ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE BRONX: 
THE BRONX SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC) AT LEHMAN

The impact of the work of the SBDC on the economy of the Bronx is substantial. Since its start in 1987, the SBDC has worked with over 14,000 businesses, helping them to invest nearly $120 million in the area’s economy and added or saved about 5,000 jobs.

Located within the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) at Lehman College, SBDC assists budding entrepreneurs turn ideas and dreams into businesses, helps small firms expand, identifies sources of financing and offers a full range of educational events to expand knowledge of what is involved in owning and operating a successful small business.

According to Clarence Stanley, director of the SBDC, immigrants are looking for the opportunity to open their own businesses. The SBDC is at the forefront of assisting this population achieve their dreams and, with that, making major investments in the economy of the Bronx. Other clients include a substantial number of women and an increasing number of veterans.

The collaboration of the SBDC and the New York Hispanic Cosmetology and Beauty Chamber of Commerce was designed to foster economic development in the Bronx. It has been located at CUNY on the Concourse since spring 2012. Workshops and classes in the beauty trades are offered by founder and president Charito Cisneros, and advice is provided to those desiring to open or expand businesses in these fields.

SUSTAINABILITY IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

In fall 2011, a workforce development initiative, the sustainability/green course, was offered by the SCPS in collaboration with 1199SEIU, N.Y.U. Langone Medical Center, New York Presbyterian-Hospital and Montefiore Medical Center. This three-credit course, co-taught by Continuing Education literacy instructor Dorothy Dobson and Prof. Hari Pant of the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geospatial Sciences, was designed for healthcare environmental service workers to increase their knowledge of environmental sustainability practices in healthcare settings. The primary goal was to explore opportunities to construct a new career pathway for these workers. In addition, the quality of training for the specific needs of the employers was assured.

Seventeen incumbent workers participated and all completed the course, earned three college credits and were upgraded by their employers. A participant from N.Y.U. Langone Medical Center was promoted to a supervisory position and a Montefiore Medical Center employee was offered the newly created position of Green Initiative Liaison developed after the completion of the project. Another Montefiore employee, Michael Matos, is now enrolled in a community college.

INTERNATIONALIZATION ON LEHMAN’S CAMPUS

The SCPS continues a long tradition of internationalization on Lehman’s campus. In 2011, the SCPS was designated as the College’s liaison for international programs. In less than a year, the School has reached out to universities overseas and has developed relationships that will open doors to student and faculty exchange opportunities with Peru, Costa Rica, France, Singapore, Russia, China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and Japan. Although nursing remains a popular field, our new partners express interest in business administration, finance, environmental science and English. All these activities will increase international student enrollment at Lehman, thus stimulating knowledge exchange and cultural awareness.

Since the early ‘90s, SCPS has been at the forefront of innovative international programs. Under the former dean of the SCPS, Dr. Michael Paull, faculty-led programs began with “Lehman in London”. This continued for about ten years followed by several group trips to Ireland. Since then, the School has offered a large array of activities leading to: a full-time ESL program complying with F-1 visa requirements; the very first Lehman student exchange and cohort programs for degree students.

As of today, over 200 students have completed our ESL program. Most of them have continued their college education at Lehman or other CUNY colleges.

Our collaboration with Sungshin University in South Korea, which started as a short-term summer program in 2004, evolved into nursing degree programs. The number of graduates has reached 247 in the B.S. degree and 14 in the M.S.N. degree. Currently, 114 Korean nurses are enrolled at Lehman.
BRONX CENTER FOR PHARMACY TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM OPENS

As the only one of its kind in the Bronx, the newly created Pharmacy Technician Training Program combines classroom instruction with practical experience through externships in both institutional and retail settings. This program significantly expands the SCPS’s role as a leader in workforce and economic development. Registered pharmacist Vanessa Walker, coordinator of the program, has over seventeen years of experience as a pharmacist and has taught pharmacy technology for eight years at several colleges.

The ribbon-cutting that opened the state-of-the-art pharmacy lab was held on September 21, 2012 at Lehman College’s workforce development center at CUNY on the Concourse. Victoria Powell, a registered pharmacist and site director of pharmacy at New York-Presbyterian Hospital, was the keynote speaker. Dean of the SCPS, Marzie Jafari, presented a plaque to Emmanuel “Manny” Palermo, a registered pharmacist and faculty member recognizing his ground-breaking work in the Lehman program.

