

Bmcc Commons

Spring 2017

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Delivering on a Promise

As part of BMCC's cycle of accreditation, the college is engaged in a rigorous self-study process to determine if it delivers on what it promises to its constituencies.

“Are we who we say we are, to our students?” This is a question posed by Dr. **Ellie Fogarty**, Vice President of Institutional Field Relations at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and BMCC's Middle States Liaison.

Dr. Fogarty visited the college in Spring 2016 to shed light on the Middle States self-study process that BMCC has begun, as part of the college's cycle of accreditation. She clarified the critical task of documenting evidence — initiatives, programs and other efforts — showing that BMCC delivers on what it

promises to its constituencies. She also opened a dialogue about how the college will determine whether it approaches, meets or exceeds the Middle States Commission's Standards for Accreditation.

This endeavor, the self-study process, is an expansive, cross-campus effort involving students, faculty and staff who have volunteered to serve on committees and look closely at what BMCC provides and challenges the college faces.

In an early phase of the self-study process, the BMCC community developed 20 Strategic Plan Out-

comes. At the college's first Town Hall held October 28, 2016 in Theatre 2 at BMCC's 199 Chambers Street campus, committee chairs reported on seven of those 20 outcomes, which are the focus of this phase of the self-study.

BMCC President **Antonio Pérez** opened the Town Hall. “The college-wide self-study is based on input from faculty, students and staff who all see this process with a different perspective,” he said. “We need to show that our students leave BMCC

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Borough of Manhattan
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Delivering on a Promise

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with something of value, such as real-world experience gained through internships, and the knowledge and skills to continue in their field of study or enter a career.”

Bringing underrepresented students into STEM fields

Outcome 2: Improved Development Pass Rates and Outcome 4: Reduced DFW Rates in Gateway Courses

The first hurdle facing a student at BMCC is the CUNY Assessment Test in reading, writing and math, which is part of the enrollment process. Most don’t pass at least one of these exams. “Improving outcomes in remedial mathematics is one of the most vexing problems facing community colleges today,” says **Karrin Wilks**, BMCC Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, but BMCC has multiple strategies to help students overcome the challenge.

One strategy is to provide support for underrepresented students who aspire to enter a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) field.

At BMCC, where 40 percent of the students are Hispanic, one program aims to increase the number of Hispanic students who major in Computer Information Systems and Media Arts and Technology, and then transfer to related bachelor’s degree programs at New York City College of Technology and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Those goals will be met as part of

a \$6 million HSI-STEM and Articulation Program Title III grant from the Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) program of the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

The five-year program will implement a summer bridge program, blocked scheduling and student cohorts that create small learning communities with dedicated counselors and integrated services such as tutoring. The bridge program will also engage students in mentored research, ultimately helping them transfer into a related STEM program at a senior institution.

Building retention

Outcome 5: Increased First- and Second-Year Credit Accumulation and Outcome 6: Increased First-Year Retention Rate

Only about 40 percent of community college students, nationwide, graduate within six years. At BMCC, that number is close to 65 percent, and within certain small-cohort programs at BMCC, the number is higher still.

One example of a small-cohort program is the BMCC Learning Academy (BLA), which received a



BMCC community attends exercise class as part of Happiness Expo.

\$2,625,000 Title V grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2016.

The BLA retains 81 percent of its students in a one-year period, surpassing BMCC’s general retention rate of close to 64 percent. Because of these high retention and graduation rates, the BLA was expanded from its original freshman-serving model, to serve students all the way from admissions to graduation and transfer.

Another strategy to build retention at BMCC is creating Liberal Arts and other majors that engage students who might otherwise have left the college before earning their degree.

“Community college students deserve the full array of options that private college students avail themselves of,” says Dean for Academic

Programs, **Erwin Wong**, referring to seven new majors at BMCC: Art History, Studio Art, Sociology, Modern Languages, Animation and Motion Graphics, History and Gerontology.

Likewise, he says, the launch of two other majors in Summer 2016, Psychology and Science for Health Professionals, reflects a proven strategy for retention and affirms BMCC’s commitment to prepare students for 21st-century careers. The most recent new major is Economics, offered through the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice.

