During the years that Kingsborough has produced these annual reports, I have had the pleasure of reporting to you on a number of innovative programs that our college has implemented to support the success of our students. Community colleges nationwide have discovered that to improve outcomes for our students, our institutions must provide excellent teaching, innovative academic programs, and a wide range of student support services.

At Kingsborough, our creative, skilled, and dedicated faculty give our students a solid academic foundation in both traditional and non-traditional areas of study. In addition, because we focus on the importance of good teaching, we are continually devising new approaches – both in and out of the classroom – to support our students in continuing with their studies and in achieving their goal of earning an associate’s degree. In this report, you will learn more about some of the programs that have helped Kingsborough students attain the highest retention rate and the highest graduation rate among the community colleges of the City University of New York.

Taken individually, each of the many programs and services that Kingsborough provides is valuable. We have learned, however, that no single initiative provides the entire solution for student success. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the individual pieces— that is, our various programs—mean little on their own. You have to fit all of the pieces together to appreciate the whole picture. Fitting those pieces together at an institution as complex as our college takes tremendous cooperation and coordination. The academic departments, the administrative units, and student services all must work in concert to accomplish the task.

It’s gratifying that at Kingsborough so many talented professionals are dedicated to that mission. Though many of our students face serious obstacles, they also know that higher education is the single most powerful means they have to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. We believe it is our responsibility to do everything possible to help them reach those goals. The support of so many of you, especially in these challenging economic times, has allowed us to extend the reach of our supports beyond what might otherwise be possible.

Providing the opportunity of higher education to thousands of individuals is an awesome responsibility. Yet, the rewards are immeasurable. Through education we stimulate minds, ignite spirits, unleash imaginations, and uncover talents. As we educate our students, we build a better future for all of us. I urge you to continue to join us in that endeavor.

Dr. Regina S. Peruggi
President
With these thoughts in mind, we at KCC are taking aggressive steps to change this picture and to ensure that our students are supported every step of the way.

New and innovative, the President Prep’s program uses an intensive curriculum to zero in on the developmental needs of pre-freshmen, which can help smooth the rough edges of the academic puzzle. Opening Doors Learning Communities places freshmen in student groups that take three courses together, to build an immediate sense of community and a bond with the college so that they get comfortable and want to stay.

A student’s personal and financial worries can make success in college even more fragile. As an urban institution, 58 percent of our student population work more than 20 hours a week or care for families; 68 percent earn less than $30,000 a year. In the past, needy students have scrambled from agency to agency, seeking help. The new Single Stop program — the pilot for all of New York’s community colleges — consolidates a variety of services into a single office, overcoming bureaucratic hurdles and assisting with paperwork.

So far, our programs have worked. For the past two years in a row, we have ranked in the top tier of CUNY’s 23 institutions. Our graduation rate is the highest among community colleges in the CUNY system and urban colleges nationally, and our one-year retention rate is up significantly.

But as proud as we are, we are not finished. Backed by a $672,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education, we are now embarking on a three-year project aimed at improving our retention and graduation rates further. This effort is called “The Community College Jigsaw: Putting the Pieces Together” because we believe that there is no one “best practice” that is a magic bullet. Rather, it is the sum total of all our initiatives with students – in the classroom, in the hallway, through support services – that fit together in a coherent whole that promotes success.

As the future unfolds, there’s no question that more and more Kingsborough students can — and will — finish their two-year degrees.

Building the Future, Piece by Piece

When students arrive at a community college, it is often a very difficult, new, and challenging experience. Sometimes so challenging, they never reach their goal and the coveted associate degree never comes together at all. Academic issues. Language barriers. Financial obstacles. Work and family conflicts. It’s a frustrating process that can weary hearts and diminish dreams.
ABOVE: INSTRUCTOR JON JENSEN HAS KINGSBOROUGH ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE STUDENTS TAKE PART IN HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES TO BETTER IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN THEIR NEW LANGUAGE.

