

January 2020

Dear Campus Community,

Happy New Year!

I hope that this report finds you in good health and spirits. A new year often brings with it new possibilities and opportunities. Unfortunately for us, it brought in new employment opportunities for a number of KCC staff members including Julie Block-Rosen and Anthony Corazza, two outstanding and long-serving members of the college community. We are grateful to have benefitted from their leadership and commitment to the College and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. A search is underway for a Legal Counsel to the College, and until such time as a search is launched for the Assistant Vice President for Campus Facilities, Mr. Rodney Moye, Administrative Superintendent for Campus Planning & Facilities will be leading the department.

In January, the campus hosted Assistant Commissioner Lola Brabham who presented the Governor Cuomo's 2020 State of the State Address. The campus also sponsored the 1st Annual National Law Enforcement Day Breakfast recognizing and acknowledging KCC Public Safety Officers as well as officers from the 61st Precinct. Together with the Provost, the VP of Workforce Development, and faculty from the Culinary Arts Program, I met with Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz and representatives from the NYC Hospitality Alliance to explore opportunities for partnerships that will help to create pathways to employment for our students. I also had the pleasure of hosting Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuels (Brownsville/East New York) who has also expressed an interest in a partnership with our Culinary Arts Program.

Last month, I was pleased to welcome Timothy Hunter, Chairperson of the University Student Senate (USS) and member of the CUNY Board of Trustees to campus. Mr. Hunter was joined by KCC student Celis Hinds, who also serves on the USS. The USS is advocating for free sanitary products and the installation of dispensaries in restrooms throughout CUNY campuses, and they are interested in piloting this effort at KCC.

As you know, improving the campus climate has been one of my major priorities. In January, I participated in the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Presidents' Trust Symposium "Leading Change and Bridging Divides", which had a special focus *on challenges related to freedom of speech on campus, how to foster and sustain dialogue across divergent points of view, leading for innovation, and the potential of community partnerships to promote fiscal stability and student success*. The University is also committed to supporting campuses to engage in this work and has launched a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Incubator, a multi-year program funded by the City Council to address campus climate and equity issues on CUNY campuses. We understand that the first year will pilot five CUNY campuses and our hope is that Kingsborough is among the initial cohort. More information about this work and how it will be able to support our efforts on campus will be forthcoming. The Campus Climate Committee continues to meet regularly and is hard at work discussing and developing recommendations for ways in which we

can begin to break down walls and build community at the College.

Colleagues, 2020 begins the five-year countdown to our next Middle States review. Preparations have already begun. We are making progress with identifying an external consultant to assist in our review to improve our governance structure. Strategic planning is underway; and we have a search underway for a Director of Assessment. We have so much more to do not only to meet each of the seven MSCHE Standards of Excellence, but to ensure a culture of assessment at KCC. In the spring, we plan to outline a comprehensive plan for this work, which will involve every sector of the College. I am excited about the work that lays ahead because I know assessment to be a powerful way to advance institutional effectiveness and student success.

Please note that I discovered, due to issues with my email, that my December report never left my outbox and was not delivered to the campus community. It was however added to my Report Portal at <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/administration/presoffice/presidentreport.html>.

I look forward to seeing you all at convocation on February 28 where a progress report from each division will be shared.