



**NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
BLACK AMERICAN AFFAIRS**  
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Northeast Region Spring 2011 Newsletter



## Achieving The Dream

**Achieving the Dream** is a multiyear national initiative to help more community college students succeed. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that traditionally have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low-income students and students of color. Achieving the Dream emphasizes the use of data to drive change and focuses on measurable outcomes, especially closing achievement gaps.

The initiative includes 10 national partner organizations, 27 community colleges that joined the initiative in 2004, eight community colleges that joined the initiative in 2005 and many dedicated individuals. Lumina Foundation for Education provided funding for the initiative's startup and is providing ongoing funding for many of the participating colleges as well as other elements of the work. KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Nellie Mae Education Foundation are providing additional funding to help support colleges that joined the initiative in 2005.

### Presentations

#### **2008 Strategy Institute - Atlanta, GA**

We Have a Plan - Integrating Achieving the Dream with your Strategic Plan  
Professor Joan Marchessault

### Event Archives

#### **April 26th, 2007**

Strategies for Effective Teaching in the Mathematical Sciences  
Dr. Abdulalim A. Shabazz, Lincoln University

### Background Information

**Fact Sheet** - The Achieving the Dream Initiative Fact Sheet - Core Commitments of Participating Colleges Capital's Proposal (10-Jun-2005) Talking Points (18-Jul-2005) Investment Plan (18-Aug-2005)



### Instituting change at the participating colleges

■ Through Achieving the Dream, participating colleges assess what is happening on their campuses in an open, straightforward and rigorous way – and then make lasting changes in their own practices and cultures. Colleges adopt strategies to improve students' achievement, closely monitor students' and the college's progress, and share their findings broadly.

■ Each participating college has the support of a coach and a data facilitator. Achieving the Dream coaches, many of whom are former college presidents, have strong track records as organizational leaders. They help the colleges develop strategies, set priorities and implement institutional improvements. The data facilitators, generally trained as institutional researchers, help the colleges analyze data about their students and use data to develop strategies for improvement, monitor progress and evaluate results.

■ Colleges evaluate their own student data – overall data as well as data broken down by various student groups. They gather input from their students, faculty, staff and communities. They then adopt strategies for improvement based on these findings.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND HONORS

### Bronx Community College Awarded \$3.7 Million Grant From U.S. Department of Education to Strengthen Criminal Justice Program



Bronx, N.Y. – **Bronx Community College** of The City University of New York has been awarded a \$3.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen its Criminal Justice Program. The grant seeks to increase the number of students completing degrees and transferring to John Jay College of Criminal Justice. BCC's Criminal Justice Program is for students interested in careers in police science, law, security management, and other law-related fields. It is a joint degree program with John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University

### LaGuardia Community College's Honor Society Only New York Chapter to Receive International Awards

Long Island City, NY–April 29, 2011–Alpha Theta Phi, **LaGuardia Community College's** chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society For the Two-Year College, was the only New York chapter awarded a Distinguished Chapter award at PTK's International Convention held in Seattle. The chapter was ranked 13th among 1,250 chapters worldwide. It also acquired a Distinguished College Project award, and the chapter's President, Kevin Magana, went home with a Distinguished Chapter Officer award.



of New York. Participating students work toward an Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree from Bronx Community College, then a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from John Jay. Graduates of the BCC program are automatically accepted into the John Jay program, provided they meet the academic requirements..” Students will be provided with laptops, technological support, intensive advisement, mentoring, and career development. They will have the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to learn firsthand about the federal judicial system and job opportunities. They also will be able to engage with criminal justice leaders from across the country.

### Biotech consortium OKs RCC program

**Roxbury Community College (RCC)** is among eight Massachusetts community colleges receiving official endorsement from the Massachusetts Life Science Education Consortium (MLSEC) for their degree and certificate programs in biotechnology.

The schools were honored at a Dec. 8 ceremony at the Cambridge headquarters of MassBio and MassBioEd, the life sciences industry and education groups who paired up to create MLSEC, a new partnership of industry and higher education leaders.

Reville acknowledged there is an achievement gap in the so-called “STEM”[science, technology, engineering and math] fields; “By no means is everybody ready” for life science jobs, he cautioned.



