

Message from the President

March 23, 2020

Thank You: Historic New Era at Baruch Underway

Dear Students,

This academic year was landmark from the start. In the spring of 2019, we completed our celebration of Baruch's first 50 years as an independent college in the CUNY system, and we embarked on our next chapter. But back in August, little could we have imagined just how transformative this year would become.

The Flexible Generation

Our student body of more than 18,400 full- and part-time undergraduate and graduate students defies easy definition. Your families come from more than 160 nations around the world, and you speak more than 100 languages in your homes. Some of you are recent high school graduates, while others have been working for decades, so no generational label could ever be applied.

Having made the massive shift to fully distance learning within a matter of two weeks, you have proven that you are *flexible*—in addition to being creative, smart, and high achieving. I do not mean to minimize the challenges and stress that accompanied this transition—indeed, of this situation as a whole—but I do want to thank you for your steadfast commitment to your education and to Baruch College.

We Are Here for You

- Little more than a week ago, only 22 percent of Baruch's 2,765 undergraduate and graduate class sections were offered either in fully online or hybrid forms. This week, *every single one of them* is operating in full distance learning mode.
- As everyone adjusts to the new way of doing things, CUNY has updated the [University calendar](#) to include new, extended deadlines to change course designations and submit work for incomplete courses.
- Even as we experience unprecedented changes in our society, it is critical for you to keep your academic and career goals on track, and Baruch is here to help.

- For undergraduates, the Starr Career Development Center is now [fully online](#), bringing job search, advisement, and recruitment events to your computer or smartphone.
- For graduate students, Zicklin's Graduate Career Management Center will meet with you by Skype, Zoom, or phone and is [hosting events](#) such as career workshops and information sessions virtually.
- CUNY's [Continuity for Students](#) webpage is also a clearinghouse for support services that range from distance learning techniques, mental health tips, and special offers from external service providers, such as Sprint, Charter/Spectrum, and AT&T, which are offering free services and fee waivers.
- Baruch's [COVID-19 Updates](#) webpage also maintains up-to-date information on campus resources and service continuity for your educational and administrative needs.

Keep Connected—and Stay Safe

As you are aware, our campus buildings, including the Newman Library and the Kaplan Computing and Technology Center, are currently closed in response to Governor Cuomo's [New York State on PAUSE](#) executive order. They will remain so until further notice. Despite that, I know our campus community will stay strong and carry on through online courses and collaboration, social media, and regular updates from the College.

Please also remember, there is mounting evidence that even young people's health can be *seriously* affected by this previously unknown virus, against which none of us have immunity. So I ask each of you to take this threat very seriously and to follow all of the recommended precautions. Several members of our College community have already been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and I ask that you join me in wishing them a speedy return to good health.

I hope that you and your families remain safe and well. Please know that Baruch College is committed to your success, and we will do all within our power to meet your needs and help you to continue on the path to your degree.

Sincerely,

Mitchel B. Wallerstein, PhD
President, Baruch College

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