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EDUCATION PROFILE

Flexible Ways of Going Back to School

I can't believe it's been a year since I assumed the presidency at Kingsborough Community College. As we countdown to the first day of a new academic year, I feel like it's my first day of school all over again. The first day of school has always been exciting for me. As a child in St. Croix, it was the joy of a new school uniform, new teachers, connecting with new and old friends, and of course my new book bag, notebooks, and pens.

As I reflect on those days, I realize that times have changed so much. Notebooks and textbooks have been replaced by laptops and iPads, and learning and connecting with new and old friends; and teaching doesn't always happen in classrooms, Monday through Friday or even during the day. Today's college student can take classes online, from the comfort of their home,

on the weekends, at night or a combination of all three ways. Unlike when I was enrolled in college, there are more flexible ways to earn your degree and more ways that fit with your lifestyle. With fully-online courses, you never have to come to campus; with hybrid online courses, you can come to campus sometimes for class; and if you work all day and all week, evening classes and weekend classes are great ways to stay on track towards meeting your academic goals.

Over the years, online programs have become one of the popular ways for working adults to achieve their college degrees. According to a recent study conducted by The Learning House, 44 percent of online students reported improvements in their employment standing, by obtaining a full-time job within 12 months of grad-



Kingsborough Community College President Dr. Claudia V. Schrader

uation, and 45 percent reported a salary increase.

For people who do their best work at night, going

to school during evening hours is a good option.

You'll receive the same quality instruction as day

classes but the classes will be smaller, allowing more attention from the professor. And for students that have challenges attending week day classes, weekend courses offers the flexibility to attend classes on Friday evenings and Saturdays.

As I reflect on my first day of college many moons ago, I realize that there is no time like the present to start the journey to your academic goals. It's good to know that you can get there any way you choose to.

Dr. Claudia V. Schrader is president of Kingsborough Community College located in beautiful Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn and offers KCC FLEX, an affordable, flexible way to earn a college degree. Visit kbcc.cuny.edu/KCCFLEX, email kcconline@kbcc.cuny.edu call 718-368-6995 and get on board with meeting your educational goals.

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