

Spring 2018

BHCC

Bunker Hill Community College Magazine

New Center Positions Equity at its Core

Center for Equity and Cultural
Wealth Serves as a Hub for
Research and Innovation

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

President Eddinger Interviews Chelsea
City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino





City of Chester
More Affordable Housing Development from Chester



THE INTERVIEW

BHCC President Pam Eddinger Interviews Chelsea City Manager Tom Ambrosino

CHELSEA, JANUARY 3, 2018

Part of an occasional series of conversations with local and national leaders about issues and trends in community college education

President Eddinger sits down with City Manager Thomas G. Ambrosino to discuss his vision for the City of Chelsea.

Closing in on his third year as city manager, Tom Ambrosino looks to build infrastructure and drive growth for the economy of one of the state's "Gateway Cities."

A long-time partner in the community, BHCC has offered courses in Chelsea for three decades. Having outgrown its former location in Chelsea's Bellingham Square, BHCC's Chelsea Campus relocated in 2017 to Everett Avenue, where it continues to support the city's development through career training and workforce development as well as an Early College program for Chelsea High School students.

President Pam Eddinger (PE): You've been the Chelsea city manager for three years now, but this is not your first post as a city leader.

City Manager Tom Ambrosino (TA): I was the mayor of Revere for 12 years, which is quite similar to the job of city manager. The difference is the politics—you don't have to get elected or raise money. You can just focus on the public policy part of the job.

PE: So, over the last three years in Chelsea, what's surprised you—good and bad?

TA: Initially, I was impressed with how well-run Chelsea was and by the level of professionalism of the staff and the people of City Hall. The financial security of the city was also a pleasant surprise. Its solid financial position allowed me to invest money in the city's residents and programming. I had the opportunity to do that because those who came before me had put the city on such good financial footing.

PE: Before your predecessor Secretary Jay Ash left office, he introduced me to Chelsea as one of our Gateway Cities. Chelsea has an influx of new residents and the city is on the cusp of growth. Have you seen things burgeoning over the last three years, and what are the challenges and opportunities that come with that development?

TA: Chelsea is an incredibly vibrant city and it is changing in a lot of ways. We have a strong immigrant population from Central America, which brings a lot of entrepreneurship.

We also have a number of young professionals who work in Greater Boston arriving in Chelsea because they're being priced out of neighborhoods in Boston, Cambridge and Somerville.

We've built a fair amount of housing in the city in the last few years, a lot of which is being occupied by these young professionals. This new dichotomy in the city definitely presents some challenges—poverty, housing insecurity,

► CONTINUES ON PAGE 8



New Center Positions Equity at its Core

Drawing on the College’s nationally recognized work to design culturally inclusive learning environments that value the strengths of diverse students and local communities, BHCC’s Center for Equity and Cultural Wealth builds upon the College’s innovative Africana, Asian American and Latinx Cultural Institutes. In its first year the Center will sponsor the Equity and Cultural Wealth Institute, a three-day conference examining the impact of power and privilege on access and equity in higher education through scholarship, field study and the arts.

▶ READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 10

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BHCC Magazine Online

Visit bhcc.edu/magazine for video highlights and a more in-depth look into our featured articles.



OER Initiative Delivers on Student Success

Open Education Resources Initiative improves college access and completion in first year

BHCC launched a number of textbook-free courses through the Open Educational Resources Initiative (OER) in 2017. The College is one of 38 community colleges across the country participating in the initiative, which is sponsored by Achieving the Dream (ATD). Open educational resources are educational resources such as textbooks, articles, videos and other course materials that reside in the public domain or are released under a copyright license for free use.

Last fall, President Eddinger shared the power of OER at Capitol Hill alongside ATD President and CEO Karen A. Stout and Odessa College President Gregory Williams, Ed.D. She described BHCC's unique approach to OER courses, which allows faculty to design courses that reflect the diverse cultural backgrounds of their students and include community-based learning.



BHCC President to Chair Achieving the Dream Board of Directors

Announcement made at DREAM 2018 conference

Achieving the Dream (ATD) announced BHCC President Pam Eddinger as the new Chair of its Board of Directors. The announcement was made at the DREAM 2018 conference in Nashville, TN, where members of BHCC's administration presented at various workshops on open educational resources, undocumented student support and student hunger and food insecurity.

A member of ATD since 2007, BHCC was designated as an ATD Leader College in 2011. In 2014, BHCC was co-winner of the organization's highest honor, the Leah Meyer Austin Award. The national reform network for student success in higher education ATD is comprised



of higher education institutions, coaches and advisors, state policy teams, investors and partners working together to provide more than 4 million community college students with better economic opportunity.



