

Dear Campus Community,

Please find below some updates and highlights regarding our work within the division for December 2025.

### **Grant Proposals and Awards**

The division submitted 2 proposals:

- **Community Action for Reproductive Empowerment (CARE) Against Trauma** is a program that will **recognize and address the reproductive and birth trauma for families by creating space for collective healing, reflection, and empowerment**. This program stems from our current Doula and Maternal Health training programs. If awarded, we will work with our longstanding partner, the ARIAH Foundation, to help Brooklyn residents process grief, build resilience, and foster community-led healing and advocacy. This **\$731,000 proposal was submitted to the New York State Office of Mental Health**.
- In partnership with **New York State Cannabis Connect**, we submitted a **\$1.5M proposal to Cannabis NYC**, a program of the NYC Workforce Development Corporation. Building on the success of the Cannabis to Cuisine program, which ran for three years, **Seed to Success NYC will connect job seekers to high-quality employment in cannabis and ancillary industries**.

### **Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning**

The **Center for Career Development & Experiential Learning** closed the semester with an **internship orientation workshop** to prepare students for the application process and to expose them to current opportunities. A reminder that students can visit the [Featured Internships](#) page to explore opportunities we are currently promoting.

**On-campus recruitment continues throughout the winter module**. Please click [here](#) to see which organizations will visit the campus to recruit students.

Please continue to visit **Linktree** for upcoming events and workshops:  
<https://linktr.ee/kcccareer>

### **Community Farm & Garden**

The **Community Farm and Garden** volunteer and distribution days have ended, and the farm is officially closed for the season. **Volunteer hours will start at the beginning of the Spring 2026 semester. Vegetable distribution should resume around mid-April 2026.**

We **grew over 4,500 pounds of veggies and had over 900 sign-ins for veggie pick-up this season**, and we are so grateful for all your support! We are looking forward to another great year of growth in 2026!

For **faculty inquiries, research, collaborations**, or to request a class bed, please contact **Dr. Shannon Caravello** at [Shannon.Caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Shannon.Caravello@kbcc.cuny.edu). For updates, follow **@KCC\_CFG on Instagram**.

## **Workforce Trainings**

**CUNY Fatherhood** held its **Acknowledgement Ceremony** and **10-Year Anniversary celebration** on December 11th. The Ceremony was attended by our partners from **Good Plus**, the family and friends of HSE Cohort 20, and alumni from previous CFA cohorts. CFA is also recruiting Fathers for our College and Career Prep cohort scheduled to start on January 13th. Eligible students must be fathers between 18 and 30, have a High School diploma or equivalency, have fewer than 12 college credits, and live within NYC.

Kingsborough's first **Real Estate Salesperson 77-Hour class** prepared students to take the NYS Real Estate Salesperson exam. Students were referred to the program by community partners, including **Fortune Society, RETI Center, NYC Parks Opportunity Program, CUNY Fatherhood Academy**, among others, and they learned about real estate law, lending practices, zoning, property management, and more. Classes were taught by **Felicia Smith**, Realtor and Continuing Education instructor.

Through generous funding by the CUNY Dean of Health and Human Services, **KCC Health and Human Services** students are invited to apply for a number of **Healthcare Workforce Training Programs**. Please share this link with KCC HHS students and encourage them to apply- spaces are limited: <https://forms.gle/CkETkAG1HVzZPe3C9>

We are recruiting CUNY students for the **Doula and Direct Support Professional** training in Winter/Spring 2026. If you know a CUNY Human and Health Services student who is interested, please have them complete the following link(s):

- **Direct Support Professional Application:** <https://forms.gle/p1Ew97TsXTzaiTpD8>
- **Doula Application:** <https://forms.gle/JGbpW86esHDWogE47>

In partnership with **Uplift Communities**, Continuing Education students enrolled in certain healthcare training programs are eligible for hourly stipends while participating in training and internships, as well as free services including financial literacy, job-readiness, entrepreneurship, mentorship, job placement assistance, and mental health counseling. Interested applicants can receive more information here:

<https://workforce.upliftcommunities.com/>

In collaboration with the **KCC Office of Collaborative Programs** and community-based organizations, the division completed four (4) sections of programming for youth and young adults. A total of **78 students** were enrolled and participated in **Certified Medical Administrative Assistant, Pharmacy Technician**, and **Graphic Design** courses.

Under contract through a recent award from **1199 SEIU Training Fund**, the division successfully executed its first cohort, facilitating a customized, intensive **Pharmacy Technician** training program. We were **awarded up to \$630,000** to train and certify up to **180 individuals as Certified Pharmacy Technicians (CPHT)** until Spring 2027.

**Opportunities for A Better Tomorrow (OBT)** students completed a **Contextualized ESL Home Health Aide** course certifying 22 students with licenses, and a **Certified Nursing Aide to Patient Care Technician** program with 15 students.

