

**Subject:** Campus Update Workforce Development and Continuing Education

Dear Campus Community,

Please find below some updates and highlights regarding our work within the division in October.

### **Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning**

The **Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning** staff member **Shamika Weekes**, Senior Career Advisor, was awarded \$800 for the **Sense of Belonging Initiative** to host student-centered activities. The office hosted a Superhero themed Open House in October that focused on constructing your “**superhero**” through career development. Students learned about developing their superhero strength (professional skills), superhero knowledge (how to construct resumes, job search, and ace interviews), and superhero training (internships and volunteer work). Students were introduced to different careers and all the center’s services. One-hundred and thirty-two (132) students participated in the event and had an opportunity to play games and win prizes while learning about “constructing their superhero.”

The Center also hosted a virtual **Career Conversation** with **City Comptroller Brad Lander**, where sixteen (16) students had the opportunity to hear about his career path and current role managing the city’s budget.

Lastly, nine (9) students completed a **2-day Leadership Development Seminar**. Students participated in group activities on leadership topics, including leadership styles, conflict management, active listening, growth mindset, and delegation skills, to name a few. The seminar also included a session facilitated by guest-trained speakers **Shauna-Kaye Brown and John Maxwell, on the topic of Effective Communication and Public Speaking**. Participants received a certificate of completion and a bookstore gift card. All students surveyed said they would recommend the seminar to other students. Many thanks to Shamika Weekes, Senior Career Advisor, who led and coordinated the program, and the ASAP program for collaborating with us to provide additional funding.

The **American Arbitration Association** partnered with us (thank you, Karolina Bizik) to create an exclusive mentorship opportunity for select students and alumni in either degree or non-degree programs across the college. Interested individuals are required to complete an online application for consideration to ultimately be selected and matched with a mentor. This unique **mentorship program** pairs the chosen mentee with a mentor providing a one-on-one opportunity for engaging in discussions, learning from your college and career experiences, gaining career and business insight for exploration or growth, exercising self-reflection, and forward-thinking to take steps towards a college or career action plan for self-development. The program is currently virtual with a requirement of a minimum of four (4) one (1) hour meetings during the assigned semester. Interested individuals can apply here: [American Arbitration Association Mentorship Program Application \(google.com\)](https://www.aadr.org/mentorship-program) or here: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPpQqW611k4OHk3Y-Re0dVda\\_AaeM9cZ6\\_ZAuPrayrTtQrjA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfPpQqW611k4OHk3Y-Re0dVda_AaeM9cZ6_ZAuPrayrTtQrjA/viewform) .

**Did you know that November is Career Development Month?** We will host several information sessions, career and professional development workshops for students. Please be on the lookout for that information and help us spread the word!

Virtual front desk hours are Mondays from 10:00am-12:00pm and 2:00pm-4:00pm here: <https://zoom.us/my/kcccareer>. Students can also visit Room C-102, call (718) 368-5115, or contact us via email at [careerdevelopment@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@kbcc.cuny.edu).

### **Grants and Awards**

We are thankful for the partnership with **Con Edison Power of Giving Program** for their generous award in the amount of **\$13,000**, which will be used to replace the raised beds in the farm and garden and allow us to purchase ADA-compliant raised beds in a variety of heights to serve our community.

In partnership with New York City College of Technology, we submitted a **\$225,000 proposal** for a **Direct Support Provider training program**. Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) build the skills needed to perform daily activities and become integrated within their communities independently.

### **Community Farm and Garden**

Dr. **Shannon Caravello** visited the Brooklyn College Eats Garden in collaboration with Brooklyn College Professor Mike Menser, who established this special garden with the health sciences and sustainability program. We look forward to collaborating with them on future projects to support the expansion of urban agriculture in the southernmost part of Brooklyn.

We hosted the **Diversity Symposium Food Day** event with keynote speaker **Karen Washington**, a highly respected change-maker in the community gardening and farming world. She provided a wonderful talk on urban agriculture and food justice and then joined us for a tour of the farm along with the KCC CFG. The next event will be held on **Wednesday, November 9**, in room U219 from 12:00-2:00pm, hosting a microgreen tabling event with one of the interns and an exciting food demo with culinary **Chef Naxielly Dominguez**. We will also feature poster presentations related to gardening and food security, as well as sharing images of family, food, and urban agriculture as experienced by our students. Refreshments will be served.

We had six (6) courses **tour the farm, including culinary arts, illustration, and photography**. Please reach out if you would like to set up a tour or visit for your students and/or club. We are also looking to support faculty in research projects on the farm. Please email Dr. Shannon Caravello if you plan on bringing a class: [Shannon.caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Shannon.caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu).

**Volunteer days** are in full swing, and we invite students, faculty, and staff to join us. Currently, we are accepting volunteers Monday 2:00-5:00pm, Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm and 2:00-5:00pm, Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm, and Thursday 2:00-5:00pm. Volunteers assist with plant maintenance, weeding, planting, and harvesting activities. If you or your students are interested in signing up, please follow this

link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1r8CeNuRtvY85eQ0EkIh5zJlkydABbA5lxm6p3bFExg/e/dit>.

### **Student CEWD Scholarship Fund**

Please continue to support our students by donating here: <https://21409.thankyou4caring.org/online-donations>, then go to *Designations* and select *Continuing Education "CEWD Scholarship."* To date, three (3) students have been awarded a scholarship. Our students send a big thank you.