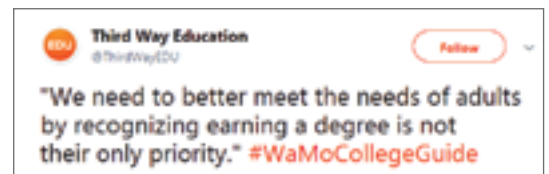
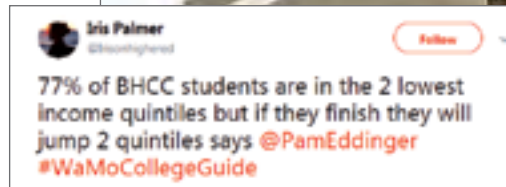
2017 Most Innovative Colleges for Adult Learners

Washington Monthly recognizes BHCC's holistic approach to serving the needs of its students

Washington Monthly ranked BHCC among the Top 50 nationally “Best Colleges for Adult Learners” in the publication’s 2017 College Guide. The guide also named BHCC as “One of the Twelve Most Innovative Colleges for Adult Learners” based on the College’s innovative approach to mitigating student hunger and homelessness and commitment to the Open Educational Resources Degree Initiative.

Adult Learners, students 25 years or older, constitute approximately 40% of college-goers.

Source: *Washington Monthly*



[Go to **bhcc.edu/magazine**](https://www.bhcc.edu/magazine) to watch the webcast “The Best [and Worst] Colleges for Adults.”

BHCC Ranks 12th in Boston Business Journal’s 2018 Book of Lists

Learn and Earn partners featured on industry-specific lists

For the seventh consecutive year, BHCC was named one of “The Largest Colleges & Universities in Massachusetts” by the *Boston Business Journal (BBJ)*. The list appeared within the publication’s 2018 Book of Lists, an annual data report highlighting the fast-growing and most dynamic companies and professionals in Greater Boston and across Massachusetts.

BHCC placed 12th on the *BBJ* list, ahead of such institutions as

Suffolk and Bentley Universities. BHCC is also the largest of the 15 community colleges in the Commonwealth.

The College’s Learn and Earn Internship Program partners were also well-represented across the book’s industry-specific lists. Seven of the program’s 18 corporate partners were placed on the book’s top 50 “Largest Employers in Massachusetts” list including Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, State Street and Liberty Mutual Investments.



Julie Burros, Chief of Arts and Culture, City of Boston; E. San San Wong, Director of Arts & Creativity, Barr Foundation; Deborah B. Goldberg, Treasurer, Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Eleanor and Frank Pao; Selina Chow, former Board President, BCNC; Pam Eddinger, President, BHCC; Cynthia Woo, Director, Pao Arts Center

Pao Arts Center in Chinatown Starts Off Strong

BHCC's newest instructional center brings performing and visual arts programs to new heights

BHCC and the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) partnered to create the first community-based arts, culture and education center to Chinatown. The Pao Arts Center brings together community members across generations to reclaim a critical piece of Chinatown history, to create healthy families and vibrant communities and to provide unique and community-based educational opportunities.

The opening of the arts center highlights the shared commitment of BHCC and BCNC to create opportunities for engagement within the community. In addition, the premier physical location for art performances, lectures and classes complements the College's strong arts curriculum and reflects the extraordinary diversity of the College.

Last fall, BHCC offered 10 courses at the Pao Arts Center including visual and performing arts, literature, math, psychology, sociology and culinary arts courses. Multimedia Language Lab services were also offered for the College's English language learners through "Building the Framework for Success," an initiative supporting English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum funded by an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) grant. This spring BHCC is offering eight classes at the Pao Arts Center, including theater, business, literature, math, psychology, sociology and culinary arts courses. The Language Lab at the Pao Arts Center launched a conversation group and book club series to provide students and community members with additional engaging and interactive opportunities to practice and gain comfort with language learning.

Chu Ling Dance Academy performs at the grand opening of Pao Arts Center.



Pao Arts Center 1st Year Highlights

5
Performance events attracting 170 visitors

6
Gallery exhibitions

20+
BHCC courses since January 2017

3,000
Visitors from May–December 2017

Go to bhcc.edu/magazine to watch video highlights from the Pao Arts Center Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.



BHCC Expands One Solid Meal

Economic Mobility Grant serves twice as many food-insecure students

BHCC received a \$14K Economic Mobility Grant from the Bank of America (BOA) Charitable Foundation to double participation in its One Solid Meal (OSM) program which provides \$7 food vouchers that can be used in the College's cafeteria, café and Culinary Arts dining room.

Originally funded by a group of private donors, OSM began during the spring 2016 semester as a pilot that provided one cafeteria meal a day to 30 students. All but one of the 30 students who participated in the initial phase of the program completed the semester; eight successfully graduated.

