A program for a group of selected first and second year students who seek to maintain the highest level of academic excellence and commitment to civic engagement while at Kingsborough to facilitate their transfer to top 4 year colleges for the completion of their undergraduate degrees.
I am **Yulia Alexandr** from Saint Petersburg, Russia. I moved to the United States just a year ago because I feel that this country can give me the opportunities I am so passionately looking for. I used to be a leader of the honors program in high school for two years, so I hope I'll enjoy being a part of this program in college, too. This is my second semester at Kingsborough, and for me college is a place where I have an opportunity to grow in every aspect, discover more and more about my own self, and get a deeper sense of what my true passion is. So I am really happy to see that my college offers me a lot of chances to show what I am capable of and rewards me for hard work. My current major is liberal arts, but I'm planning on majoring in finance in the near future. I can say I like to study and educate myself in different fields; therefore, I enjoy the process of gaining new knowledge. I have a leader's nature, so I like working with people and overcoming obstacles on my way because they help me become a stronger person. During my high school years, I was involved in a lot of student activities, so I'm looking forward to having the same opportunity here and meeting new people who would share my interests and goals.

My name is **Trisha Gustave**. I was born and raised in the Caribbean Island, St. Lucia and have been residing in Brooklyn for the past few years. When I arrived in New York at the age of seventeen I attended a GED program to complete my education in order to attend college right after. After getting my GED, I registered to attend Kingsborough and have not regretted my decision. This will be my second semester at Kingsborough as a liberal arts major and I have had a wonderful experience so far. After being introduced to the honors program by one of my professors, I immediately registered for it and also joined the REEO and the Honors Representative Program. I must say that I am very excited to partake in the various activities and opportunities that will be presented to me. Hopefully, this experience will push me further to my goal of becoming an accomplished writer.

Hello, my name is **Dmitry Loubnine** and I am a Presidential Scholar in KBCC Honors Program, as well as an Honors Representative. I came from Stuyvesant High School and, at first, attended college at SUNY Binghamton. In the first few weeks of my first semester at KBCC, one my professors took a particular interest in my Kingsborough experience, and Professor Warren Benfield walked me over to the honors office, and told them that they needed me and I needed them. From that point on, KBCC has given me opportunities that Binghamton could never give me. I was now discussing case studies with Michael Farmer, from the board of trustees, a C.E.O. and a graduate of Harvard Business School. Ivy League schools are now in my reach, and I finally find happiness in my education.
My name is **Asmaa Fatima** and I am originally from Pakistan. I came to the United States five years ago and went to Emma Lazarus High School in Manhattan. At Emma Lazarus I became the editor of the school newspaper "The Eclectic Voice," allowing me to not only improve my writing but also my leadership skills as well. I also got my first paid internship through my school to participate at a non profit organization CPA (Chinese Progressive Association). At CPA I got a chance to publish my poem and write for them as well. I interviewed and met with journalists which strengthened my decision to become a journalist. Even though I couldn't complete high school but ended up taking GED classes at KBCC, needless to say, I fell in love with the campus. After coming to Kingsborough Community College in spring last semester, my goal was to get into the Honors program. I was interested in various benefits that came with being a part of it, e.g, the Honors Club and Model UN. I am currently a liberal arts major but writing is my passion and I wish to either major in political science or journalism.

Hello everyone, I’m **Rida Khan** and I’m from Brooklyn. Coming to Kingsborough was a big step for me. Although if there is anything I’m happy about today, it would be coming to Kingsborough Community College. It has not just helped me grow academically but as a person as well. I started realizing that working hard in classes every day and getting better grades eventually pay off when you get the invitation to be a part of Phi Theta Kappa, an honors society. Being on the dean’s list, being rewarded by becoming a presidential scholar, being able to get an A in an honors course that I thought I would not be able to get through are just some of my accomplishments. But I have to say that being a presidential scholar opens up so many doors and allows you to start dreaming out those successes you would have never thought you would accomplish. When I first became a Regional Officer for Phi Theta Kappa I realized that behind my accomplishment wasn’t just me but a trail of people who I have met as presidential scholars. As well everyone here helps each other reach goals beyond expectation. Being presidential scholars was like a key to some great learning experiences in my life and I will always be thankful that Kingsborough gave me that key.

My name is **Yaobin Ma** or you can call me Mike. I came to America with my family six years ago. I graduated from International High School of Lafayette. I met a lot of friends and learned many experiences from others which helped me to develop my interest in what I will major in. I want to get into psychology to get to know about what others think and how they think. I want to to help others and create happiness for them. This will be my first year of college, I will join some clubs and make new friends.
My name is Ella Aibova and I recently graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School. Before my family and I moved to the United States we lived in a few European countries. There I had to learn new languages and adapt to different communities, just like here. I moved to the United States during my freshman year with almost no English and very soon I had the opportunity to take two AP English classes. I believe that at Kingsborough Community College I will be able to expand my knowledge and achieve my goals. My major is general biology and my career goal is to become a dentist. Also, I have just been accepted to the presidential scholars and I cannot wait to take advantage of the great experiences the program has to offer.

