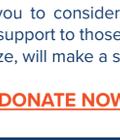




FUEL THE FUTURE

BE THE SPARK
KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANNUAL FUND 2024-2025



As we approach the end of the year, we're reflecting on the incredible difference the KCC Community has made for student support throughout 2024. Your generosity has allowed us to supply need and merit based scholarships, provide emergency assistance, and enable our students to place their focus solely on their studies.

This holiday season, we're asking you to consider a year-end gift to help us continue providing vital services and financial support to those who need it most. Every contribution, no matter the size, will make a significant impact.

[DONATE NOW](#)

Donor Spotlight: Chris Dixon



Gloria Gitta '23, inaugural recipient of the Katina Hugh Junior White Scholarship, meets Chris Dixon at KCC's 2023 Donor Recognition Reception

"I had a long journey, and I will continue it, but like everyone in life, I need help sometimes. It is hard to find good people who see the effort and the opportunity in the students. Thank you, Katina Hugh Junior White Scholarship!"

- Gloria Gitta '23



Chris Dixon as Harriet Tubman, Herself

Few figures in American history stand taller than Harriet Tubman. An abolitionist and social activist, Ms. Tubman was the most famous "conductor" of the Underground Railroad, shepherding black enslaved people to freedom and later serving as a scout, spy, guerrilla soldier and nurse for the Union Army in the Civil War.

For nearly 11 years, Chris Dixon has stepped into this historical icon's shoes in *Harriet Tubman, Herself*, a one-woman show that brings the freedom fighter to vivid life. The show has garnered numerous awards, including New York Women in Film and TV's "Best Actress of 2020." In 2019, Chris was presented with the Harriet Tubman Legacy Award by The Harriet Tubman Purple Hat Society and honored by The National Council of Negro Women.

Chris has a lot to be proud of. Not only does she enjoy a decorated acting career, but she uses her craft to illuminate Mrs. Tubman's legacy for current and future generations. But 12 years ago, she could have never imagined it possible.

"I was living in a homeless shelter in Bed Stuy," Chris says, recalling when she first enrolled at Kingsborough Community College (KCC). Her life had strict parameters: go to class in Manhattan Beach, work at Starbucks in Hell's Kitchen, and return to the shelter in time for the 8 PM curfew. But the shelter was neither a short nor long-term solution; to avoid dangerous situations, Chris would often sleep on the Q train.

"I was always late to class," she says. "Not because I did not care about my studies, but because the factors in my life made it impossible to be where I wanted to be on time." Her outlook at the time was understandably bleak, and under most circumstances, a student in her predicament could easily fall through the cracks. Fortunately, Chris Dixon was not attending just any other college.

"The Universe put four saints in my life: Professors Scott Cally, Jay Michaels, Maurisa Charest, and Marcus Lane." All four taught in KCC's Theatre Arts Department, and all four played instrumental roles in Chris' academic journey. With tears of gratitude in her eyes, she fondly recalls how Professor Michaels discovered her immense potential, which lead to her being cast in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and other Kingsborough productions.

Beyond the stage and the classroom, her KCC Professors made her feel at home—checking in on her, letting her know about scholarships, engaging in funny banter, sharing their professional wisdom, and much more. "My personal life at the time was often in shambles," she recalls, "but never once did I ever feel judged or discounted." Thanks to Kingsborough's warm embrace, Chris thrived in the face of her life's many obstacles, not only graduating but making the Dean's List every semester.

In 2020, Chris received an email from Kingsborough about a workshop on how to create a scholarship. Though she was unable to attend the workshop, the email planted a seed in her mind that would blossom two years later, when she made a generous donation to her alma mater to establish the Katina Hugh Junior White Scholarship. The scholarship is named in loving memory of Katina White, Chris' former roommate who passed away unexpectedly in 2019.

The award also honors Katina's late father, Hugh White Sr., and late brother, Hugh Jr. "Katina was there for me at one of the lowest points of my life." "In addition to helping KCC students financially, I want my award to pay tribute to Katina and her family." First awarded in 2023, the Katina Hugh Junior White Scholarship is intended for KCC students majoring in Education, Healthcare, Engineering or Theatre Arts.

Thanks to her transformational experience at KCC, Chris Dixon enjoys a flourishing career in the arts, traveling the world at a frenetic pace for film shoots, commercials and electrifying theatrical performances. In August & September 2023 in Paris, France, Chris performed her 734th and 735th Harriet Tubman shows. Chris currently stars in two Global Cricket Wireless commercials and Instagram Ad's. Chris had her Off Broadway debut at the Historic Theatre 80 St. Mark's.

Whether embodying Harriet Tubman on stage or embodying the spirit of "pay it forward" as a scholarship donor, Chris Dixon's generosity makes a life-changing impact. She hopes that other KCC alumni will follow her example: "I am living proof that a little generosity—whether it is a scholarship check or a word of encouragement—can go a long way."

What Will Your KCC Legacy Be?

Like Chris Dixon, you too can make a lasting impact on KCC students through establishing a scholarship or graduation award. [Click Here](#) to learn about the different kinds of scholarships available to students, and [Click Here](#) to make a life-changing donation today!