The partnership with the BOA Charitable Foundation will enable BHCC to serve additional students currently on the waiting list for the program.



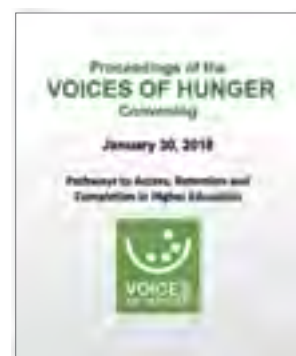
BHCC Issues Voices of Hunger on Campus Report

New report establishes best practices for addressing food insecurity

A report on the first *Voices of Hunger on Campus* convening by BHCC last May is now available online. BHCC hosted representatives from public and private universities and colleges across the state, along with community leaders and partners. Together, they wove a narrative of student hunger that paved the way for deep interactions concerning short-term and long-term solutions for food insecurity on

college campuses.

BHCC captured the proceedings and compiled them for the *Pathways to Access, Retention and Completion* report. For access to the report, links to related resources and more information on the BHCC event, including video highlights and continued media coverage, visit bhcc.edu/voh.



Early College Program at Charlestown High Receives Competitive Planning Grant

Charlestown among four BHCC programs to receive preliminary designation status from Baker-Polito Administration

In January, the Baker-Polito Administration awarded competitive planning grants and preliminary designation status to developing and/or established Early College programs. The Early College program at Charlestown High School was awarded \$10K to expand upon existing career pathway programs in technology and business and to explore the addition of health and liberal arts pathways in the future.

In addition to the Charlestown program the Early College programs at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School (RoxMAPP) and Collaborative for Educational Services received preliminary designation for liberal arts pathway programs. The Early College program at Chelsea High School received preliminary designation for pathways in health and life sciences, law and public policy and education.

The grant comes on the heels of a \$247,566 Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant to support the College's General Sonography and Cardiac Sonography programs. The funding allowed BHCC to purchase two state-of-the-art ultrasound machines, which will give general and cardiac ultrasound majors hands-on experience with the most up-to-date equipment in the industry.



This is the second consecutive year that BHCC received a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant from the Baker-Polito Administration. In early 2017 the College received funding from this program to build a new electrical engineering lab. The lab opened spring 2018 for students in the College's growing Engineering program.



C-Town Business Pathways Receives \$100K from Cummings Foundation


Grant supports entrepreneur training at Charlestown High School

BHCC's C-Town Business Pathway program at Charlestown High School (CHS) received a \$100K grant in partnership with BUILD. The program includes BUILD's entrepreneurship training program paired with BHCC's Business curriculum. Through the BUILD program, students learn all the basics of entrepreneurship and launch real, licensed businesses, all while earning transferable college credit.

In the first year of the Cummings grant, the program achieved milestone activities while adapting to serve the students and program structure best. In particular, the partners developed and implemented a new ninth grade exploratory year and tenth grade curriculum and increased curricular alignment focusing on content knowledge for business as well as math and english.

The business pathway is one of two distinct pathways available to CHS students. The C-Town Tech Pathways program prepares students for college and careers in information technology. Program options include digital and computer forensics, database programming, security and more—with students earning college credit as early as ninth grade.

Through their foundation's \$100K for 100 place-based initiative, Cummings Properties aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings.

 Go to bhcc.edu/magazine for more detail on these news clips.



CITY OF CHELSEA SETS ASIDE \$150K FOR BHCC TUITION PROGRAM

In April, Chelsea City Council approved a pilot program to extend Chelsea High School's partnership with BHCC past graduation. Beginning FY 2019, scholarship funds will be made available to students who have completed 12 college-level credits through the high school's dual enrollment program to complete their associate degree at BHCC.

education—that the city struggles sometimes to address.

PE: It has always impressed me that Chelsea Public Schools is constantly expanding on its own accord. It's very forward-looking.

TA: They do a tremendous job, but it can be challenging for the school department to ensure that new arrivals in our classrooms, who don't always have the same educational backgrounds as those born in the U.S., are quickly brought up to speed and can succeed alongside students who have grown up here. But for the most part, if you're here for a long time, you will get a very good education in this system.

PE: We certainly have seen that at the College. Chelsea students are hardworking and successful. I am always heartened by the fact that Superintendent Mary Bourque has been thoughtful about a K-16 system, rather than a K-12 system. She nurtures so many Early College students before they come to us.

I know you're looking for Chelsea's workforce development to be anchored in the cultural wealth that bilingual citizens bring to the city. Tell me about your vision.

