

February 2020

Dear Campus Community,

I am pleased to share my report for the month of February.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month with a weekly game of trivia. Congratulations to all the winners and congratulations to our Employee of the Month, Gerçi Baudin, from the Office of Buildings and Grounds. Last month, VP Rios, KCC Student Celis Hinds, Interim Governmental Relations Manager Stephannia Cleaton and I traveled to Albany to meet with members of the Brooklyn Delegation to request their support of both the College and the University. On February 24, I attended Congressman Hakeem Jeffries State of the District Address. I've had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Maurice Kolodin, a former member of the KCC Foundation Board and past chair of Community Board 15, who is interested in helping forge relationships with a number of health care agencies. I also conducted a presentation on Community Colleges for a cohort of higher education professionals from Israel who were visiting as part of the *Israeli Hope in Academia* and JCRC-NY diversity and inclusion program under the auspices of Israel's President Reuven Rivlin in partnership with the Council for Higher Education.

We also hosted Berenecea Eanes, Interim President of York College, Ana Pond, CUNY MSCHE Consultant; and Professor Timothy Paglione, Chair of the Earth and Physical Sciences Department at York College for a discussion on the lessons learned from their recent MSCHE review and best practices in developing a culture of assessment. On the immediate horizon is increasing our use of data to validate practices and inform improvements at the college; completion of our strategic plan, and commencing our MSCHE Self Study.

At Convocation in addition to a presentation on assessment and related matters from VP Fox and remarks from Provost Russell and I, we were pleased to be joined by Donna McKusik our Achieving the Dream Coach who spoke about equity. Provost Russell shared KCC data that demonstrated the challenges we have with equity especially as it pertains to Black and Hispanic men. Although, we are addressing these issues through many of our High Impact Practices, the data demonstrate that we are not reaching enough students. Over the next year we will be taking our equity work to the next level. As part of this work, we will be selecting a text for a college wide read and discussion. More information will be forthcoming.

Last month, I was excited to attend the CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Luncheon celebrating our incredible student athletes from across the university as well as outstanding members of the KCC Wave Women's and Men's Basketball teams. In addition, I brought greetings at both the Nursing Orientation for students and our New Student Orientation. But, perhaps the most exciting news of the month was the announcement of an award from Governor Cuomo's New York State Workforce Development Initiative (WDI) for \$857,543 for the development of the Maritime Technology Apprenticeship Program (MTAP). Kingsborough's MTAP is the New York State Department of Labor's first approved apprenticeship program in marine mechanics. We were pleased to have Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul on campus to make the announcement.