Supporting student success outside of class

Outcome 12: Increased Student Satisfaction with Student Services and Communication, and Outcome 15: Increased Participation in Co/Extra-Curricular Activities

Recognizing that student success is impacted by what is happening in their lives outside class, the BMCC Counseling Center hosted the college’s first Happiness Expo, held November 10 in Richard Harris Terrace at 199 Chambers Street.

Over 500 students, faculty and staff attended the Expo, which was inspired, in part, by ThriveNYC, an initiative funded by the New York City Mayor’s Office. As part of that initiative, the Mayor’s Office conducted a survey of 1,000 CUNY students and found that 19 percent of those surveyed met the criteria for depression; 26 percent reported significant anxiety, and of those reporting depressive symptoms, only 10 percent received help from their college counseling or health center.

“We understand that our students are busy, and that they might

“We need to show that our students leave BMCC with the knowledge and skills to continue in their field of study or enter a career.”

PRESIDENT ANTONIO PÉREZ



BMCC Learning Academy cohort meets in Fiterman Hall.

BMCC Commons

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Digital advertising skills are a focus of BMCC's workforce development initiative.

have significant barriers to utilizing our services, whether related to their schedules or commitments outside of school,” says **Cicely Horsham-Brathwaite**, BMCC Director of Counseling. In the “relaxed environment” of outreach events such as the Expo, “we can present them with skills they can learn in a short period of time that support their mental health and well being,” she says.

“Improving outcomes in remedial mathematics is one of the most vexing problems facing community colleges today.”

**PROVOST
KARRIN WILKS**

Preparing students for emerging technical fields

Outcome 14: Increased Participation in Workforce Development

Corporate and non-profit partnerships are at the heart of BMCC's workforce development initiatives, as is an acute awareness of employment trends and students' goals to be part of emerging fields like digital media and marketing. Those goals are becoming a reality as students in the BMCC Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development take part in a free pilot program and digital training course

preparing them for entry-level jobs in the digital media and marketing industry. The program, expected to launch in early 2017, was made possible through a partnership between BMCC and the IAB Education Foundation, whose iDiverse initiative covers the students' tuition fees and connects them to potential employers in the industry. BMCC and the Education Foundation will work with non-profit partners and local employers to recruit applicants for the program, and those who successfully complete the semester-long, non-credit course will also qualify to take the IAB Entry-Level Digital Advertising Certification Exam, a critical industry credential. “Through this course, we are providing a wide range of students from diverse backgrounds with a unique opportunity to build meaningful careers in interactive marketing,” says **Sunil B. Gupta**, Dean of Continuing Education and Workforce Development at BMCC.

NAACP Honors MEOC

The Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) was recently recognized as an Education Game Changer by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Mid-Manhattan Branch during the NAACP's annual holiday party on December 21. In 2016, both the Harlem-based MEOC and NAACP Mid-Manhattan Branch celebrated their 50th anniversaries. Established in 1966 by the State University of New York and admin-



istered by BMCC, MEOC offers academic and vocational services at no charge to qualifying New York State residents. “As an educational opportunity center, we change lives and advance people in our communities so they can become self-sufficient,” said **Anthony Watson**, Executive Director, MEOC. To be recognized by the NAACP, an organization founded on a platform to educate and bring equality to all people, he says “is a great honor that words can't express.”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Grant-Funded Programs Ignite Our Mission of Inclusion

As this issue of BMCC Commons goes to press just weeks after the 2016 presidential election, it is important to note that BMCC's mission of inclusion remains at the heart of our institution. The grant-funded projects highlighted in these pages reflect the strength of that mission. We are grateful to the many generous funders who help create opportunities for our hard-working students from over a hundred countries, New York City and across the United States.



Friends of the college include the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which provided more than \$400,000 to enable the BMCC Teacher Education Department to create a model school in West Harlem, one that will serve as a resource for future teachers. We are also thankful for the Goldman Sachs Foundation and Goldman Sachs College Collaborative Program, in which top BMCC students take part in case-study analyses guided by top executives in finance and other areas. Alongside the substantial private support BMCC receives are federal and state grants that sustain our efforts to guide underrepresented students into STEM careers and higher education. Among these is a recent \$6 million Title III grant from the Hispanic Serving Institutions program at the U.S. Department of Education, that will help students earn associate degrees in Computer Information Systems and Media Arts and Technology, then transfer to bachelor's degree programs within CUNY. The impact of these and other programs is being documented by committees of faculty and staff who have volunteered their time to BMCC's self-study process — an integral component of the college's accreditation cycle with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The BMCC tagline, *Start Here. Go Anywhere.*, relates to these efforts and is right on target as we enter the next phase in our country's history, and guide the generation of students whose talent and vision will help shape its course.

