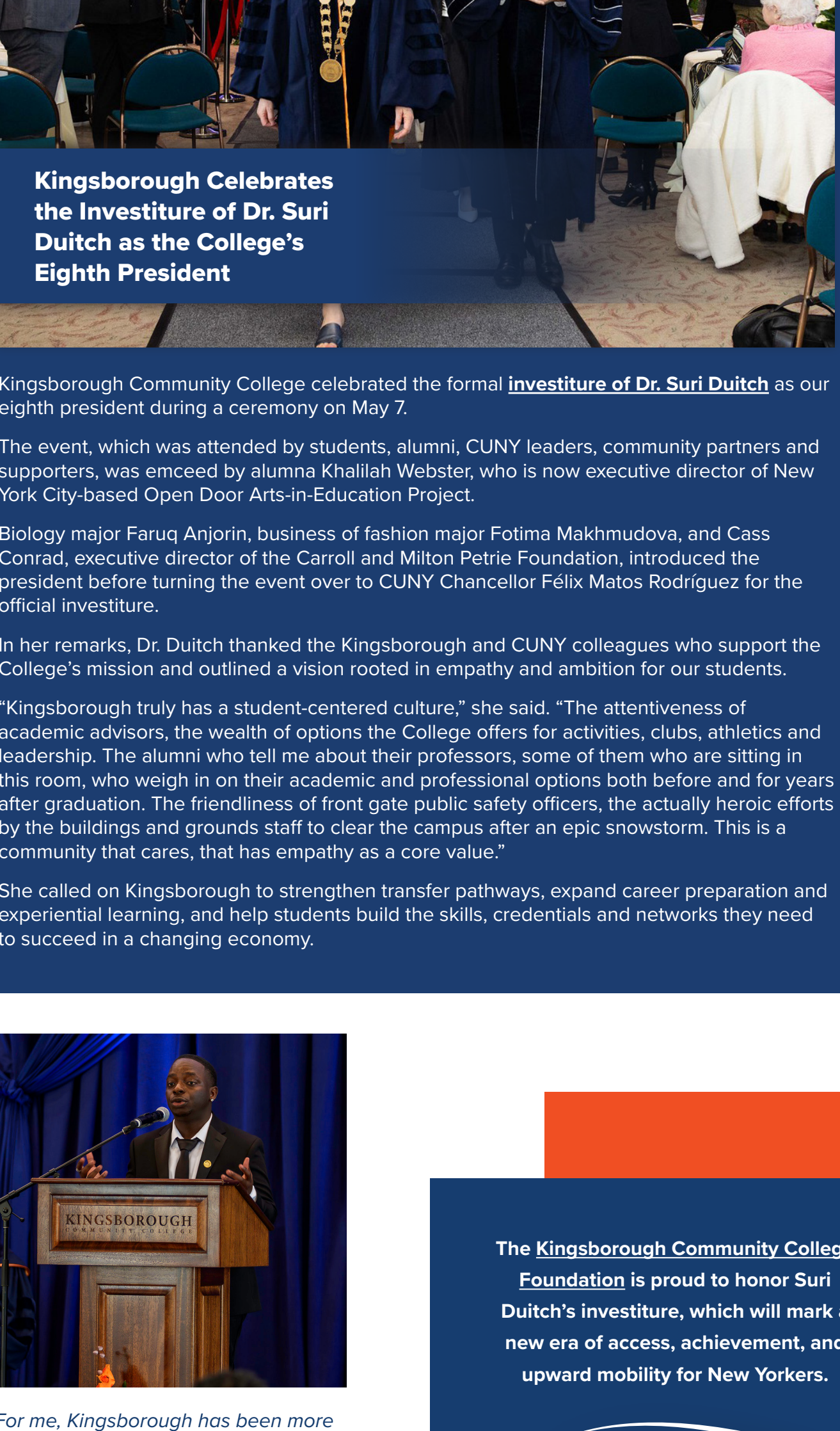




Kingsborough Celebrates the Investiture of Dr. Suri Dutch as the College's Eighth President

Kingsborough Community College celebrated the formal **investiture** of **Dr. Suri Dutch** as our eighth president during a ceremony on May 7.