TA: We are trying to strengthen the ability of all of our students to go directly from high school into at least a two-year college degree program, and we've done this through the Dual Enrollment program at Chelsea High School with BHCC. Our hope for this year is to create financial support for students who want to continue beyond the program to complete their associate degree at BHCC. We're exploring ways the city can do that; it would certainly help in workforce development.

We're also trying to create a more vibrant downtown for our existing businesses, many of which are run by residents who have immigrated from other countries. We've committed a lot of money to the infrastructure—a façade improvement program, business technical support. We want to help them thrive and grow and

create opportunities for employment for our residents. That's a big focus of our intentions, strengthening the homegrown businesses in our downtown.

PE: It is critical to create a positive cycle where we foster students, workers and innovators from our local high schools and our local secondary systems who then, in turn, come back to serve in the community and develop the next wave of leaders.

TA: We're trying very hard to make this a community where students who graduate from Chelsea High School have a reason to want to stay in the city. That requires not just creating a dynamic business community where they might be able to work, but also creating the necessary housing for them.

PE: Affordable housing is key to workforce development.

TA: Creating housing that is affordable for working class residents is a challenge, not just in Chelsea, but everywhere. Our goal

“We are trying to strengthen the ability of all of our students to go directly from high school into at least a two-year college degree program, and we’ve done this through the Dual Enrollment program at Chelsea High School with BHCC.”

– TOM AMBROSINO

is to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our residents by building enough housing in the city, and that the housing we build is affordable.

PE: I’ve noticed that new hotels and businesses are being built in the area. In fact, in one of the projects, the hotel talked to the College about our students being part of their workforce. I see the businesses and industries coming together and supporting this goal and vision.

TA: Hotel business is important to this city given our proximity to Logan Airport. It’s sort of a natural growth industry for us and it creates good jobs across many levels of education.

PE: One of the features that makes our Chelsea Campus unique is that we offer training for many entry-level allied health careers. Healthcare is one of the growing sectors for the Chelsea area. We are also growing the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) fields. Where does STEM fit in the city’s business and industry?

TA: There is a small segment of our industry with engineering and science attached to it. Medical manufacturer Acorda is expanding in Chelsea and is looking to grow their manufacturing facility here. We would love to have that industry develop more in Chelsea. And improving the STEM educational opportunities for our young people is going to have its own benefits even if they move beyond Chelsea.

PE: Fast forward three years from now. What are the three big projects we can put on the table and say “Wow, that was really great!”

TA: I’d like to see the city develop with additional housing and I’d like to see the “Reimagining Broadway” infrastructure project completed. I think it would really transform this corridor. Lastly, I’d like to see us develop the Chelsea Creek waterfront to be more accessible to a lot of our residents.

PE: Think about education and the role of BHCC in the Chelsea community. How can we make a difference?

TA: I’d like the College to continue its engagement with the community. Your presence is important to this city. As for the seamless connection

between students graduating from Chelsea High School and moving toward an associate degree, that’s a path we want to strengthen over the next few years.

PE: Well, you certainly have the College’s commitment. It’s been wonderful having you in this seat. Thank you for your willingness to have an open door to us. ■



[Go to bhcc.edu/magazine](https://bhcc.edu/magazine) for video highlights from “The Interview.”

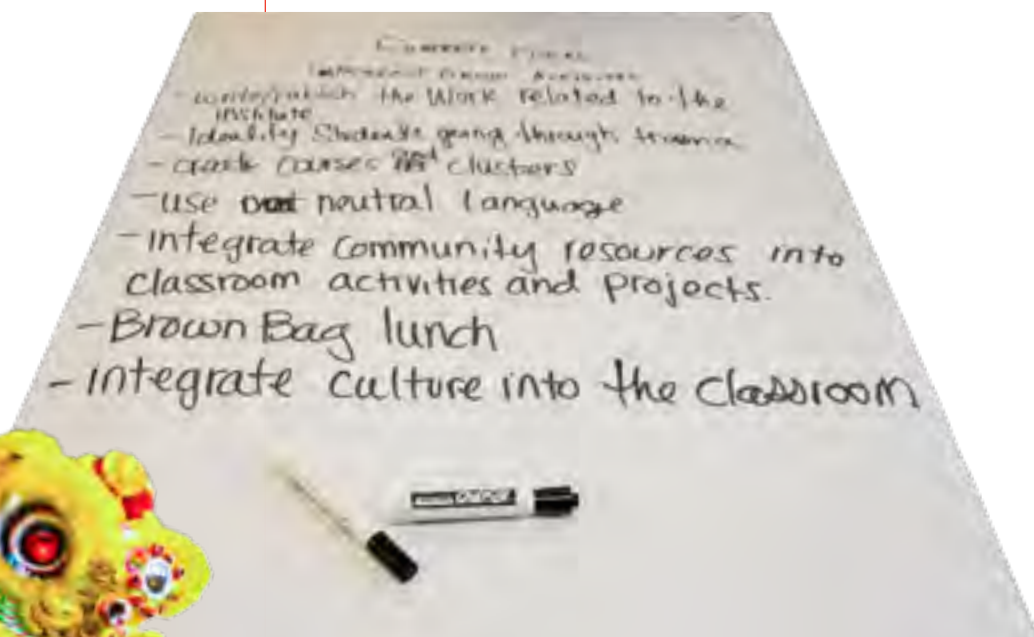
*BHCC faculty and staff
at the 2nd Annual Latinx
Student Success Institute
(LSSI) in August 2017*



