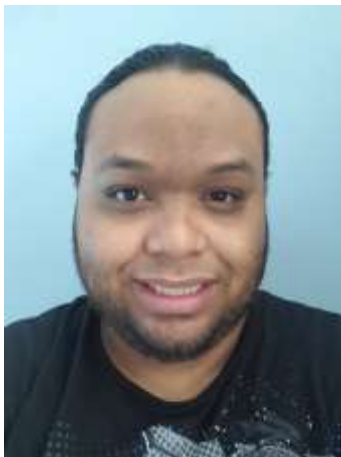




A Wealth of Resources: How the *Joshua Marcus Scholarship* and the Men's Resource Center Helped Moises Concha Reach His Full Potential



Moises Concha, Inaugural Recipient of the Joshua Marcus Men's Resource Center Scholarship

Like many Kingsborough Community College (KCC) students, Moises Concha fell in love with the campus at first sight. The college's famous seaside splendor, along with [its consistent ranking as one of the nation's top community colleges](#), was one of the main reasons he ultimately decided on KCC to pursue his studies in Accounting.

Once on campus, Moises quickly found a nurturing community in KCC's Men's Resource Center (MRC), where he stills serves as a peer mentor. "The Center helps young men connect with other like-minded individuals and *find themselves* in the process," says Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Director of the MRC. "By forging connections, young men can overcome their fears and break free from ingrained beliefs and societal messages that may otherwise prevent them from achieving their full potential."

Most crucially, the MRC remained one of the few constants in Moises' life in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic upended everything. In a bitter irony, the very things that made him love KCC in the first place—from the breathtaking location to the campus community—were taken away.

“Transitioning to remote learning was incredibly chaotic,” Moises says, recalling how difficult it was to coordinate with professors and peers. His family was also directly impacted by COVID-19, with his mother falling ill but ultimately recovering from the virus. “I honestly considered dropping out for a semester.”

Fortunately, the Men's Resource Center remained a source of community and support.



Dr. Michael Rodriguez, Director of the KCC Men's Resource Center

“With the remote learning situation, we quickly realized that the in-person, hi-touch style of engagement we had used before would no longer work,” says Dr. Rodriguez. “We therefore changed to a ‘hi-touch, hi-tech’ approach. This consisted of proactively reaching out to MRC students through email, zoom meetings and phone calls to meet their needs.”

In addition to staying connected to the MRC, Moises was also able to secure much-needed financial relief in the form of the *Joshua Marcus Men's Resource Center Scholarship*. The scholarship recognizes students who have benefitted from the MRC, and who have further demonstrated academic potential and civic awareness. It was funded in 2020 by Dr. Ann Marcus, Director of the New York University (NYU) Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy.

Dr. Marcus began her career in CUNY, where she served as LaGuardia Community College's founding Dean of Continuing Education. It was there that she first developed an appreciation for community colleges and the opportunities they provide for talented, hardworking students who often struggle financially due to factors outside of their control.

"My scholarship is named for my father, Joshua, who was devoted to supporting refugees after World War II," says Dr. Marcus. "He would be proud to know that an award in his name honors KCC students who not only excel academically, but also contribute to the greater community."

Joshua Marcus would also find much to admire in Moises Concha. Despite the adversities of the pandemic, the Accounting Major has maintained a 4.0 GPA and is a member of both the Phi Theta Kappa and KCC Honors Society. "Accounting is the language of finance," he says. "Having a foundation in accounting is key to my long-term dream of running my own business."

As he continues his studies at KCC, Moises is grateful to remain a part of the MRC, and also for the scholarship he received. "The Joshua Marcus Scholarship kept me afloat during a hard time. If scholarships like these can help me, they can help countless other students like me on their academic journeys."

What Will *Your* KCC Legacy Be?

Like Dr. Marcus, you too can make a lasting impact on KCC students through establishing a scholarship or graduation award. [Click Here](#) to learn about the different kinds of scholarships available to students, and [Click Here](#) to make *your* life-changing donation today!



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