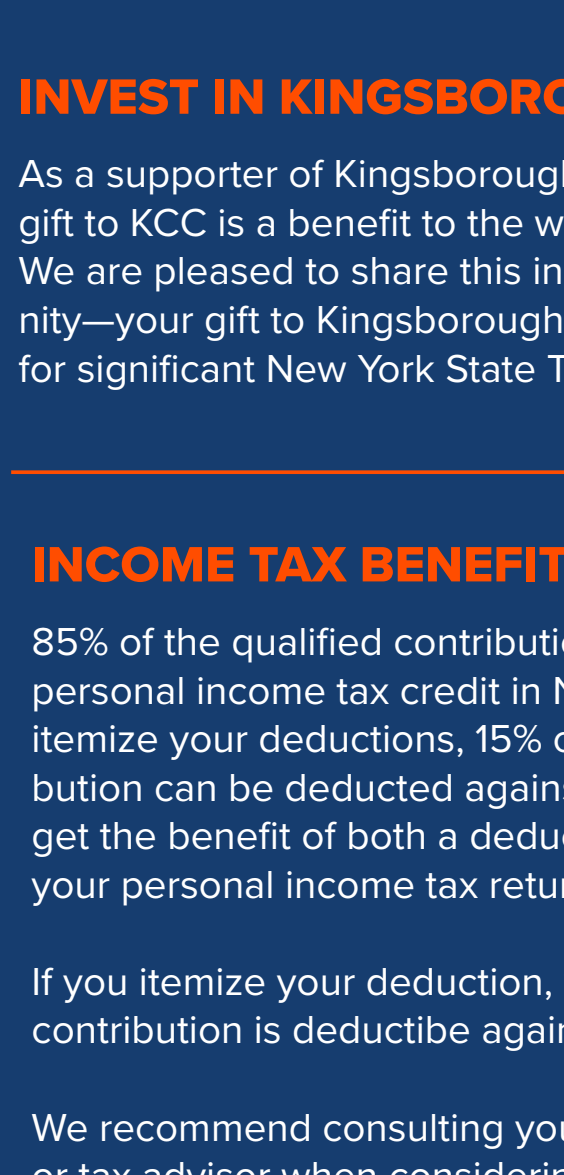
The event, which was attended by students, alumni, CUNY leaders, community partners and supporters, was emceed by alumna Khaliah Webster, who is now executive director of New York City-based Open Door Arts-in-Education Project.

Biology major Faruq Anjorin, business of fashion major Fotima Makhmudova, and Cass Conrad, executive director of the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, introduced the president before turning the event over to CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez for the official investiture.

In her remarks, Dr. Dutch thanked the Kingsborough and CUNY colleagues who support the College's mission and outlined a vision rooted in empathy and ambition for our students.

"Kingsborough truly has a student-centered culture," she said. "The attentiveness of academic advisors, the wealth of options the College offers for activities, clubs, athletics and leadership. The alumni who tell me about their professors, some of them who are sitting in this room, who weigh in on their academic and professional options both before and for years after graduation. The friendliness of front gate public safety officers, the actually heroic efforts by the buildings and grounds staff to clear the campus after an epic snowstorm. This is a community that cares, that has empathy as a core value."

She called on Kingsborough to strengthen transfer pathways, expand career preparation and experiential learning, and help students build the skills, credentials and networks they need to succeed in a changing economy.



– Faruq Anjorin '26, Biology



– Fotima Makhmudova '26, Business of Fashion

The Kingsborough Community College Foundation is proud to honor Suri Dutch's investiture, which will mark a new era of access, achievement, and upward mobility for New Yorkers.

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
2025 - 2030
ADVANCE THE DREAM

Please consider a gift today to make President Dutch's vision for Kingsborough a reality, and to benefit outstanding students like Faruq and Fotima.

NEW YORK STATE CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

INVEST IN KINGSBOROUGH

As a supporter of Kingsborough, you know that a gift to KCC is a benefit to the whole community. We are pleased to share this incredible opportunity—your gift to Kingsborough may qualify you for significant New York State Tax savings!

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
2025 - 2030
ADVANCE THE DREAM

INCOME TAX BENEFITS

85% of the qualified contribution can be claimed as a personal income tax credit in NYS income tax. If you itemize your deductions, 15% of the qualified contribution can be deducted against NYS income tax. You get the benefit of both a deduction and credit on your personal income tax return!

If you itemize your deduction, 15% of the qualified contribution is deductible against federal income tax.

We recommend consulting your personal accountant or tax advisor when considering this opportunity.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Individuals Only. Family foundations, donor-advised funds, etc. do not qualify for this program.

