



Learning Without Limits: KCC Celebrates 10-Year Partnership with AHRC NYC



“As a mentor with MRHEP, my job is to help students with intellectual and developmental disabilities cross the bridge between where they are and where they want to be.”

- Frank Laskowitz '19, Keynote Student Speaker at KCC's 14th Annual Seaside Splash

On Thursday, June 20th, Kingsborough Community College (KCC) will hold its [14th Annual Seaside Splash--Garden of Dreams](#), which will honor the AHRC Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program (MRHEP). Created through a partnership between KCC and AHRC New York City, MRHEP has had a profound impact on students at the college with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).

Ten years ago, AHRC New York City partnered with KCC and the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities to develop an inclusive program for students with IDD. Today, student-mentors like Frank Laskowitz, the 2019 winner of the *Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program Award*, carry out this mission year-round on the KCC campus. “The students I support are different, but never *less*, than their peers,” he says. “Like any other students at this amazing college, they have talent and potential, hopes and aspirations.”

This year, MRHEP celebrates its 10th anniversary, a milestone that KCC will acknowledge at the [Seaside Splash on June 20th](#). “When you provide people with opportunity, anything is possible,” says Dr. Carole Gothelf, Director of Individualized Supports for AHRC NYC. “That’s what AHRC is about and that’s what Kingsborough Community College is about.”

Frank has seen the benefits of the program up-close:

“One of my students was really struggling—not only from his learning difficulties, but from the negative thoughts that stemmed from his frustration. Applying the training I learned through MRHEP, I helped this student adopt cognitive techniques to pull him out of those dark moments. To this day, this student uses these techniques whenever he struggles emotionally, and he has become much more self-reliant as a result.”

This Fall, Frank will attend New York University to study Social Work, with the ultimate goal of helping veterans overcome post-traumatic stress. Based on his experiences at KCC, he will also continue to volunteer his time working with individuals with IDD: “Thanks to MRHEP, students learn not to be limited by their difficulties, and become far more comfortable, capable and happy with themselves in the process. And thanks to this program, I have grown tremendously, too. Because as much as I have helped my mentees find their potential, they have also helped me find *mine*.”

[Meet Frank Laskowitz, Our Keynote Speaker, By Purchasing Your Seaside Splash Tickets Today!!](#)

Every month, the Kaleidoscope presents a different facet of the Kingsborough experience—inspiring professors, student success stories, alumni testimonials, exciting new programs, news-making events and much more. We hope you enjoy these stories, and we also encourage you to share *your* unique KCC perspective with us. *Whether you are a current student or an alum, a faculty or staff member, a retiree or a distinguished donor, [you also can share your story!](#)*

Help our students overcome their obstacles and achieve their dreams!
[Support Kingsborough today!](#)

