Kingsborough Community College’s national recognition ascended to a new height when the Aspen Institute, a national thought leader in higher education, named Kingsborough one of the top four community colleges in the country.

Selected from an original pool of nearly 1,200 community colleges, Kingsborough was recognized by the Aspen Institute for achievements in four areas: student learning outcomes; degree and college completion; labor market success/securing jobs after college; and minority and low-income student success.

“Kingsborough stands out for its strong commitment to continuous improvement,” said Josh Wyner, Executive Director of the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program, “Its thoughtful and cohesive approach to helping an extremely diverse group of students succeed provides lessons for all urban community colleges.”

In addition to the accolades, KCC will receive a $100,000 prize to support its programs.

Kingsborough Community College’s 70-acre campus took a direct hit when Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc in late October. The morning after, debris was everywhere — including docks from across the bay. Trees were up-rooted; classrooms flooded; rocks extracted from the sea wall; and phones, electrical lines, and computer equipment were overcome with ocean water.

Thanks to our amazing staff, assisted by the state Dormitory Authority, Kingsborough was able to resume classes a week later.

In order to assist the more than 2,500 students, faculty, and staff who had suffered tremendous losses, KCC quickly organized a hotline; a distribution center; and a relief fund.

The hotline provided one-stop shop information about such things as changes in class and transit schedules and local and federal services available to hurricane victims.

The distribution center (bottom) was quickly filled with generously donated food, clothing,
Ask anyone on the streets of Bensonhurst about the “Ice Cream Girl” and chances are their face will light up with a warm smile. Carrying on the proud tradition of her late and beloved father, Angelo “Chubby the Ice Cream Man” Campanella, Maria Campanella and her ice cream truck have been fixtures of the neighborhood for 30 years. “My father was a huge influence on me; he would always take me on his routes when I was a kid. He inspired me not just to be an ice cream truck driver, but to be a ‘giving’ person.”

For Maria, that giving spirit extends far beyond ice cream. A local heroine, she takes on leading roles in a wide array of local charities and causes, including Mothers Against Drunk Driving; the American Red Cross; toy and food drives for needy children; and, most recently, she played a pivotal role in the local relief effort after Hurricane Sandy.

She has received several high profile honors for her work in the community, including being appointed goodwill ambassador by the Brooklyn Borough President and receiving the Lifetime Achievement Liberty Medal from the New York Post.

If her father was where she derived her inspiration, it was Kingsborough Community College that gave Maria her focus and direction. During her time at the college, the future Ice Cream Girl spent much of her time behind the camera as a Broadcasting major—an experience that helps her with public events and media presentations to this day.

Maria also credits her English teachers for helping her to refine her speaking skills (“Every time I need to make a speech at a big event, I use techniques I learned at Kingsborough.”) and to hone her writing talents, which will definitely come in handy as she puts the finishing touches on her debut children’s book, The Ice Cream Girl.

A proud alumna, Maria contributes to Kingsborough in a way that only she can: serving treats and refreshments from her truck during Homecoming, the Outdoor Concert Series, and other key KCC events. “Kingsborough is very close to my heart, and it feels great to be able to give back to the place that helped start it all for me.” Chubby the Ice Cream Man would be proud.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
John Parker

Like many of his fellow Broadcasting alumni, John Parker was on hand for the unveiling of the revamped WKRB Radio Studio. Though a vast technological improvement over the one he remembered from over two decades ago, what John felt the most was an overwhelming sense of nostalgia: “This was where it all started for me.”

Starting out as an on-air talent, he eventually became the program director of KCC’s B91 radio station. From there, John went on to enjoy a prolific career in the music industry.

On the music end, he was one half of the Happy Boys, a mix team that has sold over 1.5 million CDs worldwide. In addition, he has produced numerous top-selling dance, house, techno and trance compilations.

At the corporate level, John has held A&R (artist & repertoire) positions at major record labels, and has worked with a wide range of artists, including Run-DMC, the Jerky Boys, Judy Torres, Cascada, and many more. He’s the recipient of awards for #1 Dance A&R Person in the World by HitQuarters.com and “Best National In-House Record Promoter” by the International Dance Music Awards at the Winter Music Conference.