You can also contact [Dan La Noue](#):
Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
(718) 368-6540
Daniel.Lanou@kbcc.cuny.edu



A Legacy of Love: Dean Thelma Malle

On July 2, we said goodbye to one of our own, Dean Thelma Malle, in a beautiful service surrounded by family, friends and colleagues to pay tribute to her life. Dean Malle has an incredibly rich legacy here at Kingsborough and is recognized as one of our most accomplished leaders and pioneers. Recruited just one year after the college first opened its doors, she began her KCC career as an assistant professor of Mathematics. Dean Malle was Associate Dean of Faculty for many years, and in the final decade of her service was given the title of Dean for Open Admissions and Special Programs, roles that gave her both the perspective and the power necessary to help students overcome their obstacles.

After a distinguished 33-year career at Kingsborough, Dean Thelma Malle had an inspired idea for her send-off: "My colleagues wanted to raise money for a retirement party, but I encouraged them to instead raise money to create a scholarship." After they raised an initial sum, Dean Malle continued to generously support the scholarship over the years. Today, this fund endures as the Science Scholars Award (funded in Honor of Dean Thelma Malle).

To make a charitable contribution in Memory of Dean Thelma Malle, please visit [KCC's Donate Page](#). Under "Designation", select "Other" and type in "Malle".



Kingsborough Celebrates the Unveiling of the Inaugural Donor Wall

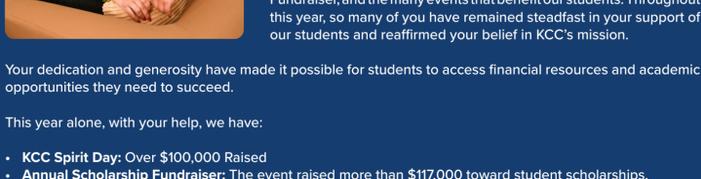
On Thursday, November 7th, KCC unveiled a stunning new tribute to its most generous all-time donors. Overlooking the Hall of Flags, the KCC Donor Wall, approx. 12 ft by 7 ft with a 75-inch display screen, is a monument to over fifty of KCC's distinguished benefactors. The names appear on engraved plaques and spotlight a wide range of supporters, from alumni, faculty and staff to private and corporate foundations.

The November 7th event was an elegant and moving reception, gathering the KCC community to celebrate not only the donors on the Wall, but the philanthropic spirit they inspire in all of us. In addition to remarks from KCC Interim President SURI Duitch, Vice President Nancy Lee Sánchez-Badillo and Foundation Board Chair Tasheka Sutton-Young, guests heard poignant testimony from Javere Johnson '24, a recent alumnus and proud recipient of several life changing scholarships.

More Information About the KCC Donor Wall:

The Wall is updated annually by the college's Office of Institutional Advancement. New donors are selected every year, with considerations made to increases in lifetime giving and philanthropic impact.

To learn more, contact Dr. Nancy Lee Sánchez-Badillo, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at (718) 368-4539 or Nancy.Sanchez-Badillo@kbcc.cuny.edu.



Giving Tuesday at Kingsborough!

On December 3, 2024, Kingsborough's spirit shined bright as the KCC community gathered to celebrate Giving Tuesday, an internationally celebrated movement hosts a #KCCSPIRIT Day event to gather and engage KCC's alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students in fundraising efforts for the College. The Kingsborough Community College Foundation receives the proceeds from donations to support student scholarships, college activities, and other financial needs.

Thanks to the efforts of the college and the KCC community, we surpassed our \$40,000 goal for #KCCSPIRIT Day! We are also happy to announce that a donor has endowed a new KCC scholarship with a gift of over \$52,000, increasing our #CUNYTuesday total to **\$102,885**.

#CUNYTuesday is extended through December 31, 2024, so there's still time to participate in the CUNY Season of Giving by [contributing to Kingsborough Community College](#).

From the Desk of Nancy Lee Sánchez-Badillo, Ed.D.

As Kingsborough Community College (KCC) approaches the end of another impactful year, we are filled with immense gratitude for the unwavering support from our community. We are riding high as we celebrate your contributions to #KCCSPIRIT Day. We also must recognize the generous support of our 2024 Annual Scholarship Fundraiser, and the many events that benefited our students. Throughout this year, so many of you have remained steadfast in your support of our students and reaffirmed your belief in KCC's mission.

Your dedication and generosity have made it possible for students to access financial resources and academic opportunities they need to succeed.

This year alone, with your help, we have:

- **KCC Spirit Day:** Over \$100,000 Raised
- **Annual Scholarship Fundraiser:** The event raised more than \$117,000 toward student scholarships.
- **KCC has secured \$2.9 million in grants**, with more than **\$540,000 from private and foundation sources** and over **\$2.3 million from government grants**. We have also awarded **670 scholarships**, totaling **\$554,102**, to KCC students!

These milestones are more than just numbers; they represent lives changed, dreams realized, and communities strengthened.

As KCC looks forward to the coming year, we are eager to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We are embarking on the **Race to 100**, an ambitious campaign to reach a wide spectrum of prospective donors—from alumni to retirees, faculty and staff, to members of our greater Brooklyn community. Beyond fundraising, we are committed to improving access to scholarships, and connecting KCC to community partners and corporations.

On behalf of the entire KCC family, I thank you for all that you have done to support our college and its talented, hardworking students. I wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to updating you on our continued progress in the new year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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