

Bristol Community College *NEWS*

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Fall River * New Bedford * Attleboro * Taunton * Online

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BCC CELEBRATES MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WITH FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ON JANUARY 18

Bristol Community College's annual breakfast to honor the life and ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will feature poetry theater ensemble *Brother's Keeper*. The 2016 African American Alumnus of the year, will be awarded as well as the presentation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster and Essay contest winners, chosen from contest participants at area schools.

This year, the College is delighted to have secured poetry theater ensemble, *Brother's Keeper* of Providence, RI, as the keynote speakers.

Brother's Keeper seeks to bring healing, encouragement, and inspiration to others through the art of spoken word. Blending poetry, music, and theatre elements, the group explores a variety of topics to counteract some of the negative images of African American males found in mainstream media by embodying the positive aspects of manhood -sensitivity, compassion, selflessness, fatherhood, community and spirituality.

Edir Lopes, East Providence, RI, will be named the 2016 Distinguished African American Alumnus of the year.

Edir Lopes has been active in the Southeastern Massachusetts healthcare community since leaving Bristol Community College. Mr. Lopes entered BCC as an English as a Second Language (ESL) student before completing an Associate's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science at BCC, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Laboratory Science from The University of Rhode Island. He is currently enrolled in a Master of Business Administration program at Bryant University, Smithfield, RI.

Mr. Lopes has held several positions of increasing responsibility at St. Lukes Hospital, New Bedford, MA, in inpatient medical and surgical services. He was most recently appointed Clinical Specialist in the Microbiology Laboratory at St. Lukes. Despite his busy schedule, Lopes mentors Clinical Laboratory students at BCC and assists in preparing students for the national certification exam.

The breakfast will be held on Monday, January 18, 2016, in the Commonwealth College Center (G-Building) Cafeteria, BCC Fall River Campus, 777 Elsbree St. The event begins at

8:30 a.m. with music by Music One (a Rhode Island program which supports and educates youth by nurturing their talents in positive music), awards, and celebration, followed by an ecumenical service at the Bethel A.M.E. Church in Fall River. The event is free and open to the community
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