

**INFORMATION SHEET #1**  
**LEHMAN AS ANCHOR INSTITUTION**

**QUESTIONS CONSIDERED:** How is Lehman civics-minded and place-based? How do programs engage in direct and mutually beneficial interactions with various Bronx entities? What new opportunities are possible going forward?

First and most fundamentally, the College's relationship to the Bronx is through its "heterogeneous, multicultural, dynamic group of students" (Nursing), who represent the richness and complexity of Bronx communities and serve as ambassadors to and from those communities. As was noted in a survey response, "Lehman has the opportunity to help our students bring education and resources back to the communities of the Bronx. We need to encourage the civic concern that so many of our students already start out with."

The reports collectively demonstrate faculty and students' commitment to addressing issues critical to improving the health, education, economic development, and well-being of Bronx families and communities.

**PROMISING STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS (ongoing):**

**Campus-based:**

Programs highlight how Lehman's campus functions as a **public space and community asset**.

- Lehman serves as a rich cultural resource, showcasing faculty and student work in the arts, languages, and history for Bronx audiences via concerts, theater productions, lectures, and exhibits.
- Programs provide onsite clinical services to children and families in programs as diverse as speech and audiology, exercise science, and early childhood education.
- Programs ground their courses of study in theory applied to critical issues for the Bronx, such as public health, environmental justice, housing development, and immigration.
- The College affirms its role in sustainability and food justice through collaborative projects such as the Edible Garden, the Farm Stand, and the Corbin Hill CSA, as well as courses and programs in culinary nutrition.

Programs describe a host of **educational outreach efforts** that draw Bronx children, adolescents, and adults to the campus.

- *High school programs* aim to "transform the lives of youth by improving their educational outcomes." In the sciences, these programs include Bronx SciFest, the College Now Summer STEM Research Academy, and the Lehman Summer Program in Science for Women. Program faculty (e.g., *Earth Science*) mentor high school students for STEM research competitions. College Now offers credit-bearing college classes and a first college experience to qualified Bronx high school students.
- School of Education programs provide *educational support and enrichment after-school and in summers for children, pre-K and older*; the Library and Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences work

with Lehman's Child Care Center.

- *Adult education programs*, offered through Continuing and Professional Studies and the Adult Learning Center of the Institute for Literacy Studies, enable low-income Bronx residents to achieve their educational, employment, and personal goals, often leading to a high-school equivalency diploma and college entrance.
- And through various programs and institutes, Lehman hosts ongoing seminars and special workshops serving *Bronx teachers*.

### **Community-based:**

Programs highlight Lehman's work in Bronx communities with a variety of public and private organizations from the arts to industry to Woodlawn Cemetery.

Programs rely on community expertise when they place students in field experiences or internships and at the same time provide a service to the families and communities served by those organizations. Students add value during their internships at agencies that are potential employers. Two examples illustrate these direct and mutually beneficial relationships:

- *Social Work's* BA and MSW programs maintain "longstanding relationships with most social service agencies in the Bronx." They note, "Agencies were telling us that they couldn't attract MSW students from the Manhattan schools to do their internships in their agencies because students were either afraid of the neighborhoods or saw the agencies working with populations that they were uninterested in. Furthermore, when the agencies had vacant MSW positions, they couldn't attract MSWs to these positions. We developed our program to meet this unfulfilled need, i.e. serving underserved urban communities and populations." In addition to placing students in these agencies for clinical internships, Social Work faculty "on a regular basis provide in-service training to many community based private and governmental agencies," as well as "free trainings to fieldwork supervisors."
- Through *Geographic Information Sciences*, "many students pursue internship opportunities with local non-for-profit organizations.... Several students have worked closely with Bronx Community Boards, the Borough President's Office, and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Office on GISc-related mapping projects, as well as with local community garden groups on urban agriculture projects." GISc's USDA and NOAA-CREST grants create opportunities for students to participate in community-focused research (see Information Sheet #4).

