Workforce Development, Continuing Education & Strategic Partnerships Campus
Update May 2021

The Campus Community,

We want to share some updates regarding our work within the division.

Community Farm & Garden
The Committee members (Simone Rodriguez, Christine Zagari-LoPorto, Maureen Ruprecht-Fadem, Robert Ramsey, Shannon Caravello, Gila Rohr, Hattie Elmore, and Charita Johnson) discussed the organizational structure of the farm as it relates to personnel and operations and recommended a revised mission, vision, goals, and personnel. The new and reimagined Community Farm & Garden will provide access to students, faculty, staff, and the wider community with the purpose of developing a beautiful and nurturing space where it can continue to be used for educational and enriching activities and experiences, including research and instruction while growing nutritious, organic vegetables and produce. The mission will be to provide valuable learning opportunities by promoting gardening, growing nutritious and sustainable food, and cultivating a greater sense of community. The farm and garden will strive to be an interdisciplinary space supporting the academic and non-academic values of the college.

The division will continue to be the primary source of advocacy and support for all the administrative, operational, and fiscal needs of the community farm and garden. An administrator will be assigned to schedule tours, collaborate with departments on designing workshops for students, partner with the community to seek funds and write grants, and provide overall support. An experienced gardener will provide labor including planting, weeding, building beds, staking, harvesting, pruning, composting, starting seeds as well as support landscape management, horticultural carpentry and masonry.

Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning
The center continues to partner with employers to host recruitment and information sessions for students. To date, sessions have been held with Coney Island Workforce1, St. Dominic’s Family Services, US Secret Service, Primark and Macmillan Publishing. The office has engaged over 61 students in these events. A new partnership with Amazon will yield part-time and flexible opportunities for students within the 5 boroughs. Please encourage your students to reach out for more information.

The staff is available at the virtual front desk (https://zoom.us/my/kccccareer) Monday-Friday from 10:00am-12:00pm and Monday and Tuesday from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Students can receive immediate assistance and possibly meet with an advisor, if time allows.

Program Updates
DesignWorks UX Design program launched its first cohort in April. Twenty-five (25) students were accepted into this highly competitive free program which is being offered live online via zoom using the highly successful CUNY TechWorks model with a new entrepreneurship module designed to introduce students to freelancing and gig economy concepts.
**CUNY Fatherhood Academy** launched cohort 11-HSE/TASC with 16 fathers and expectant fathers.

**Job Corps Scholars** launched its first two cohorts with 25 students enrolled into Health, Trade and Professional Continuing Education training.

Join us for "Introduction to **Motivational Interviewing for Mental Health Professionals**: Two Part Series" on May 23 and June 6. NYS licensed social workers and mental health counselors can earn 11 Continuing Education hours. Register [here](#). If you would like to propose and teach a continuing education course for mental health professionals, please contact Alissa.Levine@kbcc.cuny.edu.

The Office of Continuing Education submitted a five-year grant proposal in March, for the Free ESL/Food Handlers **Strides to Continuing Success** training and certificate program, to continue the success of the current grant program, which has been extended for the FY’2021-2022.

As a follow-up to the successful program information session offered in April, the office invites all prospective CLIP students and guests to visit the CLIP and KELI ESL Virtual Office during the week of May 17-21. Program staff will provide information, advisement and assist students with online registration. Please contact the office for further information: (718) 368-4870.

**Personnel**

We are pleased to welcome Alita Maristany, new program director of the CUNY Community Colleges Consortium (CUNYCCC) program, funded by USDOL's Strengthening Community Colleges (SCC) Training Grant Program. The program is comprised of six (6) CUNY community colleges and led by Queensborough. Beginning in 2022, the program will offer Comp TIA A+ and ITF to 125 students and will create and implement systemic change throughout the collective continuing education and workforce development programs to create one, unified workforce development ecosystem.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Please continue to stay healthy and safe.

Dr. Simone Rodriguez  
Kingsborough Community College, CUNY  
Vice President, Workforce Development, Continuing Education & Strategic Partnerships

Check out our [Catalog and Offerings](#)!