



Brick by Brick – Two Teachers Give Back to their Alma Mater



Evelyn Epps, Class of '86



Robert Newmark, Class of '66 with his wife, Kris

If a college's success can be measured by the gratitude of its alumni, then Kingsborough Community College (KCC) has much to be proud of. Below are the stories of just two of the many KCC alumni who have chosen to honor KCC through commemorative landmarks on campus:

As a member of KCC's first-ever graduating class (1966), Robert Newmark was among the very first students to appreciate the value of a KCC education. From the start, Robert immersed himself in KCC's campus life; as a student social director, he helped to organize various events and concerts at the college. Since KCC, Robert has paid his educational experience forward as a New York City schoolteacher. "At first, I was just delighted to attend college at all," he says. "But KCC gave me so much more than that. I hope today's students feel that same excitement that I did, and that they become as connected as they can with their professors and classmates."

Twenty years later, Evelyn Epps (Class of 1986) graduated from KCC after enjoying a similarly transformational experience. When she first enrolled at KCC, Evelyn was a mother of two and worried that a college degree

was simply out of her reach. Fortunately, her KCC experience proved to be a liberating breakthrough, as she became involved in the philosophy club and the student anti-Apartheid movement. Today, Evelyn continues to apply the skills and wisdom she learned at KCC as a middle school English teacher. “I came into KCC at what I thought was a low-point in my life,” she says. “But thanks to KCC’s welcoming atmosphere, I felt empowered and in control of my own destiny. I have been writing my own life’s script ever since.”

In addition to being KCC alumni and career teachers, Robert and Evelyn have something else in common: both have generously donated to their shared alma mater. They have purchased commemorative bricks along the Kingsborough Way on campus, ensuring that their KCC legacies will forever endure. In addition, the proceeds of their gifts will go directly towards supporting the Kingsborough Community College Foundation.

When asked why she chose to give back to KCC, Evelyn was emphatic: “I know there are students at KCC who are going through the same sorts of struggles and doubts that I once did. I want them to overcome their adversities so that they can enjoy the same sort of life-changing experience that I enjoyed.” Robert meanwhile had this to say: “Back when I went to KCC, attending college was free. Today, college is obviously far less affordable, so I want to make sure that today’s students have all the help and support they can get.”

Make Your Own Memorial Gift

Just as Robert and Evelyn made *their* mark, you too can celebrate a friend, a loved one or even yourself through a commemorative landmark on the KCC campus. Engraved bricks, bench and tree plaques are available to recognize KCC graduates, faculty, staff, students, family and friends, as well as business and corporate supporters.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

For more information, please contact Dr. Elizabeth Basile, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at 718.368.4539 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!](#)*

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