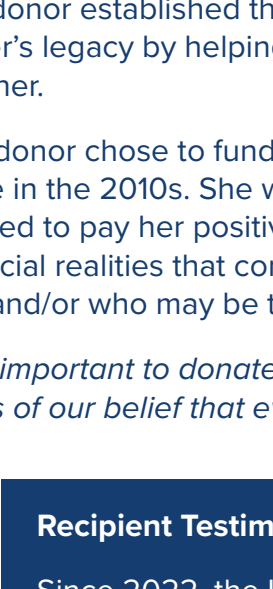
You must have tax liability in the state of New York to participate.

WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

You can direct your gift to either the KCC Foundation's General Unrestricted Fund, or to a particular KCC Departmental/Program Fund.

Donations to fund scholarships or provide direct tuition assistance to students **DO NOT** qualify for this tax credit program.

FUND



DONATION EXAMPLE

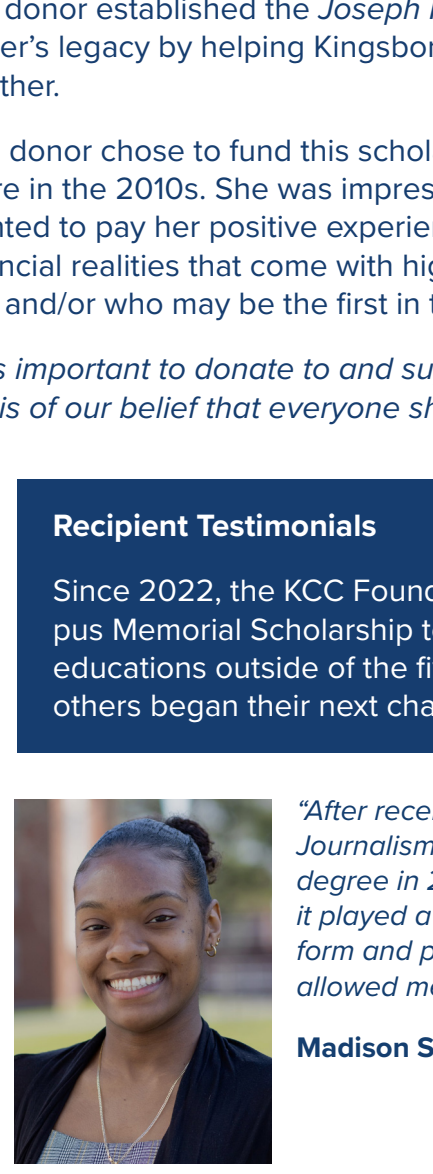
If you give \$10,000, you may receive an \$8,500 credit on your New York State taxes, and a \$1,500 deduction on your federal and New York State tax returns.

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 DEADLINE, CONTACT:

Dan La Noue, Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
Daniel.lanoue@kbcc.cuny.edu **718-368-6540**

(Note: If the program's \$10 million contribution cap is not met by 9/30, applications may continue to be submitted and processed until November 15 on a first come, first serve basis.)

MEET THE VALEDICTORIAN URWA FARAZ MALIK '26



Earlier this spring, Urwa Faraz Malik '26 was named Valedictorian for Kingsborough Community College's Class of 2026. She has also been named one of only 60 students nationwide to receive the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is one of the nation's most competitive scholarships for community college students. This year's 60 recipients were selected from more than 1,300 applicants and 485 semifinalists. The scholarship can provide up to \$55,000 a year to help students complete their bachelor's degrees at a four-year college or university.

Why did you choose Kingsborough?

"When I first moved to the United States from Pakistan, I did not have many options when it came to enrolling at colleges. As a recent immigrant, I also did not feel ready, personally or financially, to take on a four-year degree right away."

What inspired you to become an Engineering Sciences major?

"I grew up near an airport, and I would always marvel at how such a heavy metal structure could float in the air. This planted a dream to become a pilot, though I later gravitated to engineering. But in Pakistan, becoming an engineer is challenging for women."

What is your dream career?

"To work at NASA as a mechanical engineer."

Who are some of your most inspiring and influential KCC mentors?

"Professor John Mikalopas (Physical Sciences). Earlier on at KCC, I was unsure whether I should pursue civil or mechanical engineering. He guided me towards the latter, because he saw that I had strong writing as well as quantitative skills. Paula Risolo, my advisor and work-study supervisor, helped me every step of the way—whether it was applying for valedictorian, Cornell REU in astrophysics and planetary science, and many other projects and opportunities. Professor Midori Yamamura (Art) helped me organize the Earth Day 2025 symposium, and also encouraged me to take on leadership roles, which I never imagined for myself."

What leadership roles did you take on at Kingsborough?