Examining the puzzle: Are all the pieces In place?
The process of getting a college degree begins before matriculation, and Kingsborough eases the transition by helping students polish their academic skills, learn to speak and write classroom-ready English, and even earn college credit while in high school. Here’s a look at Kingsborough’s pre-college safety net.

College Now
The program familiarizes New York City high school students with the details of college life; offers preparatory courses in math, reading and writing; and allows them to take college courses that can be transferred for credit at a later date—all for free!

President’s Prep
In fall 2009, KCC, with support from the Tortora Silicone Foundation, launched this six-week boot camp to help pre-freshmen speed up their remedial work. Students are provided help with reading, writing, and math; academic advisement; free textbooks; tutoring; and counseling sessions with a case manager. Upon completion, they move to the front of the line in the Opening Doors Learning Community program. So far, 169 students have participated in President’s Prep, and many save at least one semester of financial aid while moving forward with their developmental work.

Kingsborough English Language Institute (KELI)
Since the early ’90s, the institute, which is part of the Continuing Education program, has helped non-English speakers bring their language skills up to par for classroom and job entry. Courses are offered at all levels, on evenings and weekends, and in an intensive 11-week session. Students seeking food-service and health-care jobs can get specialized certificates; overall, 60 percent of KELI students go on to pursue college degrees. One excellent example: Kingsborough’s 2009 valedictorian, Romanian-born Raluca Toscano, a former KELI student is now completing her master’s in math at NYU-Poly. KELI is also known for such first-rate instructors as Jon Jensen. Jensen’s students have made films, performed plays, kept journals and done volunteer work in the community. “He truly has a student-centered class,” says KELI director Frank Milano. “I have never seen a class like that before, where the students really take charge of their own learning.”

Profile
Frank Milano
Director of Kingsborough English Language Institute

He had wanted to be a veterinarian but realized along the way that he might not have the stomach for it. Living in Italy for a year, where he learned Italian, Milano could not find a job teaching microbiology, so he taught English. He later volunteered for the Peace Corps in the old Belgian Congo. This time, he did teach biology and chemistry—in French. Milano joined Kingsborough in 1996, when the English Language Institute was in its infancy and has directed the program since 1997. An enthusiastic advocate of content-based instruction, where “language is brought in as an aside,” he believes this practice not only helps students get through their entrance exams, but also piques their curiosity about the larger world around them.
Making the Pieces Fit

Kingsborough students often bring academic and financial challenges with them, work and family responsibilities that drain class and study time. We address their problems one on one — with a menu of programs that builds community, enriches lives, rewards excellence and moves students forward to graduation.

Freshman Services and Advisement

First-year students need gentle guidance, and that begins before enrollment. When incoming students arrive to take placement exams, they are greeted by members of Freshman Services, who follow up with test results and assist with course selection. Together we decide: “What makes sense for you?”

New students are steered toward Learning Communities and are connected with Testing, Admission and Health Services. During the all-important first semester, they are advised to keep in touch with Freshman Services, to check in with questions. When making sensitive choices, it’s important that they not make them alone.

College Discovery

For students who believe they aren’t living up to their full potential, College Discovery provides academic support, leadership training, counseling, and financial incentives. Because language is often a barrier, bilingual students can get counseling and instruction in their native tongue.

Opening Doors Learning Communities

Freshmen are at a high risk of dropping out. Opening Doors builds social fabric, camaraderie and a shared will to succeed. The program groups students into 25-member communities, or cohorts, who take three classes together: English (usually remedial); an academic course, and a freshman orientation.

Profile

Leico Palmer
ASAP Student

As a construction-industry expediter, Leico Palmer made a good salary and became skilled at getting the permits and approvals needed to build major projects. But over time, she grew less excited about the job. She learned about the ASAP program online. The perks (free MetroCard, textbooks and tuition) were appealing, so it seemed like a good time to try college again. Living in Brooklyn, Palmer was drawn to KCC, where her brother was already in attendance and doing well. ASAP’s regular one-on-one counseling has made all the difference for the business-management major, who dropped out of Brooklyn College after one week in 2000. She hopes to get into Baruch College and “go straight on through to my master’s.” She praises her Kingsborough professors for their support. “Everyone I have met has been trying to push me forward.”