Antonio Pérez, President
Borough of Manhattan Community College
The City University of New York

Milestones

BMCC professors and staff received a total of \$37,500 in support of research projects through the CUNY Community College Research Grant, effective September 2016 through June 2017. They include **Gloria McNamara** (pictured) and **Lesley Rennis** (Health Education); **Precious Sellars-Mulhern** (Counseling Center); **Ronald Clare, Jr.** (Business Management) and **Hao Tang** (Computer Information Systems).



BMCC professors from more than a dozen disciplines received a total of \$160,939 in Professional Staff Congress CUNY Research Awards for Cycle 47 (July 2016 through June 2017). Enhanced Awardees are Professors **Kwasi Konadu** and **Meryen Zam**. Traditional-A Awardees are Professors **David Bahr**, **Christa Baiada**, **Shoba Bandi-Rao**, **Tracy Bealer**, **Mario Benavides**, **Simon Carr**, **Rachel Corkle**, **Maria de los Angeles Donoso Macaya**, **Lisa Grace**, **Ozgur Ecevit**, **Hardaye Hansen**, **Rebecca Johnson**, **Orlando Justo**, **Adele Kudish**, **Ling Luo**, **Quinn Minor**, **Abel Navarro**, **Brian Rafferty**, **Khushmand Rajendran**, **Jill Strauss**, **Kibrewossen Tesfagiorgis**, **Shalva Tsiklauri**, **Janice Walters**, **Michelle Wang** and **Shengkun Zhang**. Traditional-B Awardees are Professors **Daniel DePaulo**, **Cheryl Fish**, **Cara Kronen**, **Joyce Moorman**, **Marjan Persuh**, **Rochelle Rives**, **Lisa Sarti**, **Yuliya Shneyderman** and **Jaewoo Lee**.

Glenda Blakely, BMCC Adjunct Professor of Media Arts as well as Technology and Media Arts and Technology Internship Coordinator, presented a professional development workshop, "Be Your Own North Star: Navigating Your Career," at the Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs 2016 All Staff Day, October 21 at the CUNY Graduate Center.



W.K. Kellogg Foundation Funds Teacher Education Program

The BMCC Teacher Education Department will create a model school for Early Childhood and Elementary Education majors at PS 125, a public elementary school in West Harlem, with support from a \$408,090 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. **Rebecca Garte**, Professor of Teacher Education and project director for the grant, says the goal of the project, which extends October 2016 through September 2019, is to give BMCC students majoring in teacher education "hands-on experiences in a model school environment that serves a population more like the students they will be working with someday." The students will do site visits, observe classrooms and complete an action research project in the classroom in which they have been interning. BMCC Teacher Education faculty will also provide a three-year professional development



Teacher Education Professor Rebecca Garte leads discussion.

program for the teachers at PS 125. Created in collaboration with PS 125 administration and model teachers,

the program will include workshops, coaching and curriculum development support.

BMCC Introduces Economics Major

BMCC has launched an Associate in Arts (A.A.) degree in Economics through the Department of Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice, chaired by Professor **Sangeeta K. Bishop**.

Economics majors will examine industrial, feminist and international economics as well as other areas. They will learn to identify economic trends

and explore how political and social changes can affect them.

"The purpose of the Economics major is to allow students to evaluate real-life situations and apply appropriate solutions," said Bishop. "It falls within the context of BMCC's mission to prepare students for career achievement, lifelong learning and civic participation."



BMCC Science Professor and astrophysicist **Quinn Minor** received a National Science Foundation, Division of Astronomical Sciences award of \$235,407 to study cold, or slow-moving dark matter.

He will mentor students in the project who will start by attending workshops to acquire scientific computing skills through the programming language Python and the operating system Unix. They will also attend meetings and give a talk at the Physical Sciences Research Experience for Undergraduates Symposium at the American Museum of Natural History, where Minor is a Research Associate.

