

Message from the President of Berkeley College
March 18, 2021



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Berkeley Team,

This week is a contemplative time for all of us. March 17, 2021, marks the one-year anniversary of Berkeley College shifting to remote instruction and a remote working environment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In acknowledging this milestone, I want to address the ways that our Berkeley College community has continued to show resilience in the face of unique times, and how we have answered the call by committing to community recovery.

In the March issue of Berkeley College *Newsline*, “Resilience Moving Us Forward,” you can read about how Berkeley College School of Health Studies faculty and students in the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) program are volunteering at a drive-thru vaccination site in Clifton, NJ. Throughout the pandemic, School of Health Studies students and alumni have worked on the frontlines to mitigate the public health crisis. We should all be proud of the ways that members of the Berkeley College community have risen to the occasion, working tirelessly in the trenches.

The story about Berkeley College alumnus, Wesley Rebisz, General Manager, Empire Outlets in Staten Island demonstrates the ingenuity of the business community in adapting to an impending post-COVID world by finding strategies to protect the health and safety of customers and employees, while maintaining business continuity.

Berkeley College faculty personify a core tenet of Berkeley College, “the student always comes first.” Their reflections of teaching and learning in a virtual world as well as remaining responsive and

empathetic to students' needs is one of the most important contributions we can make as an institution of higher learning.

The last year has confirmed what I already knew to be true about this institution. As has been evidenced over the past 90 years, Berkeley can adapt and thrive. We have excelled as a leader in online education and distance learning, and stayed true to our mission. We have prioritized the health and safety of our students and faculty with social distancing while still maintaining a virtual human connection.

As we continue to provide forums for relevant and up-to-date information sharing, as well as opportunities for the community to voice questions and concerns, a virtual COVID-19 Town Hall for students will take place on Tuesday, March 30, 2021, from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; and a virtual Town Hall for faculty and staff will take place on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Panelists will include several Berkeley representatives, as well as Dr. Susan Donelan, an infectious disease physician with Stony Brook University Hospital. Zoom information will be distributed soon.

The Berkeley College community has exemplified that our mission of empowering students to achieve lifelong success in dynamic careers, is more than just a phrase. Whether it is students and faculty working in the frontlines of this public health crisis, alumni driving the economic revival, or faculty helping students reach their academic and career goals during extraordinary times, the Berkeley College community is impacting every aspect of the COVID recovery.

The contributions of our Berkeley College community will define these days and our future.

Michael J. Smith
President of Berkeley College