NEW WEEKEND/ONLINE COLLEGE

Offered through the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS), the new Weekend/Online College continues Lehman’s successful forty-year long tradition of serving non-traditional students who have work and family responsibilities with flexible, convenient, affordable and customized degree programs. These have helped them to advance in their fields, begin new careers and achieve self-fulfillment.

Beginning in 2013, the College will offer two weekend/online degree programs: R.N. to B.S. for registered nurses licensed to practice in New York State and a B.B.A. with a focus on finance. Both two-year programs are for those who hold associate degrees. Classes will take place during weekends or online.

Highlights of the Weekend/Online College include experimental approaches to instruction, building upon students’ prior experiences, the cohort learning model and credits for prior learning.

BRONX HEALTHCARE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The SCPS worked with 1199SEIU and community partners to enhance career opportunities for Latinos in healthcare professions. To that end, a healthcare content-based colloquium series was designed to prepare Latinos who need direct support to acquire the writing and numeracy skills required to succeed in college. Contextualized writing and math courses are offered. The skills are developed within the context of healthcare issues and the participants’ personal and professional experiences.

In the first cycle, 2011-2012, a cohort of eighteen students all received three college credits and ten received six credits. The majority are enrolled in HC4 (Health Career College Core Curriculum), a college credit program offering eligible 1199SEIU members a core of prerequisite classes as a first step toward matriculation into a healthcare-related degree program. There are twenty-one students currently enrolled in the second cycle. Modifications have been made to include three courses for a maximum of nine credits.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Paolo Giovine has been appointed director of professional studies. He holds a B.A. in political science and an M.A. in international relations. Mr. Giovine comes to the SCPS with ten years of administrative experience at two CUNY colleges: The City College of New York and John Jay College. In addition to teaching for many years as an adjunct lecturer, Paolo Giovine worked as a consultant to several private and international organizations including the United Nations.

Appointed coordinator of the Clinical Medical Assistant Program, Doris Lopez-Palazzo earned a B.S. in health administration from Lehman College through the Adult Degree Program and an M.A. in community health management. Currently working as a health care advisor for PinnacleCare, a private health care consulting group, she has twenty years of administrative experience in the healthcare field. In addition, Ms. Lopez-Palazzo teaches as an adjunct lecturer at several colleges in New York City, including the Department of Health Services of Lehman. Notable is her extensive community service for which she has been honored.
Chantel Carnegie truly appreciated the opportunity to return to school with the help of the Adult Degree Program. In addition to graduating summa cum laude, she earned departmental honors and the status of being named a Presidential Scholar in each semester of attendance.

The Helena Rubenstein Continuing Education Scholarship for Career Advancement is the first such program at CUNY that is solely for those enrolled in continuing education programs. It is open to individuals seeking to advance their careers through education and training, and who do not have access to other sources of funding for tuition and fees. Since 2009, several dozen of our students have been awarded scholarships.

In spring 2012, the scholarship became more competitive and only half of the CUNY colleges that submitted applications had winning students. In that semester, seven applicants from six colleges received scholarships. Roseline Louis, who chose to enter the Nurse Technician Program at Lehman, was one of the seven recipients.

Eight years ago, Roseline Louis came to the U.S. from Haiti and became a home health aide in 2010. In order to gain even more experience, she volunteers as a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) at a nursing home on weekends. As a single mother with two young children, working, volunteering and attending classes demonstrates a fierce determination to get ahead, care for others and have “a career so my kids can be proud of me and a good job to take care of them.”

She stated that Lehman and the scholarship “saved my life and future.” She praises Lehman as “perfect” and the Continuing Education Nurse Technician Program as “very, very good” with teachers who are “wonderful.”

Roseline Louis’s next move on her career pathway is to become a licensed practical nurse. With her energy, drive and commitment to herself, her children and her patients, her goal appears quite achievable.

Gina Miranda-Diaz has been appointed director of allied health programs. A registered nurse for three decades, she holds dual masters’ degrees in community health nursing and public health. In September 2012, she was awarded a Doctor of Nursing Practice (D.N.P.). Dr. Miranda-Diaz has taught part-time for twelve years in the Department of Nursing where she instructs international and generic students in the B.S. and M.S.N. programs.