Staff members from Roxbury Community College (RCC) pose with the endorsement awards presented by the Massachusetts Life Science Education Consortium (MLSEC) for RCC's programs in biotechnology. Pictured (from l to r) are: Lance Hartford, executive director of MassBioEd Foundation; Terrence Gomes, president of RCC; Dr. Brenda Williams Mercomes, vice president of academic affairs at RCC; Dr. Kyriss Rodriguez, professor of science and interim dean at RCC; Joan Wood, a senior vice president at Genzyme and MLSEC co-chair.(Sandra Larson photo)

## NCBAA/NE REGION'S 2011 SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### PLENARY SESSION

**Mary Coleman**

**"Academic Leadership & Financial Stewardship:  
What's Required When You Take a  
Seat at the Grown Folks Table"**

This session focused on community college financial planning during financial exigency with emphasis on the influence of internal and external stakeholders the process.



### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Dr. Calvin Woodland and Dr. Wilfredo Nieves**

**"The Importance of Presidential Leadership in  
Student Success and Community Development"**

**Moderator:**

**Dr. Ladylease White**



Presenters discussed and shared their perspectives and experiences at urban and suburban-rural community colleges related to the leadership role of the president in student success and community development.

**Dr. Jack S. Monell**

**"The Misperception of Education, Pop Culture and  
Music's Influence on Generation Y"**

**Moderator:**

**Dr. David Rudder**



As research suggests, the learning patterns of Generation Y are greatly different than those in generations past. The presenter provided an overview expanding on his book, *Delinquency, Pop Culture, and Generation Y*, and how there continues to be a divide, digital and otherwise as it pertains to the present demographic and prior generations. The presenter also highlighted the progress that has been achieved at Central Piedmont Community College's Minority Mentoring Initiative (3 MP program) by pairing up minority students with faculty and staff mentors.

**David Baime**

**"What Role Can the Federal Government Play in  
Ensuring Student Success?: An  
Assessment of the State of Play"**

**Moderator:**

**Dean David A. Taylor**



The federal government provides funding to higher education institutions and students through a variety of sources. What is the role of Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, TRIO, GEAR UP, and other programs? How will these programs fare in the new Congress? Mr. Baime focused on how well the community college priorities are being received at the Federal level.

### ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

**Glennis Daniels-Bacchus and Karen Marbury**

**"Cultivating Success for Students with Disabilities"**

**Moderator:**

**Kevin A. Christian**



With the Completion Agenda at the forefront of the community college movement, who will ensure that students with disabilities are a part of this equation? With local, state and national budget cuts, colleges are facing a number of significant issues with this diverse population. This presentation provided participants with an overview of how community colleges can remain committed to providing support and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure that they can develop to their full potential.



## NCBAA/NE REGION'S 2011 SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

### Dr. Judy Gay and Dr. Samuel Hirsch *"Achieving the Dream: Promising Practices"*

**Moderator:**  
**Dr. G. Duncan Harris**



Achieving the Dream (AtD) is a national initiative with a goal of improving community college student outcomes.

Participants, whether at AtD colleges or not, discussed strategies that are consistent with Achieving the Dream goals and philosophy and that are associated with improving student success. The discussion included evidence of impact and lessons learned in the implementation of strategies.

### Walter Clark *"Bullying/Electronic Bullying: Obstacles to Student Success"*

**Moderator: Dr. Barbara Gaba**



This session explored how colleges are dealing with the issues of Bullying and Electronic Bullying. Issues included such as Secondary Schools vs. College Student's First Amendment Rights, Legislative Enactments, Definitions, the

College Code of Conduct, Penalties, Rights of the Accused, Faculty and Staff, Clery Act, Electronic Bullying, Duty to Report, Educational Malpractice, Student Success, Resources for Educators and other related topics of interest.



### Dr. Russel A. Davis, Dr. Stephen M. Curtis, Dr. Zackery Yamba, and Dr. Rosemary Gillett-Karam *"The Roads Taken on the Community College Journey to Executive Leadership Positions: Insight and Hindsight"*

**Moderator:**  
**Dr. Carolyn G. Williams**



In this session, the panelists shared their career paths to leadership positions within the community colleges. These paths are varied and marked with challenges and rewarding experiences. This interactive discussion was intended to assist participants in their journey.



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND HONORS

### NCBAA/NORTHEAST REGION DEDICATED CONFERENCE TO A PHENOMENAL WOMAN, ONE OF THE NCBAA'S FOUNDING MEMBERS

#### Dr. Carolyn Grubbs Williams Retiring after 15 years

**Dr. Carolyn G. Williams**, who has been president of Bronx Community College (BCC) of the City University of New York (CUNY) since June 1996, plans to retire after 15 years of exemplary leadership. She served as President of Los Angeles Southwest College (from 1991-1996) and prior to held a variety of leadership roles at Highland Park Community College and Wayne County Community College, both in Detroit, Michigan.