*Wah Lum Kung Fu and
Tai Chi Academy perform
a traditional lion dance at
the grand opening of the
Pao Arts Center, BHCC's
newest instructional
center in Chinatown.*

New Center Positions Equity at its Core

Drawing on the College's nationally recognized work to design culturally inclusive learning environments that value the strengths of diverse students and local communities, BHCC is launching the Center for Equity and Cultural Wealth. The Center engages faculty and staff in culturally relevant scholarship, practice and advocacy focused on achieving equitable outcomes for all students.



BHCC's nationally recognized Cultural Institutes bring together faculty and staff to explore equity-minded practices and culturally-grounded pedagogies.



LSSI participants explore best practices in developing curriculum for Latinx students.

The Center will build upon the College's innovative Africana, Asian American and Latinx Cultural Institutes, which were developed in partnership with the Museum of African-American History (MAAH) in Boston and Nantucket and UMass Boston's Asian American Studies Program and the Mauricio Gastón Institute for Latino Community Development and Public Policy. Since 2012, the College's Cultural Institutes have sponsored faculty and staff professional development rooted in exploring and integrating students'

cultural experiences and community histories into educational experiences on campus and beyond.

The Center will facilitate a multifaceted and intersectional campus-wide conversation that expands the scope of the Institutes to explore the ways in which equity-minded practices and culturally-grounded pedagogies can be enacted to foster the success of all students and members of the College community. Core activities of the Center will include: ongoing professional development; opportunities to

Core activities will include:
ongoing professional development;
opportunities to collaborate and
generate scholarship; and advocacy
for equity-minded policies.



Calligraphy artist Peter Ng performs at Pao Arts Center opening.

collaborate and generate scholarship; and advocacy for equity-minded policies.

This year, the Center will sponsor the Equity and Cultural Wealth Institute, a three-day conference that will examine the impact of power and privilege on access and equity in higher education through scholarship, field study and the arts. In addition to the Equity and Cultural Wealth Institute, the Center will sponsor a series of workshops and events throughout the year, including the Engaged Campus Dialogue Series, which will convene discussions



NEH Bridging Cultures Project Summer Institute visits the National Archives and Record Administration in Waltham, MA.



A student in Professor Lee Santos Silva's English class visits the Black Books exhibit at the MAAH.



among faculty and staff on a range of emerging social justice issues. Art gallery exhibits and artistic performances will complement the work of the Center.

The development of the Center will be funded initially by a \$100,000 Performance Incentive Fund grant from the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. During the grant period, a three-year strategic plan will be developed to fully institutionalize the Center.

The Center for Equity and Cultural Wealth will serve as a hub for research and innovation that supports BHCC's mission to honor the cultural wealth of its students, faculty and staff and commitment to creating learning environments where all students can achieve excellence. ■

Equity and Cultural Wealth at a Glance

Designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Minority-Serving Institution and Asian American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI), BHCC serves a highly diverse population.

- 19,000+** Students served annually
- 61%** Students of color
- 2/3** First in family to attend college
- 50%+** Qualify for need-based financial aid
- 50%+** Work full or part time



- 11% Asian
- 25% Black / African American
- 25% Hispanic / Latinx
- 21% White
- 18% Unknown / Multiracial / Other



Folklore Master Jorge Arce and the Humano Multicultural Project demonstrate traditional Camparsa Boricua and Bomba for the BHCC community.

Doing Everything off the Court to Keep Student–Athletes on the Court

1 on 1 with BHCC Director of Athletics,
Loreto Jackson, Ph.D.

Inside BHCC's Health and Wellness Center, 25 championship banners hang on the gymnasium walls. The lobby displays awards, trophies and other accolades celebrating a long tradition of athletics at the College. Dr. Loreto Jackson, BHCC's new director of athletics, brings with her a vision for BHCC Athletics' next chapter—one that focuses not just on developing great athletes within the program, but on developing great students and a strong BHCC Athletics community.