"At Kingsborough Community College, I led the PTK Campus Wi-Fi Initiative and served as the student organizer for the Earth Day 2025 Symposium. As a Student Ambassador, I helped campus events run smoothly, and I hosted the Dean's List Fall 2025 ceremony. I also conducted CCSR research on the impact of AI on human spatial memory."

What are your plans after graduation?

"To continue my studies in mechanical engineering at Cornell University!"

What does being named class valedictorian mean to you?

"It is an honor I could have never imagined receiving just a few years ago. I am so grateful for the faculty at Kingsborough for seeing this level of potential in me."

How did your family react to the news?

"My siblings are proud of me, though, they also keep me grounded. My mom is incredibly happy—she sees herself in me and wants me to achieve every opportunity she never had. Watching me reach these milestones means as much to her as it does to me."

As you get ready for your next chapter, what message do you have for current and future Kingsborough students?

"Everyone always says 'never give up,' and 'believe in yourself,' and both are true. But that's not always easy, especially if you are coming into college with a lot of uncertainty or self-doubt. So, my advice would be to always ask for help and don't feel shy about seeking guidance. That's just as important as working hard or being motivated."

If you could speak directly to our donors, what would you say? Why, based on your own experiences, is it important for them to continue supporting the KCC Foundation and students like yourself?

"I am so grateful for the faculty who have helped me, but I also know that academic support is not always enough, especially if students are struggling to afford school. This is one way that donations make a life-changing difference. I would also let donors know just how many 'stars' there are in our student body. Supporting Kingsborough through scholarships is how you can see them shine."

Award Spotlight: The Joseph Hinkley Commuter to Campus Memorial Scholarship



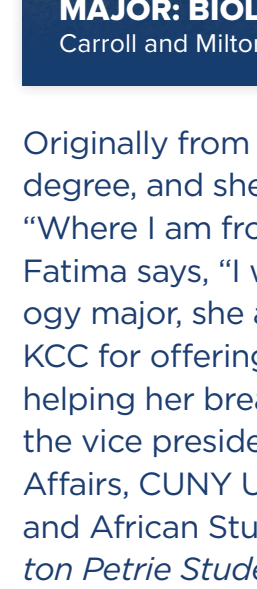
In 2022, a donor had a novel idea for a scholarship: to support community college graduates who intend to study at 4-year colleges outside of New York City. The donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) was inspired by her father's journey in higher education: "Due to life circumstances, he was only able to attend college two years at a time. He earned two associate degrees, one from SUNY (Farmingdale) and another from CUNY (Baruch), over the course of several years." Alongside her husband, this donor established the **Kingsborough Commuter to Campus Memorial Scholarship** to honor her father's legacy by helping Kingsborough students seamlessly transition from one academic chapter to another.

The donor chose to fund this scholarship at Kingsborough after taking continuing education courses there in the 2010s. She was impressed by the quality of the instruction and community-building, and wanted to pay her positive experience forward. The donor was also appreciative of the often-harsh financial realities that come with higher education, particularly for students from underserved communities and/or who may be the first in their families to pursue a college diploma:

"It is important to donate to and support affordable public education institutions, because they are the basis of our belief that everyone should have access to quality higher education."

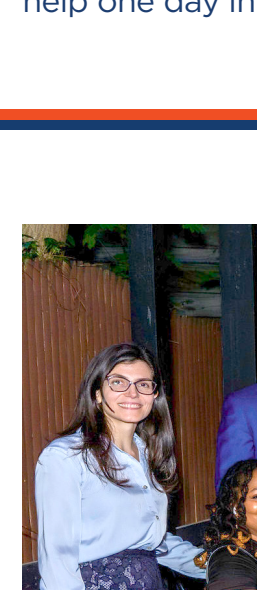
Recipient Testimonials

Since 2022, the KCC Foundation has awarded the Joseph Hinkley Commuter to Campus Memorial Scholarship to nine outstanding students who sought to continue their educations outside of the five boroughs. Some traveled to SUNY colleges upstate, while others began their next chapters across the country. Here are some of their reflections:



"After receiving the **Joseph Hinkley Scholarship** in 2022, I went on to study **Journalism at SUNY New Paltz** and have since graduated with my bachelor's degree in 2024. Not only did this scholarship set me up to start my education, it played a part in helping me pursue my dreams to use my words to inspire, inform and provide a voice for those that need their stories told. This scholarship allowed me to pursue my passion and for that I would always be grateful."

Madison Shann '22



"I graduated cum laude from **Georgia Southern University** with a B.S. in Computer Science a semester ago. Despite attending university out of state, the Joseph Hinkley scholarship helped me significantly to keep my finances under control, and attending Georgia Southern with the great brought about many improvements in my life and introduced me to many great people. I am currently awaiting my hiring package from a government organization, and I'm excited to see what the future has in store. Thank you very much to the people involved with this scholarship!"

