KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WE GO BIG

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FOR BROOKLYN

A VIRTUAL GALA | 6.24.2021

CELEBRATING THE ECONOMIC POWER AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT OF THE BOROUGH

BIG AUCTION PRIZES

WWW.KBCC.CUNY.EDU/VIRTUALGALA
Dear Kingsborough Community:

A year ago, in what would have been KCC’s 15th Annual Seaside Splash Fundraising Gala, the pandemic drastically affected the way we lived, worked and communicated with one another. In the following months, as college-life pivoted to remote learning and KCC students persevered in every way possible to achieve their educational goals, it has been you, our KCC supporters, who remained steadfast during a difficult time, and I thank you.

As we move forward with re-opening our campus with guidelines that promote a safe and healthy in-person academic experience in keeping with Kingsborough’s promise of Access, Excellence and Opportunity for all students, this year’s gala theme is, befittingly, “We Go BIG For Brooklyn, a tribute to our borough, our students, and our future workforce.”

The Kingsborough Foundation and Board of Trustees are delighted to pay a special tribute to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce; KCC alumna and entrepreneur Iris Clarke; former President of Hostos Community College and long-serving KCC Professor and Administrator, Dr. David Gómez; and the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Mary Dawson.

As we take this time to celebrate the economic and entrepreneurial spirit of the borough of Brooklyn, our honorees, and our remarkable students, I want to thank you again for your donations, which will provide financial assistance and scholarships to KCC students.

We go BIG for Brooklyn!

Claudia V. Schrader, Ed.D.
President
Kingsborough Community College Annual Gala

“Go BIG for Brooklyn”

PROGRAM

6:00 p.m.  Annual Gala Livestreaming Program

WELCOMING REMARKS
Claudia V. Schrader, Ed.D.
President, Kingsborough Community College

HONOREES
Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Randy Peers, President and CEO
President’s Award for Leadership and Commitment to Education Excellence

David Gómez, Ed.D.
Distinguished Honoree in Leadership

Mary Dawson, Ph.D.
Distinguished Honoree in Education

Iris Clarke, ’98
Distinguished Alumni Award

DISTINGUISHED STUDENT SPEAKERS
Jennifer Bernstein, Criminal Justice Major
Recipient of the Amy and James Marsh Scholarship and RH COVID-19 Relief Fund

Pedro Carvajal, Tourism & Hospitality Major
Recipient of the KCC COVID-19 Student Emergency Grant

Jamaul Fortune, Journalism and Print Media Major
Recipient of the Leonard and Louise Riggio Scholarship

Raymond Lung, Criminal Justice Major
Recipient of the Amy Bergenfeld Scholarship

6:30 p.m.  CLOSING REMARKS
Tasheka Sutton-Young, Ed.D., Interim VP for College Advancement,
Kingsborough Community College

Silent Auction and Drawing will be closing at 10:00 p.m.
Staff will contact the winners.
The 1963 Society

Since 1963, Kingsborough has gone from humble beginnings in Brooklyn to a top-four ranking among community colleges nationwide, and much of the college’s success has been due to the enduring generosity of its donors. Whether they are faculty or retirees, alumni or administrators, corporate partners or distinguished friends, our donors have funded student scholarships, supported faculty innovation, strengthened our ties to the greater community, and laid a strong foundation for Kingsborough’s future. Without the support of donors, Kingsborough would not be the outstanding institution it is today, as it is their contributions that have fueled our efforts every step of the way.

“The 1963 Society” recognizes donors who make an annual leadership-level gift at one of the giving society levels. Membership in the giving society allows you to play an important role in the financial well-being of Kingsborough and to make a powerful statement about your commitment to our mission of providing an affordable, high-quality, transformational education to its students. Society members enjoy a number of benefits, including invitations to members-only events and special college communications. For all giving society levels, membership is determined by gifts in a fiscal year, which is from July 1 to June 30.
Honorees

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce
Randy Peers, President and CEO

For over 100 years, the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce has spoken to the needs of the Brooklyn business community. It has developed and nurtured an active civic spirit and sought to safeguard and improve living conditions and social welfare for local businesses and residents. The Brooklyn Chamber, the largest Chamber of Commerce in New York State, has a vibrant history that encapsulates the diverse, innovative and ever-evolving Brooklyn business community.

Randy Peers joined the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce as the President and CEO on September 9, 2019. He brings with him decades of workforce and economic development expertise, and several years of executive leadership experience growing non-profit organizations that serve the business community.