A new training program, **Contextualized ESL for Healthcare**, launched this Fall 2025, trained **45 students to become licensed Home Health Aides (HHAs) or Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)**. <https://cewdkbcc.com/t2-programs/contextualized-esl-for-healthcare/>

In collaboration with **JPMorgan Chase**, we are offering a series of **six (6) free Financial Literacy workshops**. All sessions will be led live via Zoom by expert partners in the field. Please register here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pkcrbau>. In December, a workshop titled **Understanding and Building Credit** was attended by 22 participants.

### **Community Partnerships**

This Fall 2025, the division participated in several programs and events to continue enhancing connections with the community.

The **College Experience** events at Sheepshead Bay Library, Eastern Parkway Library, Flatbush Library, Brooklyn Public Library Partners Breakfast at the Grand Army Plaza, Merchants Association on Sheepshead Bay, along with the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, and the Sheepshead Bay Fall Fest.

On December 4, the division, in collaboration with the **Culinary Arts program** and students, **Professor Anthony Marzuillo**, and **Assemblyman Michael Novakhov**, proudly hosted a vibrant Community Business Networking event bringing together local business owners, community leaders, and entrepreneurs for an evening focused on collaboration, partnership, and economic growth. We are thankful to all who participated and shared in the event's success.

For more information, please contact **Anna Geller** via email at [anna.geller@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:anna.geller@kbcc.cuny.edu).

### **ESL/HSE/SNAP Venture & CLIP Program**

In the first weeks of December, **37 CLIP program graduates participated in Accuplacer testing and dedicated CLIP college counselling sessions as they transitioned to credit-bearing courses at Kingsborough**. Notably, **all** are matriculated at the college, including eight students admitted to ENG 12 ALP or ENG 12! We wish our graduates continued success!

During a recent program audit, the **NYSED Adult Education Programs and Policy** team and the **NYC RAEN** endorsed the WIOA IELCE ESL/Food Handlers certificate training program and the Adult Literacy Free ESL program. Appropriately, 32 students (almost 90% of program graduates) from the FA25 cohort of the ESL/Food Handlers Certificate Training Program passed the ServSafe and DOH certification exams in pursuit of their career goals to continue their education or to work in the Food Services sector.

For more information about our many program offerings, including the ESL/Food Handlers Certificate Training Program, Venture V for SNAP Participants, Pre-CLIP, CUNY Language

Immersion Program (CLIP), Kingsborough English Language Institute's **ESL-70** program; and the High School Equivalency **HSE-70**, and Alternative HSE Preparation (AHSEP) program, **Diploma Now**, please refer inquiries to the **ESL/HSE/SNAP** Program Office, at (718) 368-4870 or visit our **Virtual Office**: Monday-Friday, 9:30am – 4:30pm (use Zoom meeting ID: 857 4347 7610; Passcode: 667012) <https://zoom.us/j/85743477610>

### **Staff Presentations, Awards and Recognitions**

During the **New York City Employment and Training Coalition** conference, held on December 9th at The Times Center in New York City ([2025 NYCETC Conference](#)), **Dr. Simone Rodriguez, Vice President for Workforce Development and Continuing Education**, was awarded the **Opportunity Award**, which recognizes extraordinary civic and business leaders shaping New York City's economic growth and long-term vitality.

**Robert Zandi**, Associate Director of Renewable Energy Programs, received a KCC Faculty Achievement Award during the same event. Participated in the **Brooklyn Navy Yards “Winter Wallabout”** holiday event to recruit and provide information for KCC's **Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology** training programs. This helped boost enrollment and foster relationships with potential applicants for the **Deckhand and Energy and Carbon Management Resilience Training starting in January 2026**, as well as **for the next non-credit-to-credit Welding training program starting in March 2026**.

On December 16th, **Natalie Bredikhina**, Director, and **Grant Harvey**, Associate Director, were honored to receive recognition at the **17th Annual Faculty Achievements** Recognition ceremony for the administration of grants awarded for WIOA Adult Literacy, WIOA IELCE, and OTDA SNAP Venture V education, certification, and training, and employment programs.

Additional awardees include: **Robert Zandi**, Associate Director of Renewable Energy Programs, **Bex Firesheets**, ESL for Healthcare Program Director, **Alissa Levine**, Director of Continuing Education Programs and **Jessica Cinelli**, Grants and Program Development Manager.

### **Winter 2025 Catalog**

The **Winter 2026 Catalog** is now available. You can explore new, revised, and existing course and program offerings at <https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/ce/courses.html>.

Additionally, we are recruiting students for a variety of NO-COST programs and scholarship opportunities for programs scheduled to begin soon! Please share!

**[No-Cost Pharmacy Technician Program](#)**

**[Free Introduction to Gaming Operations course](#)**

**[Free ESL & Home Health Aide Program](#)**

**[Free ESL & Direct Support Professional Program](#)**

For more information, please call (718) 368-5050 or email us at [conted@kbcc.cuny.edu](mailto:conted@kbcc.cuny.edu).