David Stepanov '23



"I am currently a first-year PhD student studying Nuclear Forensics at the University of Notre Dame. Prior to this, I completed my B.S. in Climate Science at UCLA. My long-term goal is to continue advancing national-security-related geochronological research and eventually become a scientist serving in a national laboratory. Receiving the Hinkley Scholarship during my final semester at Kingsborough was a pivotal part of my transition to a four-year university. It eased the financial pressure my family and I were facing and allowed me to fully focus on transferring to UCLA, an opportunity that shaped the rest of my academic and professional path. I remain deeply grateful for that support."

Jiahua Wu '22

What Will Your KCC Legacy Be?

To learn more about how to establish your very own named scholarship fund, contact:

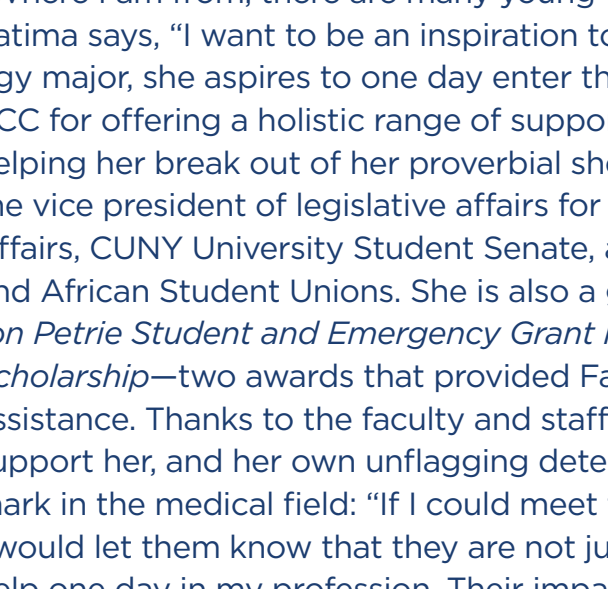
Daniel La Noue — KCC's Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving at (718) 368-6540 or Daniel.Lanoue@kbcc.cuny.edu

Grant Spotlight: STOP&SHOP



Since 2014, Stop & Shop has helped hundreds of KCC students combat food insecurity—a crisis that has only intensified in recent years due to factors like inflation and cost of living challenges—through supermarket gift cards and contributions to the college's Food Pantry. Earlier this spring, Stop & Shop met with Nancy Lee Sánchez-Badillo, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, and other KCC Advancement colleagues to discuss additional ways to strengthen this vital partnership.

"It's been a pleasure working with Stop & Shop over the past twelve years," says Mabel Chee, KCC's Director of Grants. "Their support has helped make a real difference for our students and we're excited to keep working together."



Christina McGough & Christine Sinclair, Stop & Shop

Stop & Shop's Mission

"Feeding people is part of our DNA and it's what drives our commitment to addressing the primary causes of hunger and food insecurity in every community we serve. Through partnerships with regional food banks, local hunger-relief agencies and schools and supplier partners, we are building sustainable solutions to provide greater access to healthy foods for our neighbors in need."

The Stop & Shop School Food Pantry Program is one example of how we're fighting hunger in our communities. Through this program, we work directly with schools to establish and support food pantries to ensure that kids don't have to go to school hungry and to help them perform their best.

We are proud to partner with nearly 300 schools and to serve over 45,000 students and their families each month."



Mabel Chee & Raymond Fong, Institutional Advancement

May 8, 2026:

Kingsborough was proud to participate in Stop & Shop's Nutrition Partners Health & Wellness In-Store Event. While Stop & Shop is known for helping address food insecurity among our students, its commitment to community well-being extends beyond food assistance. Through educational programs and wellness initiatives, Stop & Shop continues to provide valuable resources for the greater Brooklyn community that Kingsborough serves.

Alumni Spotlight: Thomas Toriello '75

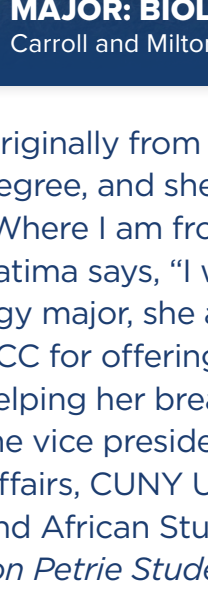


Tom Toriello lived his time at Kingsborough Community College with no shortage of doubts. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he had graduated from Bishop Ford High School with mediocre grades and subpar SAT scores. "My reason for attending Kingsborough was simple," Tom states bluntly. "I wasn't a great student, and I couldn't get in anywhere else." Yet while he may have entered Kingsborough under bleak circumstances, he would later graduate from KCC with a newfound sense of purpose.