Far left: Freshman Services advisors help students navigate college life; left: College Discovery program offers academic support, including one-on-one tutoring.
Honors Program

The program may be rigorous and competitive, but Kingsborough’s Honors students are anything but elitist. Some of the highest achievers began college with language difficulties and G.E.D diplomas. And the rewards are tangible: Honors Program members may take smaller, Honors-only classes; add an Honors component to a regular class; or conduct an independent study with a professor. They are also eligible to travel abroad to take part in special educational programs in Salzburg, Austria and Costa Rica.

Civic Engagement

Social awareness and responsibility is a hallmark of a Kingsborough education. Our professors embrace civic-engagement projects that connect community and classroom. For example, Mental Health and Human Services Professor Charles Guigno and his students created a program to


course called Student Development 10, or SD 10. Cohort instructors work as a team to integrate courses and solve problems. SD 10 teaches time management and study skills, college rules and procedures, career exploration and diversity — and incorporates time for outside-the-classroom activities like career panels, stress-reducing yoga sessions and slam-poetry workshops.

Tutoring

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Distracted by jobs, family and economic burdens, urban college students often spend many years trying to get a two-year degree. In 2007, the mayor’s Center for Economic Opportunity funded the CUNY-wide ASAP program. Its purpose is to help motivated students to get their associate degree as quickly as possible. Textbooks are free. Block scheduling helps free up time. Counselors make lasting personal connections. And for students in need, tuition can be waived. ASAP has already proven to be an effective tool, with many students earning their degrees in less than three years.

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Men’s Resource Center
Say hello to Kingsborough’s “I.R.O.N.” men. No super-human powers or athletic prowess required for membership. Espousing qualities of “Integrity, Responsibility, Opportunity and Nobility,” these “I.R.O.N” men are members of the peer mentor organization at Men’s Resource Center, a support network for self-identified men of color directed by Michael Rodriguez. The mentors first complete a two-semester apprenticeship, then spend two more semesters as full-fledged mentors. The resource center also enlists mentors from the college faculty and staff — and holds a twice monthly round table where participants can vent frustrations, celebrate their accomplishments, and hear speakers from all over the city. The Men’s Resource Center is a safe, positive, listening environment that fosters strong community relationships and empowering conversations about race, identity and leadership.

Women’s Resource Center:
The college’s female population is a varied, “non-traditional” group that includes veterans, single moms, former home-
makers, returning students, and middle-aged and senior women who are seeking new careers or fresh perspectives. Five days a week, the women of Kingsborough can find a welcome and supportive environment at the center. No one should live in fear of harassment or abuse, and one of the center’s most important functions is to give emotional support and counseling to women in crisis. Financial or legal snafus, health and parenting matters, stress and gender issues — everything is on the table here. The organization also offers an entire compendium of relevant services: speakers, support groups, career information, even a lending library.

**Single Stop**

In 2009, Kingsborough became the first community college in New York to open a Single Stop shop. For students needing financial assistance, the office provides comprehensive screening for public benefits; state and federal tax preparation; financial counseling; and legal aid — at no cost. The purpose is to help students stay on track with their studies. With about 10 minutes of screening, students may determine every public benefit they are eligible for, be it Medicaid, food stamps or help with utility bills. They can even apply for food stamps while in the office. Single Stop also coaches students on money matters: such things as making a budget and sticking to it; getting a free credit report; and shopping for the right bank accounts and products. If a lawyer is needed, Single Stop will find a pro-bono attorney. Tax help is another plus: in 2009, Kingsborough’s Single Stop yielded almost $1 million in tax refunds and savings for over 550 students.

**Veterans Affairs Student Office (V.A.S.O.)**

Federal and state agencies offer significant aid to military personnel and soldiers. (The G.I. bill, for instance, pays up to 100 percent of maximum benefits, including housing costs, for soldiers and veterans with 36 months of active duty.) But the system, the paperwork and the variety of resources can be complicated. That’s where the V.A.S.O. staff comes in, helping veterans, reservists, current and former service members and their dependents secure appropriate benefits. Veterans making the transition to civilian life can also get counseling on personal and academic matters — and pointed in the right direction if they need additional help.