My name is riios McFadden. I am from Far Rockaway New York and I attended Far Rockaway High School. My major here at Kingsborough is mental health & human services with a concentration in substance abuse. My career goal is to be a seasoned substance abuse counselor and to ultimately become a licensed clinical social worker and start a nonprofit in the future. Here at Kingsborough I am a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, REEO, Phi Theta Kappa, and the Presidential Scholars honors program.

My name is Anshera Galan. I was born and raised in Haiti which means I'm Haitian. When I first came to the United States I went to Sheepshead Bay High School to get my diploma. There I went through a lot of experiences but by the grace of God I made it. Those experiences helped me to be more mature and secure about the decision I’m taking in life to have a decent education. I did three grades in one year and a half there. It’s hard to believe but that is so true. My major at Kingsborough will be nursing. I think it will be a great opportunity for me to help and serve others better, but later on in life I’m planning to have another one in literature because it’s in my blood. I’m really passionate about it. My achievement in high school was that I helped students to improve their skills in subjects they weren’t really good at, especially the government class. I know it won’t be easy because to achieve something excellent demands extra effort, patience and perseverance but with God’s grace and the support of my environment including the President Scholars program, I will try my best to realize them because a life without purpose is like a tree without branches.
My name is Angelika Shastapalava. I was born in Brest, Belarus. It has been three years since I moved to the United States by myself. My family is back in Belarus. I graduated from Lyceum № 1 in my native town. I have been on the acrobatics and swimming teams for four years. Right now I am doing karate. Last fall was my first semester at Kingsborough College. My major is liberal arts. Since I have entered KBCC I have become an active member of the community here. I am currently a member of KCC Reads, Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa and National Society for Leadership and Success. My goal is to transfer to Columbia University and get a degree in psychology. I am sure that being a part of such a great program as the Presidential Scholars will help me to achieve my goal.

My name is Francais Salamalay and I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. I graduated from Sheepshead Bay High School with an Honors Regent Diploma and participated in the student government and the Council for Unity. I'm majoring in psychology here at KBCC and plan to continue my education at NYU. There will be no end to my education. I hope to gain my masters and PhD in psychology and then continue to learn each and every day from my clients when I open my own practice to counsel the mentally ill. In my spare time, however, I'm a complete clown and love making people laugh. I play video games and Japanese trading card games competitively and watch anime. -Francais Salamalay, Student. Journalist. Dreamer

My name is Tanel Kirkland. I am 18 years old and I am from Brooklyn, NY. I have three little sisters who I have raised and spent most of my time trying to be a great role model for them. I attended Abraham Lincoln High School and the most memorable achievements I accomplished there was excelling in some of my advanced classes, choreographing, and co-hosting the school's annual talent show. This fall I will be attending Kingsborough for its honors program and I will be taking classes in fine arts. This will help enhance my knowledge of photography so that I can open up my own studio and capture the lives of those whose words are never heard.

Hello, my name is Florence Kupershteyn. I graduated from James Madison High School and am 18 years old. I am in the liberal arts program and would like to change my major to criminal justice for my bachelors. I am happy to be in the honors program at KBBC and hope to achieve and learn many things this year. I am excited to meet everyone and make new friends. See you soon!
My name is **Nandanee Tiwari** and I was born in Guyana, South America. At the age of five, my parents and I migrated to the United States hoping for better economic and educational opportunities. My parents worked tirelessly and made many sacrifices to ensure my wellbeing. It is this sacrifice that motivates me to excel in school. At Life Sciences Secondary School, I was president of the Science Club, and secretary of the National Honors Society (ARISTA), and participated in Model UN. I coordinated fundraising events for causes ranging from breast cancer to Doctors Without Borders, and worked to mentor fellow students and assist teachers in my spare time. I also participated in MedDocs at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, which sparked my interest in the workings of the human heart. At Kingsborough I am working towards my associate's degree in biology. Alongside my parents' sacrifices, I too will work hard to attend Harvard Medical School, eventually becoming a cardiovascular surgeon.