President Williams has been a transformative leader. In addition to being one of the founding members of the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA), Dr. Williams is a past Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Board of Directors (1999-2000). She understands and promotes the alignment of AACC and NCBAA goals and has been an outstanding, active participant in the growth of students who choose the community college for enrichment and advancement.

Dr. Williams has been actively engaged over the past decade in the Leadership Development Institute for African American Midlevel Administrators in Community Colleges as a part of the National Council on Black American Affairs (NCBAA) of the American Association of Community Colleges. This Council was established to expand the leadership opportunities and participation in community colleges and to encourage personal and professional development. Dr. Williams has helped to develop a number of senior executives, including several who are now providing leadership as Presidents or Chancellors of colleges and universities throughout the country.

President Williams has contributed throughout her career immensely to: the development and success of Bronx Community College; to the City University of New York; to



the community college movement and higher education within the United States; and to the development of higher education institutions in South Africa – all aiming to provide opportunity and excellence.

We invite you to join us in expanding the breadth of our impact in higher education and promoting our renewed commitment to advocate for organizational cultures that support and encourage the professional and personal development of Black Americans in community colleges as we are... Moving Forward Together...

Sincerely,  
Carolyn H. Anderson, Ed.D.  
President



#### **"Trouble" for BMCC President Antonio Pérez**

The children in Glenda Torres' class at the Early Childhood Center recently had a special visitor stop by their classroom – **BMCC President Antonio Pérez**.

Pérez was there to read a book to the children. He chose to read *Always in Trouble* by Corinne Demas.

*Always in Trouble* is about a dog named "Toby" who must go to obedience school because he's always causing trouble at home. The children cheer and clapped when Toby earned his diploma from obedience school.

"They love when he visits," said head teacher Glenda Torres. "They know he is the President of BMCC and always enjoy when he comes by to read to them. His visits make them feel special, and they enjoy sharing their own stories with him."

NCBAA/NE REGION'S 2011 SPRING CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



## ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, AND HONORS

### Dr. Jill Biden to Deliver 2011 Commencement Address to MCCC Graduates

**Dr. Jill Biden** will deliver the Commencement keynote address to Montgomery County Community College graduates on May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, Pa.

An educator for more than 30 years, Dr. Biden has spent the past 18 years of her career teaching English at community colleges. Since arriving at the White House, she has promoted community colleges as being uniquely positioned to graduate more Americans with the skills that businesses need to compete in the 21st century.

According to a White House press release announcing Dr. Biden's visit, MCCC was cited for its nationally recognized, award-winning faculty who are committed to working closely with students to ensure their success.

The College recently earned national recognition from Achieving the Dream and the Lumina Foundation for its leveraging of data to impact student success and completion. Since joining the Achieving the Dream initiative in 2006, MCCC has worked to reduce achievement gaps for specific cohorts of students, especially for students who place in pre-college level courses.

MCCC's 2011 graduating class is the largest in the College's history, with close to 1,500 expected graduates – a 13 percent increase over last year.



### NY Times Columnist Nicholas Kristof Visits Bergen, Discusses Impact of Poverty on Women

PARAMUS, N.J. (APRIL 4, 2011) "Discrimination against women is lethal in poverty-stricken countries, *New York Times* columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner **Nicholas Kristof** told about 300 students, faculty and members of the public at Bergen Community College today. "In much of the world, discrimination is lethal. The pattern in parts of the world where there is not enough food to go around, is that you feed your son and starve your daughter," Mr. Kristof said, noting that ten times as many girls are victims of human trafficking forced into prostitution today as all of the people forced into bondage at the peak of Trans-Atlantic slavery.



Dr. Ralph Choonoo, associate dean of student life and judicial affairs, noted that Mr. Kristof has traveled the world as a journalist often visiting dangerous places to tell the story of people living in poverty or under oppression. Dr. Choonoo called the Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard University a humanist.



### Connecticut Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBA's annual kickoff Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Wilfredo Nieves**, Capital Community College's president, was the keynote speaker at the Connecticut Chapter of the National Society of Hispanic MBA's annual kickoff event last month. The formal event took place at Yale University, and was sponsored by the CT Chapter's corporate partner, Pepperidge Farm. Dr. Nieves spoke about leadership and our role in an ever changing world.

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