He previously served as the inaugural President and CEO of the Greater Reading Chamber Alliance in Berks County, PA, overseeing the alignment of the Chamber of Commerce and two economic development organizations. For over a decade, Randy was CEO of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, a Brooklyn-headquartered workforce development organization that is a leading provider of disconnected youth job-training services in New York City. From 2002-2006, Randy served as Vice President of Economic Development at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce under then President Kenneth Adams, developing a portfolio of projects that included the Good Help program, Real Estate Development industry initiative, as well as developing the concept for the Business Solutions Center. Randy's non-profit program management experience developed while at CAMBA, one of the largest social services providers in Brooklyn. During Randy's tenure as Chair of Sunset Park's Community Board 7, he saw the completion of Sunset Park High School and three neighborhood re-zonings.

Randy holds a Bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and an MPA from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. Randy was born, raised and spent most of his professional career in Brooklyn, having lived in five different neighborhoods across the borough.
Mary E. Dawson, Ph.D.

Mary Elizabeth “Mary Beth” Dawson is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Kingsborough Community College. Dr. Dawson started at KCC in 1993, as an adjunct in the Department of Biological Sciences, while still a doctoral student. She was hired as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in March 1996 and has been a member of the department ever since.

Born in 1966, Dr. Dawson grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Her parents were both employed by the City of New York, and both are proud CUNY graduates. They fondly recall how their daughter was a child who collected rocks, grew things in the backyard, and brought home every stray animal she found (much to their dismay at the time). Her father, William F. Dawson Sr., often told young Mary Beth that she would one day grow up

David Gómez, Ed. D.

Dr. Gómez served the City University of New York for nearly five decades. In that time, he worked with many talented professionals in each of the three divisions he has counted in his portfolio including Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and Finance and Administration. He credits this breadth of experience with giving him an appreciation for the challenges and opportunities available to professionals in higher education.

He began his career at Hostos Community College, where he served in a variety of roles including Interim Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean of the college. He then went on to Kingsborough Community College, where he served as a professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, Dean of Instructional Services, Vice President for Academic Administration, Program Planning and Development and Interim Provost. During his time at Kingsborough, Dr. Gómez also served as a consultant, locally and nationally, assisting community college leaders in improving the quality of services at their institutions.

Dr. Gómez served as the President of Hostos Community College where he recently retired from in August 2020. He currently holds the rank of Professor of Practice at North Carolina State’s Belk Center for the Study of Community Colleges, where he is mentoring graduate students who aspire to be community college presidents. His experiences with his students are the ones he holds most dear. Indeed, Dr. Gómez maintains that the classroom is where every educator draws their strength and their inspiration.

Born and raised in New York City, Dr. Gómez is a proud product of New York City public schools. He attended the State University of New York at Albany, where he earned his Baccalaureate degree in English Literature. He earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees in education at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he studied under Dr. Walter Sindlinger, an early champion of the community college movement.
Iris Clarke’98, KCC Retail Merchandising Major

Iris started working in a corset lingerie store when she was a teenager, fitting bras and girdles. She then moved on to Bloomingdales in the 1980s and worked alongside lingerie buyers. During her nine years at Bloomingdales, a company called Wacoal entered the scene, as well as LaPerla, Lejaby and Rigby & Peller and more. Her next stop was at LeMystere, in which she worked and designed LeMystere bras for nine years. One of the bras was showcased on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

She then took a big leap and made the heartfelt decision to open her own shop, Iris Lingerie, where she uses all of her experience of working and interacting with numerous companies, and putting her KCC AAS Degree to good use. Iris made it her life’s mission to give women of all shapes and sizes a proper fitting bra. For it all “Starts with the Right Foundation!”

From then on, Iris earned sincere gratitude from customers saying that she changed their lives. She has seen customers come in and feel an overwhelming magnitude of joy when they cry tears of happiness after seeing the difference the right bra can make on their bodies. “It makes me know that I have done what I’ve set out to do and we can fit all women of all sizes. I love every minute of it!”

To learn more about Iris Lingerie, visit
http://www.irislingeriebrooklyn.com

Iris Lingerie is featured in New York Times:
A Bra-Fitter Who wants you to dance in her shop:

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Meet Our Scholarship Recipients

Your donations over the last year allowed us to award nearly 1,000 scholarships and awards to students based on need and/or merit. We would like to introduce you to four distinguished scholars who will be present tonight, all of whom have achieved academic success thanks to supporters like you.