My name is **Marina Kapitannikova**. I just turned 25 and yes, I still have that thirst for studying and it has only been increasing. Back in my hometown of Russia I graduated from high school majoring in chemistry and biology for 3 years and completed the following 3 years at the Pedagogical University majoring in English and German. Five years ago I chose to move to the United States because I was lost crossing the intersections of my life and I felt that I needed change. The “acceleration kick” for my motivation was the birth of my daughter. She is only 2 years old now but has already helped me to become better. Although I am a full time mother, full time student and a teacher assistant, I took time to improve my language and continued getting better grades. This is my second year at KBCC majoring in early childhood education and I am looking forward to getting my baccalaureate degree majoring in English. Today I feel passionate about being a part of the honors program, joining Phi Theta Kappa, and now being able to call myself a Presidential Scholar.
My name is **Joel Semanduy**. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. I graduated from James Madison High School in June 2014. My high school experience was wonderful. I participated in many clubs and attended Model United Nations Conference for students. I succeeded at James Madison High school in the areas of social studies, history and law. I also took College Now Classes from KBCC. I’m active in sports and participate in various local kickboxing competitions. This will be my first semester at KBCC. My goals are to move on to a four year college after graduating from KBCC and study medicine. I look forward to starting my first college year!

"Apa kabar?" It is an Indonesian phrase for "How are you?." My name is **Y Prawira**. I was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia, a country with diverse ethnicities and cultures same as the United States. I arrived in the United States in 2008. Now, I'm a tourism and hospitality major at Kingsborough Community College. I'm expecting to graduate in the summer of 2015. Back in Indonesia, I founded a small independent theatre company named "42nd Street Production", and performed several musicals, introduced musical to the Indonesian audience and got attention by the media. It was the biggest achievement I've gotten in my life but unfortunately I had to leave it. Sad as it is, I believe there are many opportunities here for me. I hope by joining the Presidential Honor Scholars program, I can accomplish more, and I can become a leader in society; a leader, who appreciates efforts, takes on challenges and offers meaningful support.

My name is **Valentina Sula**. I'm from Moldova, a small country in Eastern Europe. I went to high school in my home town, and graduated in 2010. Three years ago I came to the United States. In the beginning it was challenging because I didn't have any family or friends, but with the time passing New York became my second home. Today I'm proud to say that I've created the possibility of my going to college here, and study what I like. My major in Kingsborough is accounting, and I am honored to start my second year as a Presidential Scholar. After receiving my associate degree I plan on getting a bachelor and a master degree, and who knows what else life is about to open in front of me. Because I am new in this studying system I didn't get involved in extracurricular activities, but I'm excited for the upcoming year, and I'm convinced that this is going to be an amazing year.
I’m Safinaz Mashali, I’m 24 and I was born in the United States. I lived in Egypt almost my entire childhood. I was a former 100 meter sprinter and a medical student. I would have become a physician by now but the 2011 Egyptian Revolution has interrupted the path of my career. I fled with my mum and sister to New York. I was not lucky to continue my medical education here so I am starting everything from zero. I started KCC in the spring of 2013 majoring in forensic science and since then I’ve faced a lot of challenges. But it if wasn’t for the Academic advisors and a very dear KCC Alumni GOLDY LANDAU and her guidance, I probably would still be lost till today. KCC has helped me to become actively engaged on campus in a brief amount of time. I have been on the Dean’s list twice, became a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Society for Leadership and Success, have been able to participate in the Prism Forensic Seminar at John Jay College, have become the president of the ecology club and conducted a research affiliated with the CSTEP program. Just being part of the honors program is a privilege for me to be able to see how far I can go the distance and what things I never thought I was able to do. I am looking forward to my first semester as part of the Presidential Scholars program and meeting my fellow mates. My goal is to become next year’s valedictorian and attend the forensic science program at John Jay College.

My name is Kathy Wu. I am 19 years old. My family was from China, but I was born here in the United States. I went to Edward R. Murrow High School. In the fall of 2010, in sophomore year of high school, I was invited to be a member of the National Honors Society. I was also an intern for the assistant principal. I worked at the special education office, answering phone calls and taking messages for the assistant principal and other staff members. I am about to start my second year at KBCC. I am currently majoring in liberal arts. Soon I may switch to a psychology major. I might become a guidance counselor or psychologist. In my first year at KBCC, I was accepted as a member of the Presidential Scholars Honors Program and also of the College Discovery program. I also received a High Achiever's Award at the end of the spring semester of 2014.

My name is Nora Juliet Restrepo and I was born and raised on Staten Island, New York. I attended Curtis High School and graduated in June 2014. At Curtis I was highly involved in the athletic department. I played soccer for all four years and was named captain my sophomore, junior, and senior years. I also played on the Girls Lacrosse team for three seasons, in which my team made it to the PSAL Championships for two of those seasons. Currently, my major is undecided, but at Kingsborough I plan to eventually apply to the EMT/paramedic program, and
in the years to come apply for the FDNY academy. This past summer I attended an all-girls camp called Phoenix Fire Camp in Utica, New York, where other female firefighters taught us skills and knowledge about the firefighter profession. I absolutely loved the camp and I have decided to pursue a career in the FDNY. In addition, at Kingsborough I plan to participate in intramural/collegiate athletic teams and/or school clubs of my interest. I enjoy doing extra-curricular activities and will continue to do so at Kingsborough.