Tom thrived in Kingsborough's music program, thanks to outstanding professors who were established in their fields and a dynamic peer group. "Kingsborough opened its arms to students from all walks of life," he recalls fondly. "Students from low-income communities, immigrant communities. Everyone had a chance to grow and learn." After graduating in 1975, Thomas was determined to pursue a music career. He attended New York University, entering as a junior thanks to his work at KCC, which saved him quite a bit in tuition. He earned a BA in Music Education and an MA in Jazz piano performance.

Music and education would serve as the touchstones of his career. He was active in the NYC music scene, playing club dates, cabaret, and many Broadway shows. As well, he started as a teacher in the music department of Edward R. Murrow HS. He was National Board Certified as a music teacher and eventually became an assistant principal of music at Murrow. All this, and he continued as a sub musician on Broadway. In 2019, he retired from the DOE and Broadway to begin a new chapter as an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College. It was around this time that his life once again intersected with Kingsborough: "My son, who had learning differences, was not happy at another college. I recommended he consider KCC, he ended up transferring there, and he had a much better experience!" Thanks to Kingsborough's welcoming environment and holistic support systems, Tom's son was able to earn his Associate's degree and now attends City College as an Art History major.

Thomas is deeply grateful for the role Kingsborough played not only in his own journey, but in the lives of countless others in Brooklyn and beyond. He encourages everyone who graduates from his alma mater to appreciate their KCC diploma as the opportunity it is; a great way to start an academic career.



We invite you to nominate, or self-nominate, a distinguished Kingsborough alum to be featured in our upcoming **Race to 100** campaign celebrating the impact, achievements, and leadership of our graduates.

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 2025 - 2030 ADVANCE THE DREAM

The Annual Fund Campaign focuses on building awareness and support for the six strategic initiatives that are guiding our vision and impact across campus and throughout Brooklyn.

Each of these initiatives represents more than just a goal on paper — they represent the lives of students who dream of earning a degree, building a career, and giving back to their families and communities.

Your gift to the Annual Fund Campaign directly impacts these initiatives in countless ways. Together, we can make sure that Kingsborough continues to be a place where dreams take root and futures are built.

Give today and join us in our mission to **ADVANCE THE DREAM**. We are grateful for your support.



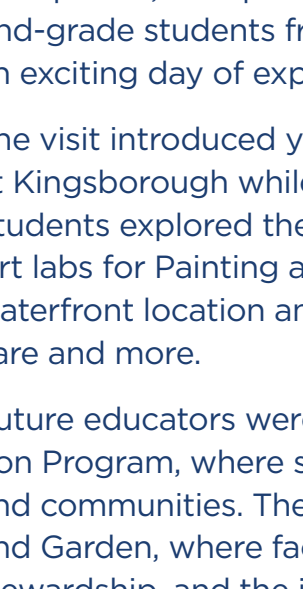
OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE