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**Highlights**

Last year, the college inaugurated new nursing labs, a new ballfield, and a Green Boat fueled by recycled cooking oil; added new degrees in culinary arts, fashion design, and substance-abuse counseling; and launched its first annual walkathon.

• On October 2 and 3, 2009, the college hosted “Dreamland Pavilion,” a multidisciplinary faculty-led conference bringing together city planners, journalists, community activists, creative artists, and academics from New York City and beyond to discuss the meaning of development in Brooklyn.

• On October 22, 2009, the college cut the ribbon on its upgraded and expanded nursing labs, used to teach students high-tech health-care skills. The labs are equipped with high-fidelity Sim Man mannequins, ventilators, cardiac monitors, intravenous controllers, and suction machines so students can develop proficiency in patient care. The renovation was made possible in part by funds from the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office.

• On November 10, 2009, more than 800 faculty, staff, and students — many in costume — raised more than $18,000 toward student scholarships at Kingsborough’s first annual walk-a-thon.

• On April 30, 2010, the Maritime Technology Program christened the Green Boat, a former fishing boat rigged to switch from diesel to recycled cooking oil (from makers, returning students, and middle-aged and senior women who are seeking new careers or fresh perspectives. Five days a week, the women of Kingsborough can find a welcome and supportive environment at the center. No one should live in fear of harassment or abuse, and one of the center’s most important functions is to give emotional support and counseling to women in crisis. Financial or legal snafus, health and parenting matters, stress and gender issues — everything is on the table here. The organization also offers an entire compendium of relevant services: speakers, support groups, career information, even a lending library.

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Federal and state agencies offer significant aid to military personnel and soldiers. (The G.I. bill, for instance, pays up to 100 percent of maximum benefits, including housing costs, for soldiers and veterans with 36 months of active duty.) But the system, the paperwork and the variety of resources can be complicated. That’s where the V.A.S.O. staff comes in, helping veterans, reservists, current and former service members and their dependents secure appropriate benefits. Veterans making the transition to civilian life can also get counseling on personal and academic matters — and pointed in the right direction if they need additional help.
Karen Stewart
“Brooklyn is in the house”

Karen Stewart, the New York radio personality and voiceover artist who learned her craft at Kingsborough radio station WKRB (90.3 FM), told the class of 2010 that the real world isn’t for the faint of heart. In her short, pithy Commencement speech in June, Stewart said her Brooklyn accent was a major obstacle to a career in radio. (“Easier for the pope to give up wine,” her mother told her.)

“A Brooklyn kid might have a tough time with the king’s English,” she said. “But they are also the hardest kind of kid to discourage.”

Leaving the audience with one final bit of wisdom, she said that “yes” is the most magical word of all, “because ‘yes’ opens more doors than any known set of keys.”

On May 14, 2010, the college officially opened a new 181,100-square foot synthetic turf athletic field. Funding for the project was secured by the Brooklyn delegations to the New York City Council, New York State Senate, New York State Assembly, and the Brooklyn Borough President’s Office.

Three degree programs were introduced in 2010, all offering practical experience. Students getting an associate’s degree in chemical-dependency counseling earn 1,000 hours of work credit, which can be applied toward license certification. Culinary arts students finesse their cooking skills in an on-campus restaurant. And fashion design students master draping, flat pattern-making, sketching and computer-assisted design.

Professor Robynne Maii
Culinary Arts

On the first day of Introduction to Baking and Pastry, Professor Robynne Maii might teach her students to prepare an easy salad of oranges, strawberries and mint. Sounds simple, until you realize that involves three knife techniques, plus lessons on making simple syrup and whipping up Chantilly cream. “We emphasize technique over recipes, and we emphasize flavor in seasonings,” says the Hawaii native who was an editorial assistant at Gourmet magazine and ran the culinary program at the Art Institute of New York City before coming to Kingsborough. Maii majored in English and dance at Vermont’s Middlebury College. But her passion for food remained insatiable. So she studied culinary and pastry arts at the other KCC (Kapiolani Community College in Hawaii) and got her master’s at NYU. To the students who have been watching too much “Top Chef,” Maii makes it very clear: “There is no glory in this industry.” Just lots of hard work. And a pinch of salt.