My name is Gabrielle Rios. I am a resident of Brooklyn, New York who will be majoring in graphic design and illustration. I graduated from Midwood High School with an Advanced Regents Diploma and a Humanities Endorsement. As a recognized National High School Scholar of the NSHSS and National Hispanic Scholar by the NHRP, I hope to apply my affinity for the literary and visual arts to my goal of creating relatable storylines and character concepts for games and animation. I am so grateful for the opportunity Kingsborough's Honor Program has presented for me to learn about social networking and leadership opportunities as well as to help me deal with my tendency to become overwhelmed. Most of all, I look forward to attending the Fashion Institute of Technology at the culmination of my Associates at Kingsborough.

My name is Yigit Mehmet Turan. I am of Turkish descent and was raised in Germany. I moved to New York from Germany about 6 years ago. I began studying English in ESL classes and after receiving my GED diploma, I entered the CUNY Start program at Kingsborough Community College. I am now in my 3rd semester at KBCC, majoring in business administration. With mathematics as my desired area of expertise, my goal is to transfer to Baruch College to major in financial engineering. I’m very thankful and excited to be a part of the Presidential Honors Program and I’m looking forward to the new opportunities and challenges to come.

My name is Shumaim Zia. I was born in Pakistan. It has been four years since my family and I moved to the United States. I graduated from International High School at Lafayette. I have gained a very great experience from this diverse school by meeting new people from different countries and cultures. My high school experience gave me tremendous opportunities to participate in different activities through which I was able to learn new things. After doing an internship at Maimonides Hospital, my passion to become a doctor grew more. I believe that the starting point of all achievement is desire. Strong desire and self-confidence can help you to achieve success in your life.
I am looking forward to starting my first semester in KBCC and also to being a part of the Honors program as a presidential scholar.

Hello, my name is Monica Mendez and this will be my second year attending Kingsborough Community College where I am majoring in theatre arts. My goal is to graduate from Kingsborough with an associate’s degree in theatre arts, and to attend a four year college to further pursue my career as an actress. When I first became a presidential scholar I was nervous and not sure if I would accomplish much. However, I made the Dean’s List in fall 2013, became part of our National Model United Nations team, worked in the wardrobe crew for the spring musical “Big River”, became a member/officer for Phi Theta Kappa and I am now the secretary for our school’s chapter, Xi Kappa. Being part of the honors program has really pushed me to get out of my shell and I hope to accomplish more this upcoming year!

Hi! My name is Syeda H Abbas. I was born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in Pakistan. It has been two years since I moved to New York City. I graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School. This is my first year at Kingsborough Community College and I’m currently studying physics. I want to pursue my career in research. I love to learn about new things, therefore, I remain curious all the time to know about everything around me. I’m so passionate towards my studies and I want to get a Ph.D from Columbia University. My biggest life goal is to be extremely successful in the field of scientific research in physics and to make my parents feel proud of me. My dad and my best friend have been the main source of motivation; they’ve always encouraged me to do my best. Moreover, to be a part of the Presidential Scholars Honors program is my first step towards my goals.

Hello, my name is Lukas Zienius. I moved to the United States about four years ago from Kaunas, Lithuania. I attended Franklin D. Roosevelt High School during which I completed numerous AP courses and received many awards with distinctions. In my senior year, I became the president of the National Honor Society. I also played on FDR's badminton team, which is the first-ever recipient of the PSAL Badminton Cup and by the end of the season became the #1 Juniors Badminton team in the State. I graduated FDR in June of 2014 and my end goal is to become a politician. As such, my major in KBCC is pre-law and I intend to actively participate in the student government, clubs, and sports teams. I’d like to further my education at Harvard, and I will do my utmost to make that a reality. I am proud to be part of the Presidential Scholars Honors program.
My name is Shenise Caesar and I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. I graduated from Medgar Evers College Prep School with an advanced regents diploma and four AP classes completed. I’m currently studying to become a fashion designer at Kingsborough Community College and will transfer to a four year college to complete my degree. My ultimate career goal is to be able to travel the world and to build up my own retail chain, such as Forever 21 or H&M. I plan on being very involved in school clubs.

My name is Anna Makogon and I came to the United States from Ukraine five years ago. I graduated from John Dewey High School with an advanced diploma and several achievements as an ESL student. I am the first one in my family to learn English and to go to college. I'm majoring in liberal arts and in my first year at Kingsborough College I accomplished several things such as being on the Dean’s List, becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the honors club. I am planning to transfer to a four year school and become a physical therapist. I have met so many friendly people and I think Kingsborough is the right place to help me succeed on my journey.

