Welcome to the CD Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the College Discovery ED-Pass Newsletter. Everyone who has driven passed a toll station knows that if you don’t have an EZ-Pass, you’re going to have to wait. My thinking is that with a college education, smoother access to your next destination is made possible, hence the ED-Pass. Without one, you’ll just have to wait!

College Discovery is a Special Opportunity Program that was established over 40 years ago. It was thought that by providing three basic services, counseling, tutoring, and some additional monies, underrepresented students might stand a better chance at competing in higher education. Guess what...for more than a decade, CD students at BMCC have been outperforming regular students in retention, and graduation.

I’m sure that many of you have heard the reference that “No man is an island”—essentially this means that one person acting alone cannot produce the necessary elements to fortify a community. The success of the CD Program is attributed to the family of counselors, tutors, faculty, administrators, interns, and support staff who all share equally in helping students through the tolls in education—we have an ED-Pass for that. Although each member has a different set of responsibilities, the end goal for all is the same; helping students gain the proper tools, so that they can excel and transition into the next level. We just took a vote and heard your voice, the new theme for College Discovery is “Enter to Learn; Depart to Succeed.” I look forward to hearing your thoughts and learning more about the amazing students in our program. Please, drop by my office in S335B and tell me what you think, don’t forget to bring your ED-Pass!

Dr. Pedro Pérez, LMHC
Director,
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A: The support structure (the tutoring, the counselors) are really helpful. My counselor, Mr. Solomon, really made a difference. He helped advise me what to do next. I had a goal, I just didn’t know what to do next, and Mr. Solomon helped me make decisions on what steps to take next. The counselors are instrumental in that process.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a BMCC student?
A: The people, both the staff and the students are amazing. Here, there are so many people with success stories. They are incredibly interesting and smart, even at such young ages!

Q: Do you have any advice for future CD students?
A: Make sure to come in with an open mind and be willing to work. The more you put in, the more you get out; community college is what you make of it! This is the first step in the rest of what you have to do, so make sure you keep your eye on the prize.

Q: What are your plans after BMCC?
A: I would like to go into research. I am looking at engineering programs at NYU, Stanford, College Discovery family here. From the moment I say “hi” to the staff as I walk in, I feel like I am in my second home.

Q: What advice would you give to current and future students?
A: First, time management is the most important thing for any person entering college. Second, make sure to step outside your comfort zone to socialize and network. Get to know people in your classes! Last but not least, make sure to have an open mind because in college, you meet such a wide variety of people.

John Melo
College Discovery Scholar
John is a part of the new CD Scholars program. BMCC was one of three CUNY community colleges awarded a special grant to institute this program providing additional incentives to incoming CD students. Scholars were chosen because they were exempt in one to three of the basic skills areas.

Q: What were your feelings coming into community college?
A: I was excited to start! I feel like I am about to ignite the start of an uphill mountain that will be my life. The diversity of BMCC is my favorite part of being a student here. It feels like I am studying at the United Nations because there are so many people from different countries learning from each other and school. There is also a sea of opportunities here, just waiting for you to take them!

Q: How has College Discovery impacted your time at BMCC?
A: I have been tremendously impacted by the counselors and interns here; CD has already played an instrumental role in my life. It doesn't feel like a program, it feels more like a family. From the moment I say “hi” to the staff as I walk in, I feel like I am in my second home.

Q: What advice would you give to current and future students?
A: First, time management is the most important thing for any person entering college. Second, make sure to step outside your comfort zone to socialize and network. Get to know people in your classes! Last but not least, make sure to have an open mind because in college, you meet such a wide variety of people.

Join the College Discovery Club!

Every student that is part of College Discovery is automatically part of the College Discovery Club, called CDer’s Club! This exclusive club helps members explore their personal, social, and academic development through many activities and projects. Club members are active and engaged in the community by sponsoring cultural, educational, and outreach activities. Some events include benefit programs, cultural trips, and for those with outstanding achievement, award programs! CDer’s club is not only a great way to connect and network with other CD students, it also serves as a source of advice for becoming the best student you can be!

