



Model Behavior – The Many Roles of Dr. Susan Farrell



Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Susan Farrell has invested her time, energy, and faith in the students who walk through her door. As a professor of Behavioral Sciences, she has helped countless Kingsborough students unpack and make sense of the concepts they learn in her classroom. As chair of her department, she has helped to ensure that her fellow faculty and staff continue to run their programs productively and effectively. And beyond the classroom, Dr. Farrell goes the extra mile every year by donating to scholarships for students in need: “KCC has always been a philanthropic priority for me, because many students here endure tremendous financial hardship just to show up to class everyday.”

A product of CUNY herself, Dr. Farrell has firsthand knowledge of the kind of challenges Kingsborough’s students face today: “I can personally relate to what they’re going through. I come from a working-class background, and was the first person in my family to graduate college.” For Dr. Farrell, paying for textbooks and other expenses was a constant struggle, and she had to take on a part-time job at a department store during her time at Queens College to make ends meet. Today, she looks back on her educational experience with equal parts pride and gratitude: “It is no exaggeration to say that I am who I am today because of CUNY, and I feel that the best thing I can do now is ‘pay it forward’ to future generations of students.”

Her empathy for students informs every aspect of her Kingsborough career. As a professor, she sees herself not merely as a subject-matter expert, but a mentor with an open door: “Throughout the year, students come to me with all sorts of problems, and I feel it’s part of my job to be there and listen to them.” As a department chair, she helps to ensure that students have as few hurdles to overcome as possible in their studies: “Since textbooks can be a huge drain on students’ finances, I make sure that we are using only the most affordable and easy-to-find books on the market.”

And as a scholarship donor, she hopes to afford Kingsborough students the same levels of opportunity and empowerment that she herself enjoyed: “Tuition was free when I attended college, so a major reason I donate is because I was a beneficiary of the free university system that no longer exists today. One top of that, the recession is still affecting students; many are still recovering from Hurricane Sandy, and many have families to support. That is why a scholarship can be so impactful—not just as a check in the mail, but as a way of saying ‘we know what you’re going through, and we’re here to help.’”

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 us build the next 50 years! Support Kingsborough today: <http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/sub-administration/collAdvancement/Pages/WaystoSupportKCC.aspx>.