My name is Krystle Sullivan. I am nineteen years old and I am from Staten Island, NY. I am starting my second year at Kingsborough, and my major is liberal arts with an English concentration. I plan on transferring to a four year college and I have yet to decide which school that will be. I will be studying psychology with a minor in English. My goal is to become a psychiatrist and eventually to write a novel. I am currently also a member of both the honors club and Phi Theta Kappa.

My name is Mery Roth. I was born into a family of twelve children living in the Chassidic community of Viznitz, in a small town located in Rockland County. Due to the ultra-orthodox nature of the community and its seclusion from the outside world, children are raised with a mindset that differs greatly from that of the general populace. I went to a religious girls high school called Bnos Viznitz where higher education was not encouraged. I am taking pre-med courses and currently going for associates in biology. My goal is to eventually go to medical school and become a pediatric cardiologist. I am part of Phi Theta Kappa, REEO and was involved with the Kingsborough Community College Urban Farm Project as well. I look forward to being a part of the Honors Program here at KCC.
My name is **Dragalina Pakin** originally from Moldova. I moved to the United States to receive an education and a better life. My major is biology with a concentration in the Physician Assistant program at KCC. I recently became a presidential scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, National Societies of Leadership and Success, and last but not least, a student ambassador at KCC. I’ve had many wonderful experiences in college and opportunities to meet peoples and make new friends. My goal is to transfer to City College and to earn an MBA in PA and help others. I will always remember Kingsborough for the wonderful successes I have achieved during this time.

My name is **Mordechai Klein**. I was born and raised in Brooklyn NY. The Jewish religious schools I attended did not offer any secular education past the third grade level. At the age of 22 I decided to get a real education. I got my GED in 2014 and I'm currently broadening my educational horizons as a liberal arts major here at Kingsborough. I am quickly catching up to my peers, joining the Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa and Presidential Scholars. I plan to graduate with honors in 2015 and transfer to a prestigious university.

My name is **Jose Bourne**. I was born and raised in New York. I am 20 years old. I am entering my sophomore year as a biology major. I graduated from Murry Bergtraum High School. I'm a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and a presidential scholar. My experience at Kingsborough Community College has been a great one. The professors are good and I enjoy the diversity of where everyone is from and the different perspectives based on one's life encounters and experiences. Becoming part of the Presidential Scholars Program will give me the best opportunity to advance to a really good 4 year school and attend medical school afterwards. I'm eager to face the challenges that will make me grow to become successful in the maturation of my future and career.
Hannan Javaid is a second year accounting student at Kingsborough Community College and is also interested in economics and finance. He is a member of the Student World Assembly and is a student ambassador on campus. In addition he served as vice-president of the Bull and Bear Finance Club. Hannan aspires to earn his degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in economics with concentrations in accounting and finance. After graduating, Hannan intends to work as an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs or JP Morgan for two years to gain experience in his desired career path. After gaining experience as an analyst he plans to take a year to travel each continent on his motorbike.

Hello! My name is Saidamirkhon Abdullaev. I was born in a small city called Kokand which is located in Uzbekistan on December 17, 1996. In this city I grew and was guided to the right path by my mother and grandparents while my sister lived with my father after our parent's divorce. In this city I also went to kindergarten and then to the 1st grade in "Школа #1." When I started going to the 1st grade I was very happy that I was going to meet with my new friends and teachers. I was also very excited about going to my school Школа #1 because it was one of the best Russian language schools in my city. However, I didn't stay there for long. During my 4th grade my mom and I won the game called Green Card which allows us to live in the United States of America for five years and after five years we decide either to stay in the country or become US citizen or to go back to our country.

I started to go to the Joseph B. Cavallaro Middle School as an 8th grader. In that school I learned how to speak English. When I graduated from Joseph B. Cavallaro I attended Abraham Lincoln High School as a freshman. There are so many things that I love about this school such as lots of sports, lots of academies and lots of friendly teachers who guided me all the way up to my senior year. During my high school years I did my best to be the smartest student in every class I had. Now here I am attending Kingsborough Community College as a freshman, and I will do my best to become the student with the highest GPA.
Renea Burke is a sophomore at CUNY Kingsborough Community College. She came to KCC in fall 2013, after an eight-year hiatus from attending school. "I remember my first semester on campus," she says, "I was extremely nervous about what college would be like after all that time." But her ambitious personality earned the attention of her professors quickly, and they encouraged her to become an honors presidential scholar. "By spring 2014 I discovered other campus organizations that mattered to me and got involved." Renea maintains a 3.9 G.P.A. and is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a disc jockey at the college's station, 90.3 WKRB, and the 2014-2015 Honors Club president. "Becoming club president is an exciting responsibility because it's shaping me to be a better leader." After Kingsborough, she plans to transfer to a four-year college and complete her undergraduate degree in studio art, with a concentration in community engagement. "I've always been creative, whether it's dancing, singing, writing, or drawing. I intend to use art to raise awareness on social matters in my community." As Renea prepares for another thriving year at KCC, she reminds herself of her keys to success, "Focus, balance, and a huge cup of gratitude," she also adds, "Fun. I must enjoy the process!" Renea looks forward to being a presidential scholar for another year. "Studying with the other scholars, with like-minded interests has certainly kept me motivated. Each of us have different stories and journeyed the distance to get here. It goes to show what people can do when they put their minds to the task. The saying is true: Anything is possible." Namaste.