“When I meet with each of the teams I ask, ‘How are your classes going?’ and ‘What are you struggling with?’”

–Loreto Jackson



Photo courtesy of Carl Ackerman

In her office, dressed in BHCC’s colors of red and black, Jackson is already planning the schedules of games for next year. Jackson came to BHCC from Clemson University in South Carolina where she was associate athletic director of student-athlete performance. As an NCAA Division I Power 5 college in a “football town,” one might wonder what made Jackson consider a move to BHCC. The answer is family. Seeking to move closer to home, she found an opportunity at BHCC. “The more I learned about the position, the more I felt it met my needs for a new challenge,” she says.

Jackson spent 12 years at Clemson, where she developed the Total Athlete Care and Performance program. The first of its kind, the program addresses student-athlete development from a holistic perspective. “The athletic director and I would talk about athletes falling through the

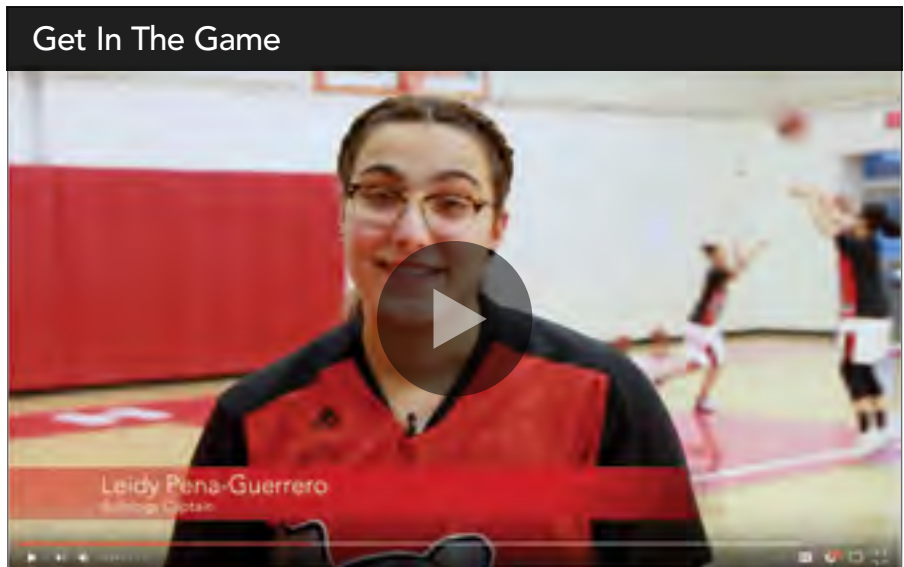


cracks,” Jackson recalls. “It didn’t make any sense to me.” So she developed an integrated program that pulled together nutrition, sports medicine and strength and conditioning with sports psychology, housing and student-athlete development including life skills and leadership.

“It was unusual,” she notes. While most performance programs focus on athletic conditioning and physical and mental wellbeing, few address student conduct and behavior. “I would describe that program as doing everything off the court to help students stay on the court.”

BHCC Athletics is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III. Six varsity programs are available for student-athletes: men’s and women’s soccer, women’s volleyball, men’s and women’s basketball and men’s baseball. Recognizing the similarities between NCAA Division I and NJCAA Division III participants, Jackson says “Student-athletes want to play, they’re competitive and they love the game. They want to have a good experience, and they want to be supported. That’s the same, no matter where you play.”

But BHCC athletes, Jackson has recognized,



Visit bhcc.edu/magazine for 1-on-1 interviews with BHCC student-athletes.

deal with a number of challenges just to stay involved with the program. “NJCAA Division III does not offer scholarships, so that can be very difficult for our students. We are in a very expensive city for them to live. Some of them have children. Many of them have to work. It’s





“Athletics is integral to the mission of this institution, not ancillary to it. This is not a jock thing; this is educational.”

—Loreto Jackson

unbelievable how they manage it all. I really can do nothing but admire them.”

Jackson is looking to build a strong support system for BHCC athletes beginning with Dr. Julie Elkins, Dean of Students, and the coaches of the Athletics Department. “When I meet with each of the teams I ask, ‘How are your classes going?’ and ‘What are you struggling with?’” It is important to Jackson that her staff members—including assistant Joan Rossi, who has been with the College for several years and new Assistant Athletic Director Sercan Fenerci, a former coach—serve in mentorship roles for their students. “I don’t want anyone to drop out of school because there was an issue that maybe we could’ve helped them with. That comes with building trust.”