Kingsborough’s cafeterias) once the engine gets warm. Developed with a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, students spent an estimated 310 hours outside of their regular classes working on the boat. The craft will be used during the week for maritime college courses, and on the weekend, by specially trained high school students to pick up floating trash in Sheepshead and Jamaica bays.

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President's Faculty Innovation Awards
2010-2011 Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposers:</th>
<th>Department:</th>
<th>Project Title:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professors Matthew A. J. Gregory and Ryan McKinney</td>
<td>Communication and Performing Arts</td>
<td>Integrating an Off-campus Co-curricular Theatre-attendance Component Connected to a Winter 3 Week Express Tha 50 Course Taught by Professors McKinney and Gregory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Robert Cowan</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Enslavement and Liberation: Confronting Slavery and Human Trafficking in Literature and the Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Kris Marrus</td>
<td>Behavioral Science and Human Services</td>
<td>A Virtual Mentoring Program in the Music and Movement Workshop of the Early Childhood Education Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Laura R. Kates</td>
<td>Behavioral Science and Human Services</td>
<td>Fostering the Development of Critical Reading Strategies: Utilizing a Simplified Seminar Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Farshad Tamar</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Isolation of DNA and PCR Amplification of Putative Self-Incompatibility Genes Polygalacturonase and Alpha-Dioxygenase from Primula vulgaris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Helaine Harris</td>
<td>Behavioral Science and Human Services</td>
<td>A Community Advocacy Internship in Food Justice and Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor Christina P. Collin</td>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Accessibility for All: Even the Invertebrates!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposers: Professors Chris Calienes, Emily Schnee and Jason VanCleave
Department: Behavioral Science and Human Services; English
Project Title: The Impact of Learning Communities on First Semester Developmental Students: A Mixed Methods, Longitudinal Study

Proposers: Professors Margaret Vanderbeck, Valerie Gill and John Donohue
Department: Nursing
Project Title: A Collaborative Approach to Provide Nursing Students with Visual Feedback for Self-evaluation and the Opportunity to Create an E-portfolio

Proposers: Professors Libby Garland, Eben Wood and Kevin Kolkmeyer
Departments: History, Philosophy, and Political Science; English
Project Title: Expanding the Dreamland Pavilion (2010-2011): Establishing a Kingsborough Center for Investigating Brooklyn and Development

Proposers: Professor Edgar E. Trott
Departments: Tourism and Hospitality
Project Title: Innovative Reading Comprehension Assessment for Online and Hybrid Courses

Proposers: Professors Elizabeth Dill and Jack Taub and Professors Libby Garland, Eben Wood and Kevin Kolkmeyer
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Proposers: Professors Katherine A.R. Opello
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Project Title: Development of a Team-Taught Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies Corestone Course for the Global and Environmental Studies Option in Liberal Arts

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Project Title: Empowering the Black Student in the Multicultural Classroom

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Grant Summaries
Grants are vital to the mission of Kingsborough. Support from foundations and corporations helps us to further the work of students and faculty. Recent grants to Kingsborough include:

$671,569 from the United States Education Department/ Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education to fund The Community College Jigsaw: Putting the Pieces Together, which will allow us to assess the positive impact of our services and programs on student outcomes, including retention, graduation, and transfer rates; develop a model program and materials that can be adapted at other colleges; and guide four partner institutions in evaluating their needs and adapting the best practices from the model at their respective settings.

$369,081 from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust in support of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), to provide full-time students with a range of resources to ensure graduation within three years, including tuition waivers, cost-free textbooks, and enhanced academic support.

$305,000 from the Robin Hood Foundation for continued support of Opening Doors Learning Communities, which encourages more sophisticated, integrative learning through linked courses and student support. A leader in implementing and evaluating learning communities, Kingsborough has documented the success of its program in improving the college experience and increasing academic achievement for its entering students.