Hi, my name is Faigy Roth. I grew up in an insular hasidic community in Monsey NY. I attended a hasidic school where secular studies were not valued and therefore not taught to the students. My first language is Yiddish, and I’m still trying to master the English language. This will be my second semester at Kingsborough Community College. The more I learn, the greater is my thirst for more knowledge. My life is now so much richer with knowledge and information. My major is biology and I’m looking forward to attending medical school. I’m looking forward to being part of the presidential scholars program this semester. This program will give me the opportunity to be actively involved on campus, meet new people, and take on a leadership role.
My name is **Matthew Finley**. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and currently reside in Breezy Point, Queens. I graduated from Xaverian High School in 1995 and immediately joined the workforce. I recently decided that I needed a career change and at the age of 36 I enrolled in Kingsborough. I am currently majoring in liberal arts with my sights set on a degree in physical education. My time at Kingsborough has contributed to my personal, professional and educational growth. The staff has helped me to set goals that have enabled me to rebuild my home after Hurricane Sandy, expand My DJ Company and maintain a 3.98 GPA. My hard work has been extremely rewarding and this year I was inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. I look forward to graduating this year and continuing my education.

My name is **Malka Kohl**. I was born in New York and attended high school in Virginia. Although I am currently liberal arts major, I plan on receiving my bachelors in psychology and continuing on to business law. I am currently involved in the honors program at Kingsborough as well as a presidential scholar, a member of Phi Theta Kappa’s XI Kappa Chapter, and a hopeful for vice president of our campus’ Hillel Club. I am constantly on the lookout for new opportunities to make a difference. For example, I enjoy giving back to society by volunteering at non-for-profit organizations. I am looking forward to continuing my education far beyond Kingsborough, culminating in my graduation from Columbia University. Through hard work and determination, I plan to be a distinguished personality in my field of choice.

My name is **Katarzyna Maziarz** and I study chemistry at KBCC. I was born in Poland where I also graduated high school. I always had a choice if I want to study or not: nobody pushed me into books. Nobody even had to because I knew since I was a little girl that science will be my life. As a kid I realized that chemistry is a logical step to understanding how this world functions. I fell in love with chemistry so I chose classes with extended levels of chemistry, biology and physics in my high school. I knew what my goal is; therefore, I became a student of chemical engineering in Krakow, Poland. During the first semester I decided to come to the United States because I knew the importance of English in the chemistry world. I came to New York and registered for an ESL program. When I passed my TOEFL test, I applied to KBCC. I am sure that this college will furnish me not only with theoretical knowledge but also with skills.
My name is **Vincent Buensuceso** and I will be an incoming freshman at KBCC. I was born and raised in the Philippines then immigrated to New York City with my family when I was ten. I attended Abraham Lincoln High School. I participated in the Ambassadors Program in which we represented the school during high school fairs and it also taught leadership. I was also part of the j.v. basketball team. In June 2014 I graduated with an Advanced Regents diploma. I will be majoring in Biology and pursue a certificate in physical therapy.

My name is **Sarah Younus**, I am starting my second year at Kingsborough Community College. I am getting my associates in liberal arts. After getting my associates in liberal arts I am going to Pakistan to become a doctor. I love medicine, psychology and history. These are my three favorite subjects. I also love photography; since I was a child I always used to take pictures of my surroundings and sometimes I used to edit them. I am also a Muslim American and I love my religion Islam. Islam is everything to me. In completing my first year at Kingsborough I feel like I have become more mature and a better person. Kingsborough has many opportunities to offer especially in the honors program and in the Presidential Scholars Program.

