



“Education is Paramount”: Mary Lazoryk and the Power of Planned Giving



Ms. Mary Lazoryk

Last Fall, Mary Lazoryk’66 honored her alma mater, Kingsborough Community College, by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA). A form of planned giving, a CGA is a creative way for her to support Kingsborough’s continued growth and success, while also making a critical investment in her own financial well-being as a donor.

For Ms. Lazoryk, establishing a CGA was her way of paying tribute to a college that played a key role at a critical time in her life. “Kingsborough was my saving grace,” says Ms. Lazoryk, who recalls how a simple clerical error had nearly derailed her college plans entirely. “I had initially applied to City College, but my application got lost in the mail. It was a full-on crisis, and my parents, neither of whom had ever had the opportunity to go to college, were up in arms.”

Fortunately, a brand new community college had just opened its doors in Manhattan Beach. “I was living in East New York, so at first I wasn’t thrilled about the long commute to KCC. But once I started taking my courses and making friends, I realized that the long trips back and forth were more than worth it.” In 1966, she earned her

Associates degree and left KCC not only with the tools she would need for a career, but also with valuable friendships that endure to this day.

Looking back on her education and career, Ms. Lazoryk certainly has much to be proud of. Not only did she fulfill her parents' dream of becoming the first person in her family to attend college, but she is also ensuring that tomorrow's students will enjoy similar success through her recent CGA. "Education is paramount," she says. "Beyond helping you secure a good job, education broadens your view and appreciation of the world. My immigrant parents worked hard to making a living and support me, but because they never went to college, they never enjoyed things like going to a museum, reading literature, appreciating art, etc."

Ms. Lazoryk hopes that today's KCC students will embark on a similar path: "Never stop learning, and never sell yourself short academically or professionally. If you can obtain a good job, you can expose your children to a world of opportunities."

Here's How *You* Can Follow in Mary's Footsteps...

If you would like to learn more about starting your very own Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), or are curious to learn more about Planned Giving in general, contact Dr. Elizabeth Basile, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at 718.368.6540 or Elizabeth.Basile@kbcc.cuny.edu.

Every month, the Kaleidoscope presents a different facet of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you can also share your story!](#)*

Help our students overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams! *Support Kingsborough today:* <http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/sub-administration/collAdvancement/Pages/WaystoSupportKCC.aspx>.

