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Online Learning Opportunities in Higher Ed are Increasing

For a time, the global pandemic forced a large number of U.S. colleges and universities to launch virtual classrooms. Although campuses across the country have returned to in-person learning, online learning has become increasingly popular, especially for adult learners needing flexibility while juggling work and family.

“Since the pandemic, the program has also attracted traditional students. Our experience with Kingsborough Community College’s KCC FLEX program positioned us to be nimble in supporting students in fully online programs, which are in higher demand post-pandemic. Retention of KCC FLEX students is higher than the overall population,” explained KCC’s Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. Joanne Russell, Ph.D.

Kingsborough Community College launched its online learning program, KCC FLEX in Fall 2019, with one fully online program, the AA degree

in Liberal Arts. The number of students has increased almost ten-fold from 84 in Fall 2019 to 827 in Fall 2023, with more than 12 fully online programs and 14 hybrid programs offered.

Rockaway Beach resident Sharon Brady enrolled in KCC’s FLEX program in 2021. “I enrolled in the FLEX program for several reasons, the first reason being to finally get a college education. I was never afforded the opportunity as a young person to formally educate myself. Family responsibility and financial burdens attributed to my humble circumstances. Second, I wanted to make my son proud of his mother. I promised him I would someday enroll and finish college as long as he did. My son graduated in 2018 from John Jay University with a bachelor’s in criminal justice management with a minor in psychology and physical education. He held me to that promise, and at 55 years old and working two full-time jobs,



I did it!!” Sharon explained.

“I worked my hardest to succeed, but if it weren’t for him and the FLEX program at Kingsborough Community College, I would have never been able to see this dream come to fruition. So many people guided me along my path and helped with all my

questions, concerns, or roadblocks without hesitation. I am forever grateful for all of you. KCC helped change the trajectory of my future and helped ensure my future educational achievements,” said Sharon.

She graduated last month (December 2023) with an associate degree in liberal arts.

She is fully enrolled in CUNY School of Professional Studies to receive her bachelor’s degree. Her classes started on January 24.

In addition to the online courses, KCC FLEX also offers evening and weekend courses, accelerated scheduling, expedited application and admissions processes, and dedicated enrollment and academic coaches. Daytime classes are also permitted. More and more students are finding college degrees more attainable through online courses because of the flexible scheduling and smaller classes taught by faculty experts.

Kingsborough Community College (KCC is a 70-acre academic oasis in beautiful Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, that offers students over 50 academic programs, 100 percent online degrees, and affordable two-year degrees for their future. For more information about KCC FLEX, visit the website at www.kbcc.cuny.edu/kccflex/index.html.