To join the CD Club, come to a club meeting every Wednesday, in room S-722 from 2 PM – 4 PM.
Counselor’s Corner: Meet the Interns

For the 2013-2014 Academic Year, you will see two new faces in our College Discovery family! Colette Gregory and Rachel Wahba, both currently enrolled in the graduate counseling program at Columbia University, will be interning at CD for the year.

Colette, a native of Gary, Indiana, is a graduate of Northwestern University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Religion, as well as a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. Rachel, hailing from Rochester, New York, earned her Bachelor of Science from SUNY Binghamton, where she majored in Human Development, concentrated in Psychology, and minored in Global Studies.

Both Rachel and Colette are very excited to join the CD family with a lot of energy and new ideas! They are especially excited to meet with students and work on CD programs. If there’s something you’d like to see at CD, come by and let them know! They will be in their office, S-335N, from Tuesdays to Fridays.

Colette Gregory
Favorite Quote: Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace.
- Dalai Lama

Rachel Wahba
Favorite Quote: Don’t gain the world and lose your soul, wisdom is better than silver or gold.
- Bob Marley

Chi Alpha Epsilon: The College Discovery National Honor Society

Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) is the National Honor Society for students enrolled in developmental support programs, such as College Discovery (CD) and SEEK, throughout many colleges and universities in the nation. BMCC’s Gamma Nu chapter was founded in the spring 2002.

Members of XAE engage in projects that enhance their personal and academic development, while also serving the community and the college. Members may also attend nationwide conferences with other chapters! Conferences in the past have taken place in Atlanta, GA, San Antonio, TX and Philadelphia, PA. To be eligible for XAE induction, you must be a CD student with a GPA of 3.0 or better for two consecutive, full-time semesters.

XAE meetings are held every Wednesday from 2 - 4 PM, in room N-580. It is GREAT to include on your resume or transfer application, to show your dedication to academic excellence, and for networking with other students and faculty members!

Interested in Joining Chi Alpha Epsilon?
Contact Mr. Nelson Izquierdo, the XAE Faculty Advisor, in room S-340G, by email at nizquierdo@bmcc.cuny.edu, or by telephone at 212-220-8001.
Online Resources

www.nycgo.com/free
This website has information on all kinds of FREE events in NYC! Some free events include sightseeing tours, museums, and TV show tapings!

www.nycservice.org
This website shows a list of organizations throughout all 5 boroughs that need volunteers. You can specify by what type of organization (ex: environmental) and location you are looking for!

www.careerzone.ny.gov
This website is helpful in discovering your interests, and how they translate into a career!

Call for Submissions: Attention Talented CD Students

Do you have an artistic talent you would like featured in the newsletter? We would like to show your work!

Items you can submit include:
• Drawings
• Lyrics
• Songs (mp3 format)
• Short Films (on YouTube)
• Poetry
• Short stories

Stop by the College Discovery Office and submit them to the front desk! Make sure to include your name, year at BMCC, and a brief description of your work.

Top Three Apps for Students

1. “myHomework Student Planner”: Easy way to track your due dates, classes, and more!
2. “Dictionary.com”: Ever need to look up a word and you don’t have your dictionary or computer near you? Then this is the app for you! Look up any word, find synonyms, and even learn the ‘new word of the day’ with this app!
3. “Evernote”: This app allows you to access your notes from any mobile device and the web! It also allows you to make digital flashcards, to make studying even easier!

Words of Reflection

“Don’t do something permanently stupid because you are temporarily upset.”

“It all starts with YOU! All of your goals, dreams, aspirations, etc. starts with you. Make the appropriate decisions that will turn your wish into a goal. Stop making excuses, don’t look for reasons why you can’t. Get up and do it!”

“People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.”