"It's important that they see themselves in a research environment," says Minor. "It's a confidence builder. They'll be more conversant with other students, and ultimately with other scientists, as well."

Inaugural Leadership Cohort Addresses Challenges Across Many Disciplines

Fourteen BMCC faculty members participated in the inaugural Faculty Leadership Fellows Program at BMCC. The program has been made possible through a grant from the American Express Foundation and began with an intensive seminar, January 9–13, 2017.

Faculty selected to participate in the inaugural class include Professors **Margaret Barrow**, **John Beaumont**, **Sangeeta K. Bishop**, **Francisca Campos**, **Vincent Cheng**, **Leslie Craigo**, **Kathleen Dreyer**, **Judy Eng**, **Janet Esquirol**, **Eva Kolbusz-Kijne**, **Abel Navarro**, **Thaddeus Radell**, **Lesley Rennis** and **Brenda Vollman**.

Leadership Fellow Sangeeta K. Bishop, who is both Chair of the Social Sciences, Human Services and Criminal Justice Department and Chair of the BMCC Academic Senate says a faculty leader must look ahead for the entire department.

"That department does not operate in isolation but in a much larger campus and community," says Professor Bishop. "I hope that my participation in this new program will help me strengthen my role to make these connections between the talents and interests of my faculty with the resources and needs of the entire community."



Team of faculty and staff discuss BMCC Honors Program with students.

BMCC Honors Program Set to Launch

Starting Fall 2017, BMCC students who complete five Honors courses, including no more than two Honors Contract courses, will qualify to graduate with Honors from BMCC.

Development of the BMCC Honors Program began in 2014 with a team of faculty and staff co-chaired by **Jason Schneiderman**, Professor of English, and **Erwin Wong**, Dean for Academic

Programs and Instruction. Honors courses will be approved within the academic departments, and by the college-wide Honors Committee.

“We reviewed Honors Programs at the national and local level,” says Schneiderman. “We visited each one of the CUNY Honors Programs and reported back on how those programs are working; what is succeeding and of

what they are proudest.”

The next step, he says, was to pilot an Honors Program at BMCC in Spring 2016 with 80 students and seven sections of classes. The pilot class, said Human Services major **Eunice Melendez**, “opened my eyes to analyze the world with a different perspective. I experienced an intellectual transformation and so can others.”



Forum Provides Setting for Post-Election Concerns

BMCC hosted a college-wide forum in Richard Harris Terrace one week after the 2016 Presidential election. The event offered students, faculty and staff an opportunity to express concerns, ask questions and make statements. Students were provided detailed lists of support services available on campus, including counseling. BMCC Single Stop and Special Services Manager **Deborah Harte** said attorneys will continue to visit campus, providing pro bono services surrounding immigration status for

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) students as well as those with Temporary Protected Status. **Karrin Wilks**, BMCC Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, encouraged the BMCC community to engage in “open dialogue and civil discourse, even if it is difficult. Speak your truth and respect the truth others speak.” BMCC President **Antonio Pérez** closed the event. “We talk about BMCC as being a family,” he said. “I assure you, we will do everything we can to ensure that no one interferes with our family.”

Top Goldman Sachs Executives Meet With BMCC Students

Ten BMCC students — **Diagna Camilo**, **Natalia Corletto**, **Tesfamichael Demeke**, **Olesia Hyka**, **Hyun-Shin Lee**, **Karol Malachowicz**, **Ching Hei Mok**, **Henry Noble**, **Babatunde Ogunniyi** and **Una Radakovic** — are participating in the Goldman Sachs College Collaborative Program, November 2016 through May 2017.

The students are working closely with staff at BMCC including **Michael Hutmaker**, Dean for Student Affairs; **Won Kang**, Director of the Center for Career Development and **Thierry Thesatus**, Senior Career Advisor. They will also meet with Goldman Sachs Mentors including **Karina Suryan**, Analyst, Finance, and **Ochelle Drysdale**, Analyst, Technology.

The BMCC students are joined by students from Hudson County Community College, New Jersey City University and St. Peter’s University.

Over 11 sessions, they will tackle a Business Case Challenge related to a particular corporation, attend speaker sessions and make final presentations at the Goldman Sachs office in Lower Manhattan.

