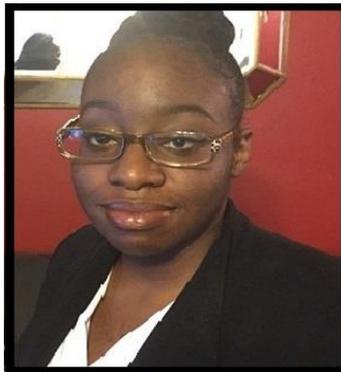




Linking Students to Success: KCC Partners with Good Shepherd Services



Shannon B. '17

On June 21st, 2018, Kingsborough Community College will honor Good Shepherd Services for its years of service at our Annual Seaside Splash Gala – An Evening in Venice. Here is just one story that illustrates the impact of our partnership with this outstanding organization.

Just a few years ago, a guidance counselor told Shannon she would not be able to graduate high school. Today, she holds an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts and is currently attending Brooklyn College. A bright student with interests in law and politics, Shannon always had potential. Yet her story would not be possible without Good Shepherd Services and its dynamic partnership with Kingsborough Community College (KCC).

"I was devastated," Shannon recalls, reflecting on her high school experience. "I was constantly failing classes and going to summer school." Having hit a wall at Fort Hamilton High School, she transferred to a YABC (Young Adult Borough Center) at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. Affiliated with Good Shepard Services, the YABC offered evening programs designed for high school students who are behind in credits or are considering dropping out. This proved to be the perfect fit for Shannon: "The YABC had a mantra: 'Take care of the student, not just the grades.' Not only did my counselors help me with my academics, but they also helped me with my resume and getting an internship."

Most importantly, her counselors connected Shannon to a bridge program called Brooklyn Lifelink, which helps YABC students transition to and prepare for college. Like the YABC Shannon had attended, Brooklyn Lifelink is

also affiliated with Good Shepherd Services, and it was through this program that Shannon ultimately connected to Kingsborough: “The great thing about Lifelink is that they actually ‘follow you’ to your new school. My Lifelink counselor would join me on the KCC premises during the week, to provide guidance and support.”

“Good Shepherd Services hosts a myriad of services aimed at helping youth get back on track,” says Brian Mitra, Dean of Student Affairs at KCC. “Kingsborough and Good Shepherd Services have focused our partnership on addressing the various needs of young adults to prepare them for college and the workforce.” Mary O’Shea, KCC’s Director of the Student Success Center, has seen firsthand the transformative impact this program has had on students like Shannon: “Our partnership with Brooklyn Lifelink allows us to help students learn life skills and navigate challenges as they arise. We take a holistic approach in how we help these students, proactively addressing their needs throughout their time at KCC.”



Dean Brian Mitra



Mary O’Shea

“It is such a pleasure working with Lifelink students,” adds Marisa Joseph, KCC’s Director of Career Services. “I saw them transform from shy, hesitant individuals to confident, career-focused budding professionals. These students are now better prepared for their college careers.”

Thanks to Brooklyn Lifelink, the oversight of Dean Mitra and the support of Ms. O’Shea and Ms. Joseph, students like Shannon are able to make the most of their collegiate experiences. “I broke out of my shell at KCC,” says Shannon. “I worked at the Urban Farm, became interested in social justice, and even made the Dean’s List. For the first time in my life, I wasn’t just trying to ‘get through’ school. I actually *enjoyed* school.”

More than any report or analysis, Shannon’s story illustrates the vital role Good Shepherd Services plays at Kingsborough as well as in our greater Brooklyn Community. From helping Shannon finish high school to helping her make the leap from high school to Kingsborough, Good Shepherd Services is the through-line of her odds-defying success story.

On June 21st, Kingsborough Community College will honor Good Shepherd Services at our 13th Annual Seaside Splash – *An Evening in Venice*, for its impact on students like Shannon Burgher. [Show your support by purchasing a ticket today!](#)



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