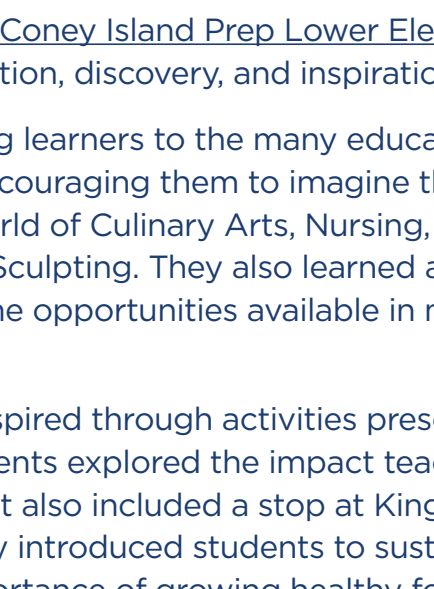
WORKFORCE OUTCOMES



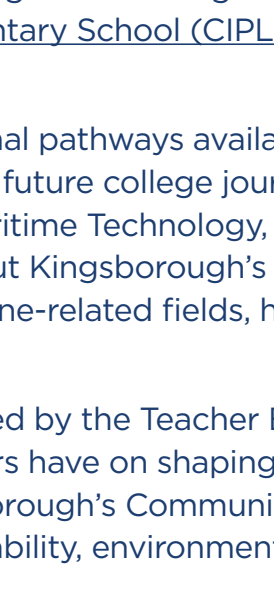
QUALITY PROGRAMS



RETENTION & GRADUATION



TRANSFER TO BACHELORS



EQUITY & ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

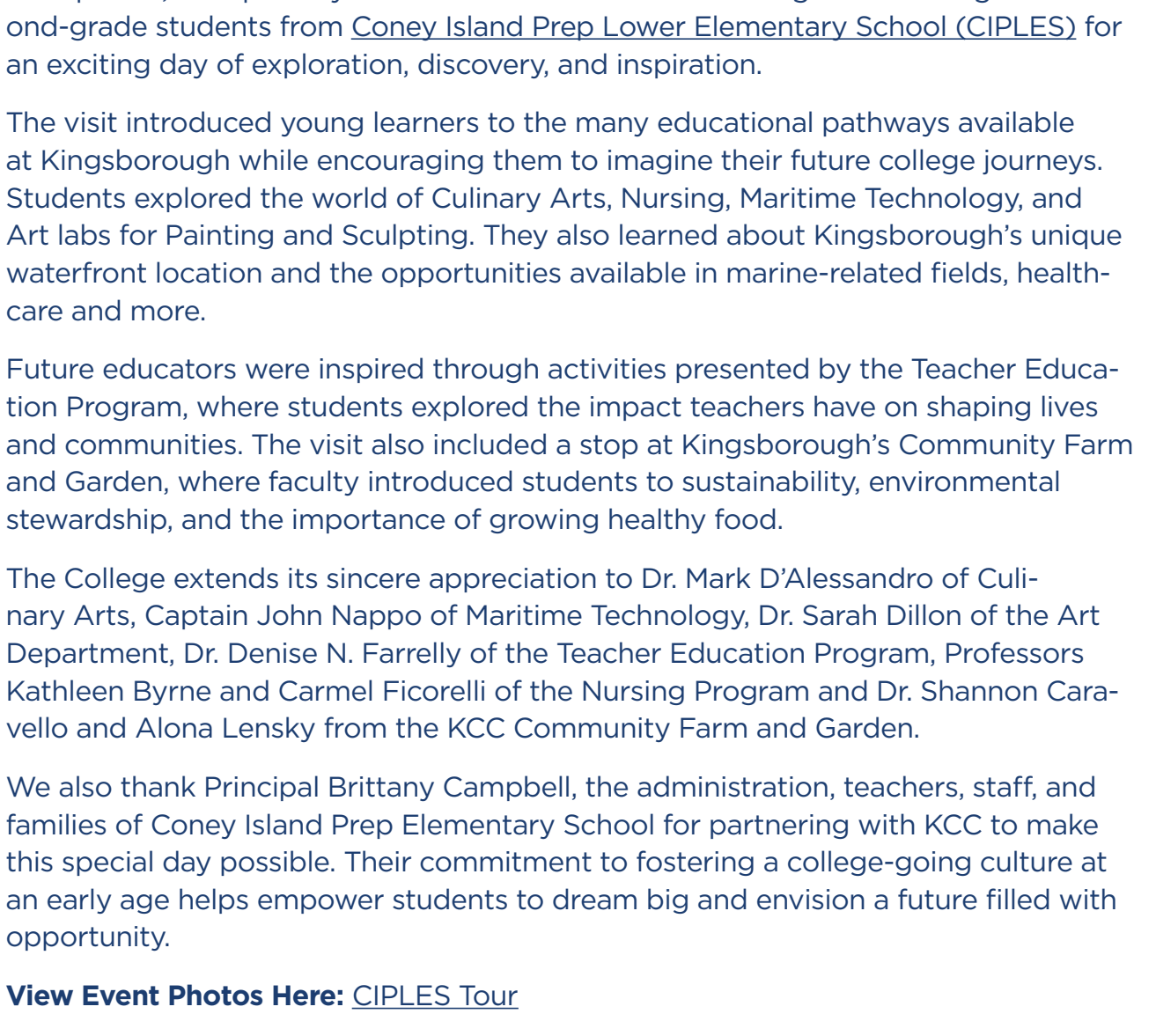
SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN! DONATE NOW

Graduate Spotlight: Fatima Zahara-Kamil '26



MAJOR: BIOLOGY
Carroll and Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund; Southpole Foundation Scholarship