Milestones

Accounting major **Asmir Nikocec** was among 18 community college students nationwide selected to participate in the 2016 Accounting Scholars Development Program (ASDP) held July 23–29 at Howard University in Washington D.C. The ASDP is jointly funded by the American Institute of CPAs and the Center for Accounting Education in the Howard University School of Business.

Ten BMCC students have been admitted to the 2016-2017 POISE (Pipeline Opportunities for Inter-College STEM Education) program at BMCC. POISE is a collaborative effort between BMCC and the Academic Achievement Program within NYU’s College of Arts and Science. The new cohort members are **Norbesida Bagabila** (pictured top), **Tesfamichael Demeke** (pictured bottom), **Kristy Garcia**, **Shanna-Kay Griffiths**, **Muhammad Hassan**, **Serigne Mbathe**, **Nataly Ortega**, **Juan Pelaez**, **Jodenna Simpson** and **Papa Syalla**.



Criminal Justice major **Elvis Rivera** and Accounting major **Jesenia Rodriguez** each received \$1,000 through the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)-CUNY Resident Scholarship program, funded by the New York City Council.

BMCC students **Raul Chavez**, **John Cocco**, **Mia Johnson**, **Nicole O’Donnell** and **Alejandro Pena** were the only community college students to present their findings at the American Educational Studies Association (AES) 2016 Annual Conference in Seattle on November 4. Their project, *Community College Students Speak Up: Theories, Notions, and Perceptions*, was led by Professors **Cara Kronen** and **Yolanda Medina**.



L-R: Antonio Pérez and Paul Cameron

Continuing the Legacy of BMCC Faculty and Alumni

Endowed scholarship funds generate income that benefits BMCC students for many generations to come. They enable today's scholars to succeed, and carry forward a donor's legacy of accomplishment and generosity.

Major Paul J. Cameron (USAF, Retired) Endowed Scholarship

Paul Cameron, a 1968 BMCC alumnus, has established the Major Paul J. Cameron (USAF, Retired) Endowed Scholarship to benefit BMCC students. On December 20, Mr. Cameron met with BMCC President **Antonio Pérez**, and pledged \$25,000 to establish the Scholarship Fund.

After earning an Associate in Arts degree in the Transfer Program at BMCC, Cameron went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Queens College, CUNY, and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. He served 20 years as a navigator in the United States Air Force, and in 1991, entered the field of residential real estate. Today's college students, he says, "are living in a different world," than when he was at BMCC. The challenges they face, says President Pérez, are made easier, "when an early graduate of BMCC remembers his roots and returns to contribute to the college today."

Gerald Christoff Endowed Scholarship Fund

In honor of her late brother **Gerald Christoff** (1935-2014), who taught critical thinking in the Academic Literary and Linguistics Department at BMCC from 2006 to 2013, **Rosemary Christoff Dolan** has donated \$25,000 to establish the Gerald Christoff Endowed Scholarship Fund for out-

standing BMCC students. Before joining the faculty at BMCC, Professor Christoff devoted more than a half-century to his career as a pianist and classical composer, writing more than 100 works of contemporary classical music and performing widely. When he began his second career at BMCC, "he exclaimed, 'Imagine! I'm getting paid to exchange ideas with these bright young minds,'" remembers Ms. Dolan. "It is heartening to know that his love of knowledge will live on through his students and that others will continue to find meaning in his music."

Rochelle Weinstein Endowed Art Scholarship

Rochelle Weinstein, Professor Emeritus in the BMCC Art and Music Department, has donated \$50,000 to create the Rochelle Weinstein Endowed Art Scholarship and help ensure the success of promising Art History or Studio Art majors at BMCC. Professor Weinstein joined the faculty at BMCC in 1964, hired by the college's first president, **Martin Dworkis**. She was one of the founding faculty members in the Music & Art Department and retired in 2012.

Weinstein notes that when she was a student at the City College of New York, CUNY offered free tuition. "It allowed me to develop a sense of what I could dream about; something family circumstances would have otherwise made impossible," she says. "Donating to the Foundation is an opportunity to give back to students, the assurance that this is their time to dream, and I want to be part of subsidizing those dreams."