As part of this scholarship, we are accepting student applications for those experiencing financial challenges in paying their tuition. Kindly find the application and eligibility requirements here: <https://forms.gle/vuv6AS9PrrwAAgWp7>

### **Program and Partnership Updates**

**Cypress Hills Satellite:** On October 4, we participated in the ribbon cutting opening ceremony, which welcomed the community to the new satellite campus. **Angela King** officially started the role as the KCC Program Administrator at the site. She will interact and engage with community organizations and prospective students on behalf of the college. On October 27, the site virtually participated in the workshop "It's Not Just What You Know, It's Who You know: The Importance of Relationship Building, where 10 students were in attendance. In addition to offering non-credit programs, she will develop a SD-11 class which will be offered in January 2023. For more information, please call (718) 368-5116 or email [angela.king@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:angela.king@kbcc.cuny.edu).

In partnership with **1199SEIU Training and Upgrading Fund** and **Northwell Health**, a **Central Sterile Processing Technician (CSPT)** certification program was launched on October 19 for select individuals. Students will receive 91 hours of didactic training at our partner hospitals in Staten Island and then progressing to a 400-hour apprenticeship training in the Sterile Processing departments.

**ESL/HSE/SNAP program:** The program is currently providing registration information to students for full-time ESL and HSE programs to prepare for college and career pathways. Please direct prospective students to [HSE registration](#) or [ESL registration](#). The program will host the **Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN) professional development** sessions on campus during the week of October 31-November 4. Sessions will include BEST Literacy and Google Classroom training for CUNY faculty and staff and partner organizations.

The **Venture V for SNAP** participants program is currently accepting registration and referrals. The program provides essential services to help low-income SNAP recipients increase their employment skills and obtain jobs. For all program information or questions, please call (718) 368-4870 or visit the [Virtual Office](#): Monday-Friday, 9:30am – 5:00pm.

**Afealliah Asramon, Kymel Yard, and Alissa Levine** were awarded \$1,000 for the **Student Sense of Belonging Initiative** to host a workshop about the importance of relationship building, leveraging contacts and normalizing asking for help. On October 27, KCC alumnus [Lavar Thomas](#) and **Kymel Yard** conducted a discussion titled "It's Not What You

**Know But WHO You Know."** It was attended by over 60 students and staff in person and via zoom.

Alissa Levine conducted a **Wellness at Work** mentorship circle for HURFS-RC. She shared wellness resources including the [CUNY Work/Life Program](#) (username and password is CUNY), [CREATING A HEALTHIER LIFE A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO WELLNESS](#) (guide and worksheets) and New York City Office of Labor relations: [WorkWell NYC](#).

**Are you a caretaker?** Join us on **November 11, from 9:00am-12:00pm** via zoom for a FREE workshop on **"Self Care for Caretakers"** facilitated by Lauren Tacconi, LCSW. Click [HERE TO REGISTER](#) (Log in or create a new account. Use the approval code **FREECEU** on the bottom of [course details](#) page before adding to cart). NYS Licensed Social Workers and Mental Health Counselors can earn 3 Continuing Education units.

**Note:** Kingsborough Community College Office of Continuing Education is recognized by the NYS Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #SW-0613 and by the NYS Education Department's Board for Mental Health Practitioners for licensed mental health counselors #MHC-0191).

Strengthening Community Colleges **CompTIA Program:** Recruitment for the Spring 2023 CompTIA A+ cohort is ongoing. The first CompTIA A+ information session will be held on Thursday, November 3, at 6:00pm. [Register here](#). Please contact [alita.Maristany@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:alita.Maristany@kbcc.cuny.edu) for more information.

Join us on **November 17 at 11:00am** to meet with Workforce Development and Continuing Education staff and hear about the **BEST Best Practices for Developing and Maintaining Partnerships**. [Register here](#).

### **Conferences/Networking/ Professional Development/New Staff**

**Alissa Levine** was awarded the **2022 Continuing Education Association of New York (CEANY) conference scholarship award** and will receive full conference membership and lodging at the conference hotel, valued at \$700! She was chosen based on her application responses as to the importance of CEANY and how it has benefited her career as a continuing education/workforce development professional.

The **Job Corps Scholars** program was selected by the CEANY Recognition & Awards committee as the winner of the **Exemplary Non-Credit Program Development Award** for 2022. This award recognizes a non-credit program that is considered creative, successful, and innovative. The award will be presented to the division at the upcoming 2022 CEANY Annual Conference scheduled November 9-11 in Rochester, NY.

**Jessie Cinelli** and **Karolina Bizik** attended the **2022 New York Association of Training and Employment Professionals (NYATEP) conference** in Niagara Falls in early October. The two returned with insight into booming industries (i.e., Construction, Green Hydrogen, and Semiconductor Technology) across New York with voluminous vacancies and anticipated job

growth in the coming years while concurrently examining which training programs the division may consider offering to bridge the gap.

### **Fall 2022/Winter 2023 Catalog**

The Fall Catalog can be found here: <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/ce/courses.html>. Some exciting new offerings are forthcoming in the Winter/Spring catalog: *Cybersecurity, Automated Web and Security Testing, JavaScript Fundamentals, JavaScript Frameworks, Microsoft Azure & Intro to Power Platform, Python for Data Analytics, Salesforce Administration, SQL/ETL, Digital Literacy, and Certificate in Cannabis Training Education.*

The division is excited to announce the new partnership with **Green Flower** to provide the world's most comprehensive, on-demand training specifically for cannabis professionals. Green Flower is the industry standard for **cannabis education and training**, working with industry leaders since 2014 to create best-in-class training programs for individuals and businesses. The division will begin offering training in Winter 2023 for those looking to advance their career in the fast-growing cannabis industry.

For more information, please call (718)-368-5050 or contact us via email at [conted@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:conted@kbcc.cuny.edu).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Simone Rodriguez

Kingsborough Community College, CUNY

Vice President, Workforce Development, Continuing Education & Strategic Partnerships

Interested in learning more about the division? [Click here!](#)