$270,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for continued support of the research by Professor Harold C. Connolly Jr. of the Department of Physical Sciences on constraining the origins of the solar system, including identifying and characterizing the components of asteroids.

The play’s the thing
New York may be the theater capital of the world, but, due to the high cost of tickets, many Kingsborough students have never seen a live performance. To help remedy that, professors Ryan McKinney (pictured) and Matthew A.J. Gregory proposed a project that would take some 40 introduction to Theater students to one Broadway and two off-Broadway shows. Winner of a President’s Faculty Innovation Award, the project is scheduled for winter 2011. McKinney believes the experience will enrich classroom discussions and hopefully turn some students into theater fans. “When you are breathing the same air as the performers, it’s a very different experience,” McKinney says. “We can talk about that as much as we want, but until they really experience and feel that energy in a live theater, the paint is almost moot.”
$190,000 from the Tortora Sillico Family Foundation to expand the President’s Prep to include a Summer High School Initiative, working with 10 feeder high schools and 100 high school juniors who will come to the college to improve their basic skills.

$98,257 from the United States Small Business Administration for the creation of the Brooklyn Maritime Occupation, Recreation, and Environment (B-MORE) Center, which aims to build a brown water (the area from the shore to about six miles out to sea) maritime community. Designed to enhance student opportunities and disseminate information regarding the Brooklyn and New York City maritime environment, B-MORE will consolidate resources, technical assistance, and other information to better serve the maritime community.

$60,645 from the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to defray the cost of 15 un- or under-employed adults to be trained as Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselors through Kingsborough’s CASAC (Certified Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling) Certification Program. Graduates of the program will be prepared for entry-level positions in the field of substance abuse prevention.

$37,500 from the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity to support the CUNY Young Adult Program (CYP), which serves youth aged 18-24 who are not currently employed or enrolled in school, have earned their high school diploma or GED, and demonstrate financial need. CYP provides a unique combination of workforce training in food and hospitality, life skills training, and case management. Graduates of the program can transfer up to 12 college credits to Kingsborough. Students also earn industry certifications such as ServSafe and New York State Food Handlers license.

$19,405 from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs for continued support of Kingsborough’s professional performing arts programming. The grant subsidizes access to the arts for public school students and members of the Sheepshead Bay/Coney Island community.

$15,000 from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation to implement the Community Financial Education Program (CFEP), a project of the Bull and Bear Finance Club, which provided financial literacy education to 40 parents and their young children living in New York City Housing Authority developments in Coney Island. Seventeen adults participated in one of two 4-week financial literacy programs led by an instructor from Kingsborough’s Department of Business, and eighteen children received financial literacy education from seven Kingsborough students who participated in the program as part of a service-learning component of their business class. Parents learned about budgeting, financial planning, and organizing their financial records, while their children learned about basic concepts such as money, saving, and spending using a Junior Achievement curriculum.

$10,000 from Northfield Bank Foundation in support of the Northfield Bank Scholarship Program, which provides funding for scholarships for 20 students living on Staten Island and in special areas of Brooklyn.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

HIS RESEARCH ON THE ORIGINS OF SUPPORT FROM NASA TO CONTINUE.
“I have found that Kingsborough is because there it was for me three times. It gave me a reason to go on. And so I give back, hoping my donations will help others.”

FRAN KOCH, My Turn student
“I started working when I was 12 and never had a chance to go to school. Even one drop of water will make a difference for Kingsborough.”

ARMSTRONG & DOROTHY LIM. My turn students.
**Expenditures:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Fall 2009</th>
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**Staffing (Full-Time):**

- **Fall 2009:** 310
- **Spring 2010:** 306
- **Total Faculty:** 327
- **Non-Instructional:** 118
- **Civil Service:** 311
- **Total Full-Time:** 826

* Excludes fringe benefits and health, light, and power.
** The Adult & Continuing Education Program is self-sustaining based upon tuition and fees collected.
*** Staffing information provided by Human Resources/Expenditure data as of 10/15/10.