To establish a named scholarship endowment with a minimum gift of \$25,000, please contact the BMCC Foundation at (212) 220-8020.

Petrie Foundation Helps Students in Need

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation has renewed support to BMCC in the amount of \$300,000 over the next three years in support of The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Student Emergency Grant Fund at BMCC.

This support will assist students facing an unexpected financial emergency, enabling them to stay in school and finish their degrees. The Foun-

ation's ongoing support has helped hundreds of BMCC students overcome such emergencies.

"We are so grateful to the Petrie Foundation and our friend **Beth Leif** for their continuing support of BMCC and our students," said **Doris Holz**, Vice President for Development and Chief Operating Officer of the BMCC Foundation.

Through Music and Art, BMCC Thanks its Donors

The BMCC Office of Development hosted a Donor Appreciation Cocktail Reception in the Shirley Fiterman Arts Center, November 1. **Elizabeth Butson**, a BMCC Foundation Board Member and long-time friend to the college, opened the program. "The continued support of friends of BMCC is vital to the college," she said. "You support scholarships which are so

important for our students who show great promise."

BMCC donors, including Foundation Board members and guests as well as faculty and college administrators, attended the evening event. **Howard Meltzer**, Chair of Music and Art, and Professors **Rosemary George**, **Brian Kauth** and **Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao** performed; special guest artists were **Tessa Lang** and **Johannes Schwaiger**. BMCC Foundation Scholar **Nicole O'Donnell** told the audience, "It has never been more important to give our most vulnerable communities access to quality education."

She closed her talk with a promise: "Know that with my commitment to education advocacy, by helping me with this generous scholarship, we are now going forward together to continue this important work."



L-R: Music Professors Howard Meltzer, Amber Yiu-Hsuan Liao and Robert Reed.

Alumni Now: Jessica Frey

Jessica Frey (Theatre, '06) credits her mentors at BMCC, including Professor **Diane Dowling**, with helping launch her acting career. "With her coaching and advice," says Frey, "I was accepted into NYU's Tisch Drama program," where she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting in 2008. She has appeared in dozens of roles in film, television and theatre, and her most recent project is a comic web series, *Basic Witch*, produced by Frey and five co-creators — **Kim Blanck**, **Janna Emig**, **Claire Rothrock**, **Annie Tippe** and **Ryann Weir**. The main character, Penelope, is trying to make her way in New York as a real-estate broker, and "like many of us, she has to deal with catcalling construction workers, irritating roommates and a workplace dominated by men," says Frey. "Unlike the rest of us, she happens to be a witch." The series is available on Vimeo, and the team is meeting with producers in Los Angeles, to find a larger platform. Stay tuned, as the magic unfolds.



For more Alumni Now profiles, go to www.bmcc.cuny.edu/alumni.

BNY Mellon Executive Inspires BMCC Students at Leadership Breakfast



Debra Baker, Managing Director and Head of Global Risk Solutions at BNY Mellon Asset Servicing speaks to BMCC students.

On October 18, **Debra Baker**, Managing Director and Head of Global Risk Solutions at BNY Mellon Asset Servicing — and among the 2016 Top 25 Black Women in Business recognized by *The Network Journal*, *Black Professionals* and *Small Business News* — was featured in the BMCC Leadership Breakfast Series sponsored by the BMCC Foundation and held in the Conference Center at Fiterman Hall. Baker has more than 25 years experience in product and strategy, performance analytics, project planning and management. She was a founding member and executive steering committee member for BNY Mellon’s Women’s Initiatives Network (WIN) and is currently on the BNY Mellon Diversity & Inclusion Operating Committee.

Ray O’Keefe and the James T. Lee Foundation Honor Herbert Rosenfield

On November 1, **Ray O’Keefe**, BMCC Foundation Board Member Emeritus, presented a gift of \$20,000 from the James T. Lee Foundation in memory of BMCC Foundation Founding Board Member and a dear friend of the College, **Herbert Rosenfield**. Accepting the gift, which is being designated to the Abner B. Rosenfield Endowed Fund for Outstanding Scholarship and Citizenship, were **Patricia Rosenfield**, daughter of Herbert Rosenfield; **Doris Holz**, Vice President of Development and Chief Operating Officer of the BMCC Foundation, and BMCC President **Antonio Pérez**.