### **PROMISING NEW STRATEGIES:**

**1. Increase, diversify and deepen relationships with Bronx organizations providing a range of services (education, health, social services, culture, business).** Sixty of the 80 reports discussed specific community partnerships; 30 of those expressed an interest in deepening or expanding partnerships for reciprocal knowledge development and student field experience, as follows:

- **Bronx schools.** Twelve programs (20%), representing the schools of Natural & Social Sciences,

Education, Arts & Humanities, and Health Sciences, Human Services, & Nursing, expressed an interest in further linkages with schools both to contribute expertise and to increase students' awareness of Lehman programs for enrichment now and as a college option. Examples include:

- Participate in art portfolio reviews at high schools.
  - Develop additional school partnerships to create more community-based, clinically rich teacher education programs.
  - Foster collaboration between Physics and Education to enhance and expand teacher-training initiatives, with the long-range goal of increasing the number of physics degrees.
  - Create a Science Education teacher institute on campus, involving in-service alumni as trainers and participants.
- **Bronx health and social service organizations.** Eleven programs (18%), representing Natural & Social Sciences and Health Sciences, Human Services, & Nursing, seek to strengthen relationships with NYC community health, social service, and cultural heritage agencies to expand opportunities for student internships and employment, bring field expertise to campus, and explore collaborative research. Examples include:
    - Develop health care management programs (Business), in collaboration with other Lehman programs and local hospitals.
    - Increase clinical services in speech pathology and audiology, along with “collaborative research in nursing, social work, human services, and other biomedical disciplines” (thus providing undergraduates with additional learning opportunities).
    - Partner with Metropolitan, the cafeteria vendor, “to create career paths for students as culinary nutritionists skilled in Higher Education Foodservice,” and “leverage other foodservice institutions to enhance the internship experience in clinical, community and foodservice nutrition.”
    - Develop clinical sites for nursing programs that represent more of the Bronx healthcare system’s diversity (e.g., hospice programs, long term care facilities, public housing).
    - Seek funding to professionalize small storefront social service agencies in the Bronx through a program that pays tuition for staff to return to college, finish their degrees and become BA-level social workers. Similarly, offer a program for therapeutic recreation practitioners specifically tailored to help them meet their unmet requirements for certification.
  - Four programs discussed expanding their relationships with **Bronx businesses**.
  - Five programs expressed interest in further work with **museums and cultural organizations**.

**2. Create campus hubs for research and clinical services that benefit Bronx communities.** Five programs envision such spaces, some as program-specific and others as sites of inter-program collaboration:

- **Nursing:** “Conduct community participatory research and offer ongoing programs through a nurse-managed center” on campus.
- **Recreation Education:** Create courses “where students work with different community constituents in the APEX to enhance learning and provide community services.”
- **Special Education, Literacy Studies, Early Childhood Education:** Establish a Child Study Center to

serve the needs of children and youth of the community including assessment, literacy development, counseling and direct consultation services to families and schools. "Building an inclusive community center would benefit from collaboration with other programs in speech-language and hearing sciences, therapeutic recreation, and the disability studies minor."

**3. Direct community outreach for information sharing.** As recommended in a survey response: "community forums to share important research and evidenced-based practices, as well as provide continuing education and community awareness campaigns."

#### **DILEMMAS:**

**How can the College capitalize more on the multilingualism and multiculturalism of the students?** How can programs make being bilingual "more visible, important, useful and promising" (survey response)?

**How can direct community outreach move online?** The Bronx Journal, BronxNet, and Inside Lehman already provide digital outreach. What new possibilities can be developed to link programs with the community for their mutual benefit? As a request in the report from the Jaime Lucero Mexican Studies Institute illustrates, "it would be extremely beneficial to have the capacity to be an informational and resource center for the community. This could be made possible through a website with information about CUNY, ESL classes, legal resources like CUNY Citizenship Now, and family/community events."