My name is **Nigina Salimova**. I was born in Uzbekistan. I am nineteen years old. I came to the United States five years ago with almost no English skills. I graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School with an advanced regent’s diploma and this is my second year in the nursing program at Kingsborough. There are many extracurricular activities at KCC and I have tried to be a part of as many of them as I could. I am proud to be a presidential scholar and an active member of the honors club. I am also a Phi Theta Kappa member. Last spring I won the Retiree Scholarship which required me to give an interview and a speech that helped me to overcome my public speaking fear. I also attended the Honors Symposium. The path to getting accepted into the nursing program was not easy. I had to take many challenging courses including the honors courses while being engaged in many extracurricular activities on campus and still maintaining my high G.P.A. My goal is to successfully complete my associates degree at Kingsborough and continue my education at Hunter College to get my bachelors and finish my master’s degree at NYU to become a highly educated health care professional.
My name is Najlaa Bouras. I was born and raised in the kingdom of Morocco and I will be starting my second year as a presidential scholar at Kingsborough Community College. I’m currently majoring in liberal arts. I feel that I have accomplished a lot this past year being a presidential scholar. I became a member of Phi Theta Kappa and I was recently selected as the vice president of the honors club. I’m very passionate about law and politics, I started early as a translator with an immigration law office and currently I was selected to work with CUNY citizenship.

My name is Jamila Wallace. I was born in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where I spent the first 10 years of my life. In 2004, I migrated to New York City and I graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School in 2010 with advanced courses in Macroeconomics, Architectural Engineering and Civil Engineering. My goal, at the time, was to pursue a career in architecture. However, when those plans were derailed, I took some time off to reformulate my success plan and my first choice was KCC. My goal is to earn a Bachelor's degree in economics, thus, I chose to major in mathematics at KCC with the intent of strengthening my mathematical, statistical and computer science foundation. By taking KCC honors courses, I increased my involvement in extracurricular activities on and off campus. For instance, I presented at the 2014 KCC Reads Conference. In addition, I became a member of the National Society of Black Engineers and started an academic program to help 8th graders of underrepresented, minority groups gain entrance into NYC's top high schools.

My name is Karon Lewis Thompson; born in Brooklyn and residing in the Bronx I started at Kingsborough in fall 2013 as liberal arts major. I aim to study criminal and business law. I love reading crime and courtroom fiction books. Ultimately I hope to utilize my law degree by beginning non-profit work to aid in economically underrepresented communities. The oldest of six sons and first in college I have striven to set a high academic standard for both my siblings and peers. As the great Nelson Mandela once said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.
My name is Eleonora Gloukhov and I’m a student at Kingsborough Community College. I’m majoring in biology with hopes to becoming a doctor someday. Originally I was born in Russia, but when I was seven our family moved to Israel. I came to the United States about three years ago in order to make my dream come true and become a doctor. When I was in high school, my grades weren’t as high as I would like them to be. I hope that my grades and achievements will be greater in the United States than in my home country. When I started my very first semester, I was so afraid of failure that I pushed myself to learn and absorb everything that I could.

My name is Lev Seleznov. I immigrated to the United States from Ukraine when I was just eight. I graduated from James Madison High School with an advanced high school diploma and a specialized introductory law diploma for finishing four years in the law program. I participated in the Model United Nations program for three years in a row and completed numerous AP and College Now classes. This upcoming fall 2014 semester is going to be my second year at Kingsborough. The experience that I have had so far at KBCC has been nothing but pleasing and insightful which has persuaded me to stay another year. I am currently the public relations officer for Phi Theta Kappa and have been on the Dean’s list since my first semester at KBCC. My favorite extracurricular activity is playing soccer which is why I’m part of the soccer team here at KBCC. My ambitions and interests lay with business and global politics which will lead me to major in international business when I transfer. I plan on transferring to NYU or Cornell and eventually going to the Wharton School of Business.

My name is Michelle Yedin. I am Israeli, Tunisian, Egyptian, and of course, American. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and graduated from James Madison in 2014. While attending Madison, I was a journalist for the Madison Moment - which was Madison’s prestigious newspaper. For three years, I was a part of SUNY Downstate’s Arthur Ashe Health Science Academy. This selective program gave me the opportunity to learn about various body systems, and helped me learn more about the field of medicine. As a new member of the Kingsborough Honors Program, I am proud to continue my passion for writing, by majoring in journalism. I am thrilled to be a part of yet again, another selective and prestigious program, and will continue to study the sciences, and journalism. I have no doubt that all who are in this
program, will move on to greater opportunities in life, because of this program abundant resources and connections.

