

## **Bronx Community College (BCC) was recently awarded two workforce development grants.**

**The Bronx Community College Behavioral Health Opportunities Program (BHOP)** is a 4 year grant that is funded by HRSA's Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program. The goal of the grant is to increase the number of paraprofessionals entering the health field in the Bronx by training 30 community members and incumbent workers each year for entry-level positions at behavioral health service providers to improve the delivery of services in this medically underserved area. Some of the positions students may qualify for after completing the program include Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA), Mental Health Peer Specialist, Peer Educator, Peer Support Specialist, Community Healthcare Worker (CHW), Outreach Worker and Care Coordinator. The program will strive to ensure that graduates obtain training-related employment and wage gains, NYS-certified credentials and/or continue their training in Behavioral Health at more advanced levels. The program will include a "stackable", inter-disciplinary training curriculum based on a modified version of BCC's exiting 30-credit CHW certificate program and enhanced by the NYS CRPA training and/or another behavioral health related certificate training. It will also include customized internships and electives. Students who complete the program will be eligible to continue their studies at BCC with credits applicable to the AS Degree in Public Health.

**The Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) Training Program** is funded by the New York Alliance for Careers in Healthcare. The program will prepare a cohort of students to become CRPAs and will begin in early spring 2018. CRPAs are individuals who have been certified to provide coaching, support, information, guidance and motivation to those seeking or sustaining recovery from a substance abuse diagnosis. The CRPA training program is currently offered at Queensborough Community College. The new CRPA training program at BCC – only the second in the CUNY system-is meant to mirror the QCC program and will prepare students for the CRPA exam. As a "stackable credential" the training will also offer students the chance to earn up to three credits toward the BCC AS Degree in Public Health.

## **Bronx Community College is seeking behavioral health service providers who are interested in partnering on these two grants. Their needs include:**

- Hiring students once they graduate into living wage jobs
- Internship placements, preferably paid
- Sources of students for either program (incumbent workers and former AND current clients who would be great healthcare workers)
- If interested, input on curriculum and/or serve on advisory committee for the BHOP program
- They have positions open (CRPA coordinator and BHOP program director), if you know of anyone who would like to apply, please have them contact the BCC staff below.

## **What does your organization receive in return for partnering with BCC on these grant initiatives?**

These new behavioral health frontline staff will help your organization increase the value based care that you provide to patients. They will be trained to work with some of the most difficult patients in your patient population, including those patients who are cycling in and out of the hospital. These new staff can assist your patients with keeping appointments, adhering to a care plan and linking patients to services in the community.

**If you are interested in partnering with BCC, or learning more about either of these grant opportunities, please contact one of the BCC staff below:**

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