Originally from Ghana, Fatima is the first member of her family to pursue a college degree, and she is proud to have done so at Kingsborough Community College. "Where I am from, there are many young women who do not consider college," Fatima says, "I want to be an inspiration to them: *'if Fatima did it, I can too!'*" A Biology major, she aspires to one day enter the field of pediatric science. Fatima credits KCC for offering a holistic range of support services and resources, and also for helping her break out of her proverbial shell; the self-described "introvert" served as the vice president of legislative affairs for SGA, a Vice Chair for International Student Affairs, CUNY University Student Senate, and a member of both the International and African Student Unions. She is also a grateful recipient of the *Carroll and Milton Petrie Student and Emergency Grant Fund* and the *Southpole Foundation Scholarship*—two awards that provided Fatima timely and much-needed financial assistance. Thanks to the faculty and staff who champion her, the scholarships that support her, and her own unflinching determination, Fatima is poised to make her mark in the medical field: "If I could meet the donors who funded my scholarships, I would tell them that they are not just helping me, but also the people I will help one day in my profession. Their impact will extend across generations."



Kingsborough Alumni Mixer Brings Graduates Together

On April 17, KCC welcomed alumni for an evening of networking, reconnecting, and celebrating the strength of the Kingsborough community at the **Gentlemen's Factory**. The event brought together graduates from across generations and industries, providing an opportunity to build new connections, share career experiences, and strengthen ties with fellow alumni. Guests enjoyed meaningful conversations, exceptional hospitality, and an atmosphere that reflected the pride and lasting impact of a Kingsborough education.

The Alumni Association extends its gratitude to **Jeff Lindor '07**, KCC Foundation Board Trustee and founder of the Gentlemen's Factory, for graciously hosting the event at his space, and to alumna **Chef Shelly Flash** for providing an incredible culinary experience that made the evening truly memorable.

View Event Photos Here: Alumni Mixer
Photo Credit: Chavindu Samareera '26



Future Leaders Explore Kingsborough Community College

On April 30, KCC proudly welcomed more than 240 kindergartens through second-grade students from **Coney Island Prep Lower Elementary School (CIPLES)** for an exciting day of exploration, discovery, and inspiration.

The visit introduced young learners to the many educational pathways available at Kingsborough while encouraging them to imagine their future college journeys. Students explored the world of Culinary Arts, Nursing, Maritime Technology, and Art labs for Painting and Sculpting. They also learned about Kingsborough's unique waterfront location and the opportunities available in marine-related fields, healthcare and more.

Future educators were inspired through activities presented by the Teacher Education Program, where students explored the impact teachers have on shaping lives and communities. The visit also included a stop at Kingsborough's Community Farm and Garden, where faculty introduced students to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and the importance of growing healthy food.

The College extends its sincere appreciation to Dr. Mark D'Alessandro of Culinary Arts, Captain John Nappo of Maritime Technology, Dr. Sarah Dillon of the Art Department, Dr. Denise N. Farrelly of the Teacher Education Program, Professors Kathleen Byrne and Carmel Ficorelli of the Nursing Program and Dr. Shannon Caravella and Alona Lensky from the KCC Community Farm and Garden.

We also thank Principal Brittany Campbell, the administration, teachers, staff, and families of Coney Island Prep Elementary School for partnering with KCC to make this special day possible. Their commitment to fostering a college-going culture at an early age helps empower students to dream big and envision a future filled with opportunity.

View Event Photos Here: CIPLES Tour
Photo Credit: Chavindu Samareera '26

Kingsborough CUNY Psychology Alumni Panel: Real Stories. Real Paths. Real Advice.

On May 11, Kingsborough Community College students got an inside look at what a psychology career looks like beyond the classroom. Facilitated by Lecturer of Psychology, Joanna Agnello as part of the CUNY Career Success Fellows program and co-sponsored by Kingsborough Continuing Education, this alumni panel brought together four psychology CUNY alumni professionals with diverse backgrounds and career paths.

Panelists included CUNY alumni Durga Shivmangal, Behavior Technician and Master of Arts student at Hunter College; Dr. Joseph Verdino, Counseling Psychologist and Assistant Professor of Psychology at KBCC; Aba Afenli, Higher Education Advancement Professional at KBCC; and Sapana Aidasani, School Counselor and Hunter College graduate.

Students engaged in candid conversations covering everything from navigating graduate school and managing burnout, to funding your education, building cultural competency, and forging a career as a first-generation college student. Panelists shared the honest, unfiltered version of their journeys; the setbacks, the pivots, and the moments that kept them going.

This event is part of KCC's ongoing commitment to connecting students with the mentors, networks, and real-world insight they need to turn a passion for psychology into a meaningful career.

