

SA February Communication

Dear Colleagues,

Please note the following updates in the Division of Student Affairs.

Personnel:

- Dasha Gorinshteyn resigned from Kingsborough on Monday, January 11. Dasha has done amazing work for over a decade as our Director of Counseling. Her professionalism, her passion to her profession, her expertise and her dedication to our students and her staff have been at the top-echelon! Not only is she an expert but she is an innovator! She encouraged and fostered a culture of mindfulness and resiliency to help our students achieve. Under her leadership the college has a very strong internship program. She always worked to create and maintain a safe environment by building long lasting connections with our academic departments as well as with the areas in Enrollment Management and Finance. Her clinical judgement is excellent and she provided crucial support to so many students in need. She served as a leader on our Assessment Care Team (ACT) always working to keep our students and our community safe. And she is a wonderful friend to so many of us.
- We have hired a new CUNY LEADS Plus advisor, Debra Haimer, who will begin on Tuesday, Feb 16th, 2021. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC), and in May 2021 will complete an Advanced Certificate in Mental Health Counseling.

Counseling:

We are rebranding our Counseling Services to be more holistic and inclusive, called **STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES**. This rebranding is supported by national best practices to destigmatize mental health and counseling services. STUDENT WELLNESS SERVICES will include Student Counseling, Health Services, Student Wellness Center, and the Women's Center. A comprehensive rebranding of our website and planned communication plan (in collaboration with the Office of Communications) will be rolled out at the end of the Winter Module.

The following updates are as of January 19th:

- **Student Engagement & Support** – 862 students have participated in workshops, mental health check-ins, student support sessions, targeted outreach initiatives and/or are currently part of counselor caseloads
- **Professional Development for Student Wellness Staff** – Counselors have completed and/or are enrolled in the following PESI, Inc. courses: Multicultural Awareness and Diversity, 2-Day Complex Trauma, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Trauma Informed Responses. (PESI, Inc. is a non-profit that has provided continuing education services for mental health, rehab, and healthcare professionals)
- **Technology** – Student Wellness has purchased KOGNITO for Students (KOGNITO At-Risk Mental Health for Students - An interactive learning experience for students that equips them with the skills to support their emotional health and that of their peers. The product introduces positive coping strategies, prepares students to recognize signs of distress, effectively communicate their concerns, and take action to find additional support).
 - KOGNITO At-Risk Mental Health for Students will be rolled out as a module for our upcoming Spring New Student Orientation reaching approximately 700 incoming freshman and transfer students

Student Life:

- February is Black History Month. Student Life and the Black History Month Committee have collaborated on a calendar of events. Please join them and encourage others to join the virtual programming. Follow Student Life on Instagram @KCCStudentLife and check out the website for the schedule: <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/studentlife/BHM.html>

Publications:

- Scepter finalized their Fall issue and it can be accessed here: https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/scepter/documents/Scepter_Dec2020_final_0111_interactive.pdf Stay tuned for their winter issue coming soon!

Access Resource Center:

- Access Resource Center and The New American Center have scheduled open zoom sessions for the entire KCC campus community. At the session information will be delivered, questions will be answered and appointments for resources can be made.

Military and Veteran Affairs:

- Spring & summer 2021 advisement & registration is in full swing for the active Military, Veteran & Veteran Dependent & Spouse population, as well as collection of documents for VA Education Benefit Certifications. They will be offering additional workshops to make sure students are comfortable accessing & using etools and conducting bi-monthly check in calls to make sure students feel supported and can ask any questions they have.

TRiO:

- TRiO Student Support Services Program is now offering KCC students technology tutorials for pedagogical, communication, and studentship systems and academic coaching to provide a starting point for assignment completion and exam preparation. E-mail or call the TRiO director, *Faith Fogelman*, x5280.

Child Development Center:

- The Center registered 2 additional children in our Pre-Kindergarten program for a total of 10 students.
- The Center submitted a grant to *No Kid Hungry* where we will partner with NYC Tech and Bronx Community College Child Care Centers to provide weekend backpacks (food for the weekend) to children over the next 9 months.

Thank you,

Peter M. Cohen
VP for Student Affairs