Hello, my name is Mukta Begum. I am originally from Bangladesh. I came to the United States in 1997. I had a tough childhood and was unable to complete my education on time. I had a big gap between in my education. In February 2012, I had the opportunity to earn my GED. After earning my GED I didn't know what wanted to do this diploma. I had this fear inside of me for a long time that I will never be able to attend a college, however I have overcame that fear. In spring of 2013 when I started college I was so nervous and fearful of my grades and the relationship with professors, fellow students and other faculty members. Now I know all my professors and faculty members that I had, but the most importantly they remember me which is a great feeling. This is my second year as a presidential scholar and my final year at Kingsborough College. I am the Vice President of the Phi Theta Kappa and I am also an honor's students. Last year, I had the privilege of being an ASAP (Accelerated Study in Associate Programs) student. Recently I was selected from a pole of six hundred students from all over New York, to become one of the two hundred students as an America needs you fellow. I have learned a lot and been educated at Kingsborough which will prosper me in the future. The past year I also had a great opportunity to travel to Salzburg, Austria from Kingsborough College. This was a program for Global Citizens who wants to make a difference in the society and around the world. It was an experience I will never forget. Apart from education, I am married and also a mother of two boys. I have overcome my worst fears and the greatest weakness that I had and I believe that now what I strike for is my education which can't be stolen from me.

My name is Samantha Sowizdral. I was born in Galveston, Texas and raised in Rotterdam, New York. After graduating High school in 2006, my college experience began in Marketing & Communications at the Fashion Institute of Technology. When an education in Fashion Business became unfulfilling, my grades began to suffer, & my need for academic fulfillment began to grow. Through my experiences in travel, a background in folk music, classical dance, & a passion for visuals—my natural curiosity & nostalgia for the Arts & Sciences was reignited. Kingsborough has given me brilliant experiences; I am currently a member of KCC Reads, the Civic Actions Committee and 99 Voices, have held positions with the Sculpture & Ceramics Clubs, as well as having the wonderful opportunity of perusing another passion—writing--through work as a Student Aide & Editor for Paideia. While continuing my studies in the arts, I plan to finish an undergraduate degree in Psychology at SCL; a dual BA/MA in Health Advocacy & Human Genetics, as well as a Ph.D.
My name is **Amenah Saleh** and My Major is nursing. After being a Kingsborough student for about a year now I've decided to challenge myself and become a Presidential Scholars member, and I wish to later continue my education at either LIU or Hunter College. During my high school years, I've never taken my education seriously, which is why my grades didn't start off so well. Not many people believed I could possibly achieve something one day; it was to the point where I actually started believing it myself. From then on I've decided to make a change so I graduated high school early and have a fresh new start at Kingsborough. For my second year I hope to get more involved around campus and later on be one of the very few people in my family to graduate college.

Hello. My name is **Marjona Nurillaeva**. I was born in Uzbekistan. I have been in this country for four years. I went to Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. During my high school years, I always wanted to attend to Kingsborough Community College. That is because some of my friends always told me all about positive stuff that KBCC has and I was also told that it has organization that I wanted to be in. Therefore, now I am in KBCC and part of honors program. My goal is to graduate within two years and transfer to four year college.

My name is **Michael Lustri**. I was born in Brooklyn and currently attending Kingsborough Community College to attain my Associates in Computer Sciences. Ever since I first interacted with a dad's old computer, I used to think they were really annoying and I hated it. As I grew older and became more tolerant of its outdated errors, I began to be fascinated with them as experienced as I learned how to make them work the way I wanted to. I can also blame video games for my interest in computers, and how they work. Googling ways to fix my computers errors gave me an achieved feeling, even though in all reality I didn't do anything special, however it made me curious to how people can understand these complex machines without googling the answer and having it dumbed down for you enough to understand. Then one day I saved up enough money and I bought parts to make my own computer instead of using my dad's 10 year old piece of junk. Putting that thing together was possibly the most frustrating things I might have ever done. All my friends and tutorial videos warned me over and over, wash your hands, ground yourself to...
prevent short circuiting, don't force cables if they don't do etc. It took me three days to finally put it together properly, and when I finally made it work, I knew that this feeling of knowing what something does and how to make it work inspired me to do it for a lifetime. I hope to in the fall semester of 2015 to be able to transfer from Kingsborough to University of Buffalo and ideally get a Ph.D. in Computer Sciences but I'll figure it out along the way. Science in general peaks my curiosity. I don't know specifically what I want to do when I grow up, but I'm sure if it's related to my major, it's bound to be fun and fulfilling.

My name is **Boluwaji Olugbamila** and I’m from the greatest city in the world: New York City. I’m a first generation Nigerian American and I went to Benjamin N Cardozo High School. Through the school’s law program, I developed a true love and passion for law and I hope to be more than just a successful practicing attorney one day. I just finished my first semester at Kingsborough and I am eternally grateful for the Honors program and all the opportunities it has provided to be in such a short period of time (REEO rising star, honors representative along with being a presidential scholar). It’s my goal at Kingsborough to help students to become inspired to learn and take advantage of the opportunities at Kingsborough. Simply put: carpe diem