Today, John can look back on a resume that would leave most people in his profession green with envy, and he credits much of his success to his formative years at his alma mater: “Professors like Cliff Hesse really inspired me. Not only did they teach me technical skills, but also how to manage people and make important programming decisions.”

It’s in his latest business venture where his affinity for Kingsborough really shines through: “I recently founded a new radio station, B91 Classic, with three of my old KCC classmates: Matt Binkowitz, Christina Macaluso Quartarano, and Jill Baldassi.” Give it a listen at www.live365.com/stations/b91classic.

A ROCKIN’ Homecoming

Over 800 alumni, faculty, staff, students and their families returned to their beloved Kingsborough for the successful staging of the annual homecoming celebration held on the college’s beautiful campus on October 14, 2012.

Among the highlights: the ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the newly remodeled state-of-the-art radio studio – home of Brooklyn’s beloved WKRB.

Homecoming is one of the best ways to reconnect with the college, friends and faculty and share your memories with your family so be sure to mark your calendars and join us this year on Sunday, October 13, 2013!

For more Homecoming pictures visit KBCCAlumni on Facebook or the KCC website at www.kingsborough.edu/alumni.
THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Throughout the year we rely on hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff and students to help us with a variety of mailings, activities and events. Sincere thanks to all of our volunteers, including some of our future alumni: Jennifer Berkowitz, Marie Borra, Emmanuel Disla, Jill Dzemaili, Shari Houston, Jeremiah Lindgren, Kuban Maripbek, Daniel Melendez, Mark Melendez, Christine Merceron, Thomas Morales, Christopher Ransom, and Taylor Reynolds. E-mail us at kccalumni@kbcc.cuny.edu or call Alumni Relations at (718) 368-6725 to learn about upcoming volunteering opportunities.

PANELISTS INFORM THE NEXT GENERATION

Many thanks to the participants on last October’s biannual Alumni Career Panel – (from left to right) Patrick Hickey ’06; George Williams ’88; Janell Brown ’04; Brian McLeod ’06; and Abigail Ryan ’98 (not shown) – who represented the fields of retail merchandising, law enforcement, broadcasting, and journalism. Thanks to Professor Scerbinski for helping us secure our retail merchandising panelists and to Professors Mastrianni and Ihara for encouraging their students to attend. We know they received great insight thanks to our informative alumni.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are just a few of the events coming up this year. Mark your calendar and look for your invites!

Alumni Breakfast & Commencement March
Tuesday, June 11

Seaside Splash Annual Fundraiser
Wednesday, June 19

Homecoming
Sunday, October 13

YOUR SUPPORT

Funds raised by the Kingsborough Community College Foundation help to provide scholarships, enrich our students’ learning experiences, and build the College’s endowment for future generations. We truly appreciate your support. All donations are recognized in Kingsborough’s Annual Report as well as on the KCC Annual Donor Wall, which is updated each year. To make a donation, join the Alumni Association, and/or for general information, visit www.kingsborough.edu/alumni or call (718) 368-4539.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

Send us your comments and requests by updating your profile on the KCC website at www.kingsborough.edu/alumni. If you prefer, send us an e-mail at kccalumni@kbcc.cuny.edu or call Alumni Relations at (718) 368-4539. We look forward to hearing from you!

STAY CONNECTED

Like us: KBCCAlumni
Follow us: @KCCAlumni
Network with us: Kingsborough Community College Alumni

KCC ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dr. Regina S. Peruggi
President

Dr. Elizabeth Basile
Assistant VP for College Advancement

Ms. Laura Glazier-Smith, ’87
Director of Alumni Relations
(718) 368-6725
laura.glazier-smith@kbcc.cuny.edu

GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION:
kccalumni@kbcc.cuny.edu
(718) 368-4539

Join the Alumni Association

Show your commitment to Kingsborough through membership in the Alumni Association! The $25 annual membership fee helps support student scholarships and programming for alumni events. Your membership also provides you with certain benefits, which include limited access to the college and its facilities, invitations to career-oriented and special events, and various discounts. For details or to join, visit www.kingsborough.edu/alumni or call us at (718) 368-4539.

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