Jennifer Bernstein
Major: Criminal Justice
Recipient of Amy and James Marsh Scholarship and RH COVID-19 Relief Fund

As a single mother, Jennifer has faced many challenges on the road to her diploma, but has never given up. A Criminal Justice major, she aspires to a career as an advocate and champion for those who have been wronged by society: “I had always loved crime documentaries, but wasn’t sure what my place in that world could be. My KCC professors really helped me hone in on my dream: to one day fight for victims as a prosecutor.” Yet in 2020, the pandemic threw both her dreams and her financial security into jeopardy. Not only did she grapple with remote learning, but she also could not find daycare for her son and struggled to afford basic essentials like clothes and groceries. Fortunately, the scholarships Jennifer received gave her the financial boost and peace of mind needed to overcome a seemingly impossible situation: “These funds do not simply provide money, they provide hope for when students’ backs are against the wall.”

Pedro Carvajal
Major: Tourism & Hospitality
Recipient of KCC COVID-19 Student Emergency Grant

At the beginning of 2020, Pedro had a full-time job as an Occupational Therapist at Menorah Rehab Center. The job was great, and was also incredibly convenient: it was only a ten minute walk away from KCC, where he had just started as a freshman. Unfortunately, by the third week of March, he was sheltering in place, suffering financially and struggling with remote learning due to COVID-19. By April, he was unemployed: “I applied for the KCC COVID-19 Student Emergency Grant as a last resort. It ended up being one of the most consequential decisions I made last year.” Thanks to this grant, Pedro had the lifeline he needed to better pay his rent and bills. Today, he holds a 4.0 GPA and is a member
of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society: “My KCC COVID-19 grant did not come from a single wealthy donor or a major foundation. Rather, it came from dozens of donations, large and small, from faculty, staff, alumni, retirees, friends of the college and members of the greater Brooklyn community. For that I am so grateful.”

Jamaul Fortune  
**Major: Journalism and Print Media**  
Recipient of Leonard and Louise Riggio Scholarship

“Loquacious” is the word Jamaul uses to describe his personality, and it is a quality he hopes to put to great use in his dream career as a news reporter. Originally from Guyana, he arrived in the United States three years ago, excited about his future but also unsure about how he would manage financially: “At times, I truly felt like giving up, and I am a very motivated person.” Fortunately, when Jamaul enrolled at KCC, he qualified for the Leonard and Louise Riggio Scholarship, which provides up to full tuition support for eligible students over a two-year period. Thanks to this scholarship, he can make the most of his KCC experience without having to constantly worry whether he can afford tuition from one semester to the next: “Receiving this scholarship felt like a true miracle. More than just money, it motivates me to achieve my goals no matter what.”

Raymond Lung  
**Major: Criminal Justice**  
Recipient of Amy Bergenfeld Scholarship

While other students tend to focus on one particular career track, Raymond likes to keep his options open and his horizons broad: “I chose Criminal Justice as a major at KCC because of my interest in law enforcement, but I am also interested in Computer Science.” At KCC, he also had a great experience in his art classes and found his instructors there very approachable and helpful. When he struggled with tuition, Raymond was able to find relief through the Amy Bergenfeld Scholarship, an award intended for academically promising students who experience financial challenges. This fall, he will transfer from KCC to Brooklyn College, where he will pivot from Criminal Justice to Computer Science. Raymond hopes to utilize both skillsets one day in a career with the NYPD: “I lost my job during the beginning of the pandemic. The bad situation snowballed into months of no job offers. It was difficult, but the scholarship I received made a significant difference.”
The students of Kingsborough Community College gratefully acknowledge the following generous donors for their support to the 2021 Virtual Gala. List as of 6.24.2021

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- Suzanne M. Murphy

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We join in saluting the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

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President Daniel Lemons and the faculty, staff and students of Lehman College extend best wishes to
Kingsborough Community College
on the occasion of its virtual gala celebrating the economic power and the entrepreneurial spirit
Congratulations to the 2021 honorees:
Dr. David Gómez, Dr. Mary Beth Dawson and Iris Clarke

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Congratulations to
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
and the
BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
on another year of
EMPOWERING THE COMMUNITY

SFC.EDU
Adelphi University is proud to be a community partner with Kingsborough Community College as it celebrates its 15th Annual Seaside Splash: Go BIG for Brooklyn.

Asian American / Asian Research Institute
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Kingsborough Community College

AND ITS 2021 HONOREE

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

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The Asian American / Asian Research Institute is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans.

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everyone can shop. anyone can join. open 6am to midnight daily.
flatbush food co-op welcome to the table.
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With gratitude and respect for our partnership and the important work we have committed to accomplish

Sharyn van Reepinghen, President Marco Damiani, Chief Executive Officer
www.ahrcnyc.org

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The Asian American / Asian Research Institute is a university-wide scholarly research and resource center that focuses on policies and issues that affect Asians and Asian Americans.