L–R: Ray O’Keefe, Patricia Rosenfield, Doris Holz and Antonio Pérez

Capital One Foundation Awards Grant to BMCC

The BMCC Center for Continuing Education and Workforce Development has been awarded \$110,000 for the first year of a multi-year grant by the Capital One Foundation to support workforce development.

The purpose of the grant is to develop credit-articulation policies that maintain the CUNY Pathway model as students move from certificate programs offered through continuing education, to accredited programs that build toward an associate degree.

BMCC will be working on this project with Hostos Community College, the CUNY Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development Programs, and the CUNY Labor Market Information Service at the Center for Urban Research.

“We are pleased to be a part of such a distinguished group of workforce leaders from around the country,” said **Sunil B. Gupta**, BMCC Dean of Adult Continuing Education. “We are honored to have been selected by Capital One Foundation.”

Milestones



On November 11, before BMCC’s float joined the New York City Veterans Day parade up Fifth Avenue, the college community attended a wreath-laying ceremony at the Eternal Flame in Madison Square Park and BMCC Professor of Math **Bruce Sanford** (pictured) donated an original, framed artwork by **Enrique Mate** to the college, to honor BMCC veterans.

Orville Ingram (Communication and Media Studies, ‘03), is now Administrator of Special Education at the New York City Department of Education Field Support Center in the Bronx.

Chadrick Frederick (Accounting, ‘15, pictured), co-authored with BMCC Professor of Accounting **Joel Barker** (Accounting, ‘06) an article “Billions Lost Yearly To Earned Income Tax Credit: Errors Or Fraud?” in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Business & Economics Research*, Fourth Quarterly 2016, Vol. 14, Number 4.

On November 29, BMCC took part in the CUNY-wide event, **Giving Tuesday**. Staff and faculty donations toward the CUNY Campaign for Voluntary Charitable Giving raised a record \$5,500 toward student scholarships and emergency support for students.

Stay in touch with BMCC!
Share your BMCC alumni news about your recent achievements, learn about BMCC’s Alumni Council and other activities:
alumni@bmcc.cuny.edu.



with Christopher Shults,
*Dean of Institutional Effectiveness
and Strategic Planning*

What is your role at BMCC?

I am the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Planning.

What do you really do at BMCC?

It is my job to make sure that we implement an institutional effectiveness model that aligns our assessment, planning and resource allocation activities to ensure student success. I am also working to ensure that our academic programs, as well as our administrative, educational and student support (AES) units are supported in their activities, and I serve as BMCC's Middle States Accreditation Liaison, the overall coordinator of

our Self-Study, and the primary contact point with our Middle States Vice-President.

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

I have only been at BMCC for 11 months, and given the talent and commitment of our faculty, staff and students, I believe our best accomplishments are yet to come. That said, there are two accomplishments of which I am very proud — the launching of our AES assessment process and the development of a Support Outcomes Taxonomy. I will be speaking about this at the Middle States Conference with BMCC Director of Assessment, **Marjorie**

L. Dorimé-Williams, and we will be conducting a one-day Middle States regional workshop. I am also proud to say that, with the oversight of BMCC Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics **Bettina Hansel**, we have launched a series of data dashboards, expanded our number of issue-based reports and begun to utilize predictive analytics.

What is one thing you've discovered about the faculty at BMCC in your current role?

First off, I am happy to say that I have discovered that our faculty has been engaged in using assessment to improve teaching and learning for some time. Assessment of student learning is, has been, and will continue to be faculty-driven, even as we introduce our new assessment management system, TracDat.

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

Well, for five years while I was in Michigan, I served as the lead chef for a Single Mom's Dinner Ministry at the Ann Arbor Vineyard Church. This labor of love reflects my deep belief in service that benefits individuals who are most in need, and it is at the core of my vision for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics.

Then and Now



BMCC laboratory spaces in the sixties reflected the College's focus on business and emerging office technologies. Today, BMCC offers more than 45 degree programs ranging from Science to Economics to Theatre — and this growth is reflected in the College's cutting-edge labs. These include the Derfner Foundation Communication Center, the Forensics and Biotechnology Laboratory and the College's first Social Sciences Research Laboratory.