

# Campus Update Workforce Development, Continuing Education & Strategic Partnerships

December 1, 2023

Dear Campus Community,

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

## Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning

The **Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning** celebrated **Career Development Month** with a variety of activities, including two workshops hosted by **CUNY Tech Prep** (Types of Technical Roles and Tech Resumes), information sessions with **White Glove Community Care** and **Shivoo**, and workshops on resume writing, public speaking, internships, and LinkedIn. The Center also partnered with **Transfer Manager, Juliana Dorcelus** to host the **Career Pathways Through Education** panel with guest speakers in the media field. Panelists included **Professors John Acosta and Frank Percaccio, Hannah Kliger (CBS News Reporter), Jim Rosario (KCC Alum & Film/TV Production Professional)**, and a **Hunter College admissions representative**.

**Sixteen (16) students** participated in **Junior Achievement's Teach for a Day** and worked with **4th-grade students to teach lessons on financial literacy** at a local elementary school. Students were able to network with their peers and improve their public speaking and communication skills as a part of this service project. This semester included volunteers from **National Grid** which had the most volunteers for an event post-COVID. Many thanks to **Frances Samuel, Service Learning Advisor**, for coordinating. Lastly, the Center hosted a very informative virtual career panel with **Bank of America**. Bank of America staff members shared their career paths and provided advice about how to get into the field and work at the organization. For updates regarding events and offerings, please visit **Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/kcccareer>**.

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

## Community Farm and Garden

The **farm renovations** are nearing completion. The children's and several accessible raised gardening beds will be installed over the winter. We are seeking volunteers to help fill the newly renovated beds with soil. **Volunteer days** will continue to run on Mondays 12:00-5:00pm, and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2:00-5:00pm until December 21<sup>st</sup>. The **new space** will be fully operational by **Spring 2024**.

The new **Hydroponics at KCC (H-KCC) Learning Lab** in T605 has its first full harvest! We are training and will begin with a pilot course in early spring. As time progresses, we will open

two more cohorts to the wider community (details to follow). For more information, email [CFG.KCC@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:CFG.KCC@kbcc.cuny.edu) or call (718) 368-6578.

We are **seeking student officers** for the "**Farm to Kitchen Club**". Currently, the club meets every Tuesday from 3:00-4:00pm and will be fully established in the spring. Students can contact [Emily.Agosti@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Emily.Agosti@kbcc.cuny.edu) for more information on joining the club. Please follow KCC\_CFG on Instagram for updates. Please contact [shannon.caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:shannon.caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu) for faculty questions/research/collaborations.

### **Program and Partnership Updates**

Recently, the **NYC Regional Adult Education Network (RAEN)** and **New York State Education Department (NYSED)** conducted a comprehensive audit of **KCC's Strides to Continuing Success ESL/Food Handlers Program**, reviewing program materials and visiting ESL and kitchen lab sessions. The Food Handlers program is a unique and highly-rated contextualized ESL training program, which provides intermediate-advanced level English Language Learners the opportunity to develop their English language proficiency while simultaneously learning kitchen skills and preparing for certification in two nationally recognized food services industry credentials. Graduates of the 14-week program may apply a transfer of up to seven (7) credits upon matriculating to KCC's A.A.S. Culinary Arts or A.A.S. Tourism and Hospitality programs. The state auditors were impressed by the students' enthusiasm and engagement and were very complimentary about the lunch that the students prepared for them to enjoy. They were also impressed by the alignment to required standards and requirements...but returned for seconds of the pumpkin pie! An extremely successful audit.

For additional information about the Food Handlers Program and other program offerings, including ESL programs, HSE preparation, and the Venture V for SNAP Participants program, please call (718) 368-4870 to speak with staff in the **ESL/HSE/SNAP** Program Office.

The **Meta Spark UX Upskilling - Augmented Reality (AR) Training Program** launched on November 11th with 25 students who will expand their knowledge base by learning skills to advance their careers. Graduates will gain a technical understanding of how computer graphics function by learning how to construct an AR environment and build end-to-end AR solutions for client organizations. The program will end in a culminating one-day event where students will participate in a hackathon/closing event that will be judged by industry experts.

### **Professional Development/Networking**

**Becky Firesheets** and **Jessie Cinelli** presented "**In the Weeds: The High and Lows of Cannabis Workforce Development**", and **Alissa Levine** and **Jessie Cinelli** presented "**Wellness in the Workforce: Taking Care of Yourself, Your Team and Your Students**" at the **Continuing Education Association of New York** annual conference in Monticello, NY. The conference theme was "Meeting the Challenge" and was attended by over 130 SUNY and CUNY Continuing Educators throughout New York State.

**Alissa Levine**, won the **Outstanding Experience Continuing Education Professional** at the **CEANY Continuing Education Association of New York** conference held on November 9th in Monticello, NY. This award is a testament to the remarkable leadership and outstanding

personal and professional achievements Alissa has had in the field of continuing education and workforce development.

**Winter 2024 Catalog & College for Kids**

**The Winter 2024 catalog** is now available;

see the **catalog here**: [https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/ce/documents/WinterCatalog2024\\_Updated.pdf](https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/ce/documents/WinterCatalog2024_Updated.pdf).

The fall **College for Kids (CF)** program ended with our young students, age 6 to 13, for 7 consecutive Saturdays. They were enrolled in exciting courses ranging from graphic design, forensics, art, basketball, and soccer. Our **Winter 2024 CFK** program returns on Saturdays, including a special during President's Week. Click here to see the course lineup and to register: **College For Kids**. Right now, when you sign your child up for Saturday and President's Week, you can save \$60! **Reminder- all KCC staff and faculty save even more - no \$25 registration fee!** 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.

Thank you.

Dr. Simone Rodriguez  
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**Interested in learning more about the division? [Click here!](#)**