Appointed coordinator for the Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) and social work programs, Paula Stephenson holds a master’s degree in counseling psychology and a CASAC and is currently working on a Ph.D. in addiction psychology. She has worked in a variety of settings in the substance abuse field and is an experienced trainer and mentor.

Vanessa Walker has been appointed coordinator of the new Pharmacy Technician Training Program. She holds a B.S. in pharmacy and is a N.Y.S. registered pharmacist. Ms. Walker has worked in both retail and hospital settings for over seventeen years and has taught pharmacy technology for eight years at several colleges and non-profit organizations.
On October 18, 2012, Family Development Credential (FDC)™ student Angelique Rodriguez-Abril, spoke on behalf of the Lehman FDC classes of fall 2011 and spring 2012 at the annual graduation ceremony. The FDC program trains frontline family workers in health, education and human service agencies in an approach that emphasizes the strengths and resources of families to empower them for life-long change. The University of Connecticut awards the credential for this national program which was developed at Cornell University and is currently offered at three CUNY colleges.

Angelique Rodriguez-Abril

After high school, Ms. Rodriguez-Abril joined the military, worked in juvenile corrections and as a dental assistant. She became a family liaison worker for Head Start of Eastern Orange County in Newburgh, N.Y seven years ago after her son, who had several disabilities, required the agency's services. She stated, “I fell in love with Head Start because of what they did for my son.” Her duties were largely that of a receptionist, however, Ms. Rodriguez-Abril voluntarily developed the position into one in which she provided advice to and resources for the families wishing to enroll their children. She rapidly became indispensable.

To advance her career and work more closely with clients required both an opening for a family advocate and a Family Development Credential. Having diligently searched for a training program in her upstate and neighboring counties, the nearest class she could find was being held at Lehman, quite a drive from Newburgh. Her determination was such that she was given a scholarship and release time from Head Start to attend the class.

Just as Ms. Rodriguez-Abril was taking the credentialing exam in June 2012, a family advocate position became available. Being eminently qualified, she was chosen for the job. She now has a caseload of thirty-seven families and is able to help them advocate for themselves with her guidance, spend time in the classrooms, make home visits and provide referrals. She also volunteers her services as a certified ESL tutor.

Prior to taking the FDC course, Angelique Rodriguez-Abril intuitionally utilized several FDC principles in empowering families. She “loves to help people” and to know that at “the end of the day, you’ve touched someone’s life.” Her commitment is intense and she embodies all that FDC stands for.

### MULTIMEDIA MEETS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR CHILDREN

One of the many creative and stimulating offerings of the Lehman Academy: Programs for Children and Teens is the class on movie making. In the fall 2011 semester, instructor Steve Feld, Web designer and technology consultant, brought to the course many creative and intellectual challenges and the pairing of multimedia with science and technology utilizing the ExploraVision science competition, sponsored by Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association. A team of 4 fifth-graders volunteered to participate in the contest. Mr. Feld stated that “It encourages them to combine their imaginations with the tools of science to create and explore a vision of future technology.” The theme chosen by the children was insects, specifically, controlling them as well as their beneficial roles. “They created a timeline . . . beginning with the plague in Egypt; to the invention of the first fly swatter; present-day insecticides and electronic zappers and invented [with a mentor who is an electrical engineer] future, more effective solar-powered means to control insect populations.” The children produced a ten-page research paper, created five Web pages and produced a movie about beneficial insects which was posted on http://vimeo.com/41598031. It is hoped that the experiences of these students might go far to stimulate an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) careers.

### FACULTY ACTIVITIES


Artist, activist, former Lehman Continuing Education student and Continuing Education teacher for three years, **Ezequiel Jimenez** has a solo exhibit of his drawings this fall at the Englewood (N.J.) Public Library in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. In June 2012, he was honored with a New York City Council Citation in recognition of his civic service to Community Board 7. Mr. Jimenez is working on a Master of Fine Art degree at Lehman.

**Doris Lopez-Palazzo**, Clinical Medical Assistant Program coordinator, has been honored as one of 25 Brooklyn Women of Distinction of 2012 by CNG Courier Life Publications. She was recognized for her career in health care, volunteer work for the YMCA and Ronald McDonald House and teaching at several N.Y.C. colleges and universities.