Jackson also believes a solid support system can extend beyond her staff into the rest of the College community. She challenges the common idea that athletics diverts resources from educational institutions. “I look at athletics as a part of the educational experience,” she says, pointing to key areas where student-athletes

are developing skills that are transferable to the classroom and to their everyday lives.

“Leadership, teamwork, discipline and time management—they’re demonstrating these skills in athletics, and this is only going to help them in the classroom. It’s going to help them graduate, transfer or succeed in the workplace. Athletics is integral to the mission of this institution, not ancillary to it. This is not a jock thing; this is educational.”

Jackson has created a vision, mission and core values statement for the Department, which includes respect, integrity, inclusion, a focus on people (student-athlete welfare), success and commitment. “I want people to be proud of our student-athletes based on what they do in the classroom, on the court and on how they represent the College.”

Another area of focus for Jackson is nutrition. “A lot of our students are food-insecure,” she says, and this includes student-athletes. To address the issue, it’s important to Jackson that the students are made aware of the number of resources available through the College’s Single Stop office. A non-perishable food pantry,

monthly mobile market and meal voucher program are among the comprehensive social and financial resources available to students. For the 2017–18 season, she worked with Gatorade to create a supplementation program to provide energy and protein products to the athletes during their games, and afterwards to aid in their recovery. “Soccer players, for example, can burn at least 3,000 calories in a day,” she says. “If they are not eating, how can they possibly perform at their best?”

The coaching staff is an essential part of building trust in and safeguarding the stability of the Athletics program at BHCC. Men’s soccer coach Scott Benjamin is a faculty member at the College. Nkrumah Jones, head coach of men’s basketball, and Jen Colburn Logan, head coach of women’s basketball, are proud graduates of BHCC. “I’m feeling very good about our program,” says Jackson. “I want to attract coaches that are proud to be with BHCC, and who really want to mentor our students.”

Last fall, the men’s soccer team was the NJCAA Division III Region XXI Champions



BHCC Men's Soccer Team: 2017 MCCAC State Champions and 2017 NJCAA Region XXI Champions

and State Champions. In December, Coach Jones achieved his 100th win as head coach of BHCC's men's basketball team. One of Jackson's next big challenges will be to increase participation in the College's women's sports programs. "It's an issue across the NJCAA Division III for all women's sports," she explains, "but I'm hoping that I've put the coaches in a place where now we can really attract more women athletes to BHCC."

For BHCC students who do not participate in varsity athletics, Jackson and her staff have increased the number of wellness programs available. This year, the department offerings include barre, Zumba, yoga and core conditioning for BHCC students, faculty and

staff. There are also times for open gym when students play basketball, badminton and *futsal* (indoor soccer).

Jackson believes that a successful athletics program is not just about winning. "There's more than winning—there's completion, graduation, transferring. So, I think we need to be looking at that," she says. "If we have a good culture and the aspiration of being competitive, and our coaches keep our students interested, the winning will take care of itself. I want our student-athletes to say, 'That was a great experience.' To me, that's being successful. They could have friendships that last for a lifetime and look back at BHCC as a great experience." ■



BHCC ALUMNA

Dawn Reno Langley

Author and Educator

On the eve of her national book tour for her latest novel *The Mourning Parade*, BHCC alumna, writer and educator Dawn Reno Langley stopped by the Charlestown Campus she attended decades before and shared her own story and advice with today's aspiring writers.

A member of the College's second graduating class, Langley took courses at BHCC in 1974 and served as the editor of *The Third Rail*, the College's student newspaper at the time. A single mother, she went on to become a teacher, publishing a series of children's books, novels, non-fiction on art and antiques and newspaper articles.

She spoke to BHCC's writers on the importance of writing on the things they care about. For Langley, those things are often political topics and social justice issues. "I want my stories to have an impact on the reader," she said. She also stressed the value of research in

developing trust with the reader. "Learn one simple fact," she said, "and it will change your whole thought process."

In *The Mourning Parade*, Langley draws from her experiences as an educator and a mother to tell the story of a single mom and veterinarian,



Natalie DeAngelo, who loses everything the day her two sons are killed in a school shooting. Natalie's grief brings her to an elephant sanctuary in Thailand. There, she meets an elephant named Sophie who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after the loss of her own offspring, and the two begin the healing process together.

Throughout the book, Langley educates the reader on the importance of social structure and family in elephants, linking the tragic impact of violence in schools to the immense and devastating loss felt by elephants victimized by poaching.