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CONGRATULATIONS PROFESSOR MARYBETH DAWSON!
The acknowledgement of your peers for decades of dedicated service to the students of KBCC is high praise indeed, but the success of your students is truly your greatest achievement.
Thank You for your Commitment to Excellence!
With love & admiration,
Annabelle, Jacks, Pumpkin, Harry, Mark & Matt
Acknowledgements

List as of 6.23.2021

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Cynthia Olvina, Staff - KCC
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Aba Agolli, Coordinator - KCC
Planned Giving isn’t just for the “rich and famous.”

What is a Planned Gift?

A Planned Gift is an investment in the long-term success of Kingsborough Community College and our students.

By making a gift in your will, pension or insurance policy, or by setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. Plus: you can take advantage of tax savings now!

Three Simple Ways to Make a Planned Gift:

**Bequests**: Give a gift of cash, securities, or real estate in your will, all while potentially avoiding costly estate and gift taxes.

**Charitable Gift Annuity**: Receive dependable, fixed income for life in return for a gift of cash or securities.

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Your Planned Gift = Your KCC Legacy

All of these processes are fairly simple and are available to individuals at all income levels.

Please contact Dan La Noue, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving, at 718-368-6540 or Daniel.LaNoue@kbcc.cuny.edu today!

If you have previously included the college in your estate plans, we would like to know of your generosity. Please contact us today so that we may thank you and enroll you in the THE KCC BEACON SOCIETY, a special group of KCC alumni, retirees, faculty, staff, and friends who have recognized the importance of philanthropic estate planning, and who have provided for the college through their wills and other planned giving arrangements.
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Kingsborough Community College
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Andrew Wadler Scholarship
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Charlotte Keller Marmaros Scholarship For Promising Professionals In Gerontology
Child Care Memorial Service Award (Funded In Memory Of Muriel Langsam)
Cliff Hesse Scholarship
Communications Award (Funded In Memory Of Amy Bergenfeld)

Course Hero Student Emergency Aid Fund
Creative Writing Scholarship Award
David B. Silver Poetry Award
David Lewis Plimpton Scholarship
Dean's List Scholarship

Dean Marilyn Chernin Student Leader Endowed Service Award
Dr. Bernard Klein Memorial Award For Excellence In History, Philosophy And Political Science
Dr. Carol Biemann Endowed Scholarship Award For Excellence In Biological Sciences
Dr. Frances Kraljc-Curran Liberal Arts Scholarship Fund
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KCC Alumni Association Scholarship Award

KCC COVID-19 Relief Fund
KCC Foundation Scholarship
KCC Retirees Scholarship
Lawrence Suss Memorial Award For Excellence In The Department Of History, Philosophy And Political Science

Leonard And Louise Riggio Scholarship

Leon M. Goldstein Scholarship Award For Academic Excellence And Community Service
Lucille Nieporent Memorial Award
Marion A. Lipton Award For Excellence In Speech Communication
Mark & Laurie Seruya & Mark & Gina Levy Endowed Scholarship
Maxine Mcgarvey Scholarship Award
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Millie & Maurice Singer Scholarship Award
Murray Rothenburg Scholarship Award
Nassau Country Fire Service Academy Grant
New Start Program Award

New York Council Navy League Graduation Award

Nursing Alumni Scholarship Award
Nursing Alumni Scholarship For Excellence In Service To Others
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Patricia Hazlewood Spirit Of Community Health Award
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**Note: Bold entries are new scholarships/awards.**

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**Thank you for your support!**

Thank you for being a part of Kingsborough’s Virtual Gala and for supporting the Kingsborough Community College Foundation.

Each year, KCC’s gala provides critical funding for scholarships and programs that support student success. Funds are used to provide student scholarships, enrich the student learning experience, and build the college’s endowment for future generations.

Last year’s gala was cancelled due to the unprecedented challenges that faced us all due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, KCC is proud to welcome you back and celebrate your heartfelt generosity – without which our students risk surrendering their dreams to an unprecedented public health and economic crisis. The year 2020 was defined by extraordinary hardships, and today students continue to experience job loss, food insecurity and more. Yet thanks to you, our students remain hopeful, empowered and undeterred in the pursuit of their goals.

We hope you enjoy the virtual celebration, and that you leave tonight with a profound appreciation not only for what KCC has accomplished, but also for the indispensable role you have played in our success.
HONORING:

Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce

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