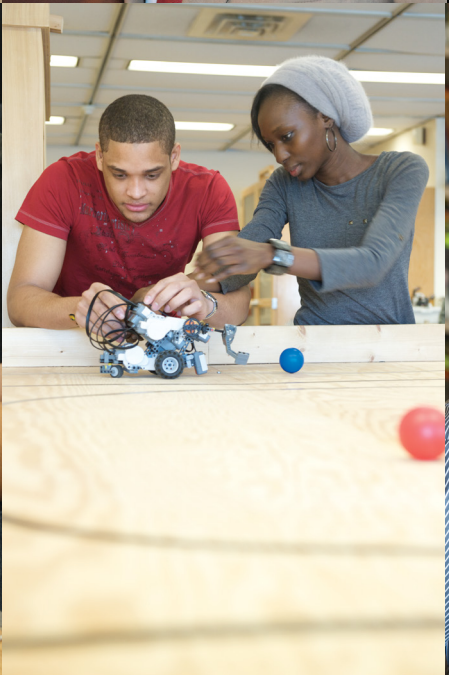
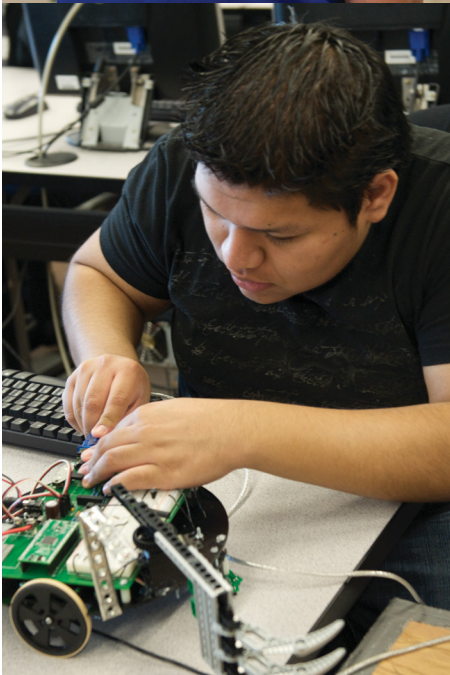
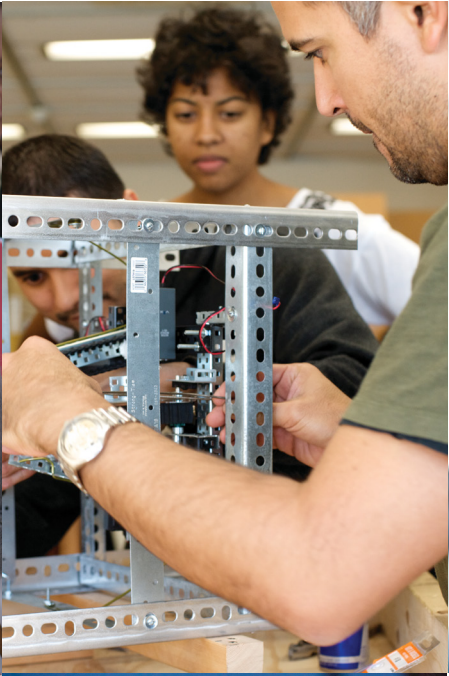
We extend our appreciation to special friends who have made a provision for BMCC in their estate plans.

Anonymous
 Susan Beckerman
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 Gay Brookes
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 Fred Peskoff
 Donald J. Walsh

* Gifts In-Kind

** In Memoriam

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**Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Foundation, Inc.
Statement of
Financial Position**

Assets	<u>June 30, 2014</u>	<u>June 30, 2013</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$371,238	\$365,269
Agency funds	36,638	94,155
Investments, at fair value	6,764,280	5,234,518
Contributions receivable	801,562	389,956
Other receivables, net	2,704	7,082
Prepaid expenses	3,930	1,379
Total assets	<u>\$7,980,352</u>	<u>\$6,092,359</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$250,400	\$1,102
Funds held for Veteran's Program	28,160	-
Funds held for Developmental Skills program	6,603	6,603
Funds held for Fiterman Art Center	1,875	-
Funds held for Development Corporation	-	87,552
Total liabilities	<u>\$287,038</u>	<u>\$95,257</u>
Net assets		
Unrestricted	5,816,313	4,849,923
Temporarily restricted	1,203,979	690,182
Permanently restricted	673,022	456,997
Total net assets	<u>7,693,314</u>	<u>5,997,102</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$7,980,352</u>	<u>\$6,092,359</u>

**Borough of Manhattan
Community College
Foundation, Inc.**
Statement of Activities
Year ended June 30, 2014

Public Support and Revenue	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Public support				
Annual fundraising gala, net of direct donor benefits of \$110,155	\$768,435	\$417,308	-	\$1,185,743
Annual fund	16,179	-	-	16,179
Donated space and services	786,521	-	-	786,521
Contributions	144,136	650,069	216,025	1,010,230
In-Kind Contributions	276,564	66,000	-	342,564
Other	87,552	-	-	87,552
Total public support	<u>2,079,387</u>	<u>1,133,377</u>	<u>216,025</u>	<u>3,428,789</u>
Revenue				
Interest and dividends, net of fees	204,258	27,510	-	231,768
Net realized gain on sale of investments	32,806	4,546	-	37,352
Net unrealized on investments	474,105	72,631	-	546,736
Other	-	18,275	-	18,275
Net assets released from restrictions	742,542	(742,542)	-	-
Total public support and revenue	<u>3,533,098</u>	<u>513,797</u>	<u>216,025</u>	<u>4,262,920</u>
Expenses				
Program services				
Salaries and fringe benefits	566,670	-	-	566,670
Rent	61,807	-	-	61,807
College Programs	801,453	-	-	801,453
Scholarships				
Scholarships	718,142	-	-	718,142
Total program services	<u>2,148,072</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,148,072</u>
Supporting services				
Management and general	284,668	-	-	284,668
Fundraising				
Annual Fund	7,158	-	-	7,158
Other	126,810	-	-	126,810
Total supporting services	<u>418,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>418,636</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,566,708</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,566,708</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	<u>966,390</u>	<u>513,797</u>	<u>216,025</u>	<u>1,696,212</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>4,849,923</u>	<u>690,182</u>	<u>456,997</u>	<u>5,997,102</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$5,816,313</u>	<u>\$1,203,979</u>	<u>\$673,022</u>	<u>\$7,693,314</u>



BMCC Foundation, Inc.
199 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007-1097

Our Mission

The BMCC Foundation is an independent IRS 501© (3) not-for-profit organization whose sole mission is to support the college and its students. We raise funds for student scholarships and other college initiatives while we build constructive connections with friends, alumni, businesses, grant-making foundations, government and community organizations.

Contact the BMCC Foundation (212) 220-8020
www.bmcc.cuny.edu/foundation