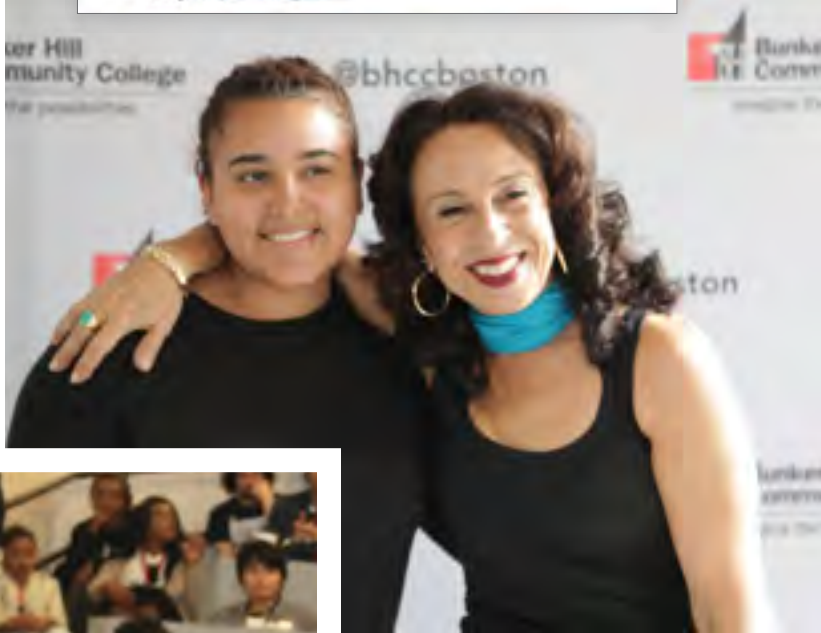
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Maria Hinojosa

Emmy Award-winning Journalist

Journalist Maria Hinojosa addressed critical issues facing Latinx in the changing cultural and political landscape of America as part of the College's Fall Speaker Series focusing on immigration and religious intolerance and as a featured event of the College's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Framing the discussion around the current political climate, Hinojosa discussed the proposed changes in immigration policy and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

"I know many of you have come here to see me, but I am waiting to see you," she said, referring to the students' futures and their extraordinary capacity to be leaders. "You are not the objects of American history. You are the characters. You are experiencing this here and now on your campus. It is not a story you read in your history book; you are the story that will be in history books for years to come."



COMPELLING CONVERSATIONS

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar

Social Activist and Recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Basketball legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar addressed one of the most socially relevant and politically controversial topics facing our nation today in his talk *Muslims: Misunderstood, Misrepresented and Maligned in the U.S.*

Abdul-Jabbar was joined on stage by BHCC President Pam Eddinger for a conversation driven by questions submitted by BHCC students. When asked how to combat system biases towards minorities in the media, he said, “Everybody *thinks* they treat everyone else equally, but that’s not always the case.” He stressed the importance of standing up for others—even those

who do not experience prejudice themselves.

Wrapping up the program, the discussion turned toward the work Abdul-Jabbar does for at-risk youths through the Skyhook Foundation. “We need better educational opportunities in poor communities,” he stated. “I am thrilled to see this wonderful rainbow of humanity here. People at this college are seeking opportunities for themselves and that will make America even better.”

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar enjoys lunch with Dr. James F. Canniff, Provost and Vice President, BHCC, and Shaykh Yasir Fahmy, Senior Imam, Islamic Society of Boston



VETERANS DAY 2017

Shoshana Johnson

First African American Female Prisoner of War

U.S. Army veteran Shoshana Johnson spoke as part of BHCC's weeklong series celebrating Veterans Day 2017. At the event, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) award-winning author of *I'm Still Standing: From Captive U.S. Soldier to Free Citizen - My Journey Home* captivated the audience detailing her company's capture during Operation Iraqi Freedom and the acts that followed until their rescue by U.S. Marines.

Speaking on the importance of Veterans Day, Johnson reminded students to participate in politics and the community. "We need to step up more in our nation, and be more proactive about every aspect of government," she said. "We think we're doing something if we post something online, on Facebook or Twitter, but if you don't vote, if you're not active in your community, then you're not doing anything."



DIFFICULT DIALOGUES

Jose Antonio Vargas

Pulitzer Prize-winning Journalist

Social justice advocate Jose Antonio Vargas closed BHCC's Fall Speaker Series on immigration and religious intolerance with his presentation *Undocumented Residents, Unwanted Refugees and America's Values*. The filmmaker shared details of his passage to America from the Philippines as a child, and of his later journey as an immigration reform activist.

"Our very existence is an act of resistance," said Vargas, speaking about the tumultuous times for immigrants in American history, particularly those who are undocumented or have DACA status. "Every country has a right to define and defend its borders, but legality is simply a construct of power. It is our responsibility to use storytelling to humanize this issue, and to intervene, correct and liberate people from the inaccurate narratives that have been created for us."



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