



For Immediate Release

## **KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HOST HEALTHY HOMES, HEALTHY FAMILIES EXPO 2009 OCTOBER 15**

*This safe-home public education event will feature training, workshops, and exhibits*

**Brooklyn, N.Y., October 7** – Dr. Regina Peruggi, president of Kingsborough Community College (KCC), today announced that the college, in partnership with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, will host the 2009 Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Expo on Thursday, October 15. The free Expo will be held in the Marine Academic Center (MAC) Rotunda and will run from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Expo will feature exhibits, workshops, training, and free give-aways throughout the day. Speakers and exhibitors represent city, state and federal agencies, non-profit partners, community organizations, and others who have information on important in-home safety topics.

“We are very pleased to host the 2009 Healthy Homes, Healthy Families Expo for the communities we serve. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the community to raise awareness of potential or actual in-home hazards that can threaten the health and well-being of family members,” said Dr. Peruggi. “Every single home holds the potential for injuries and illness among residents of all ages. That is why we are so eager to offer this Expo to educate tenants, home owners, contractors, realtors, sellers and potential buyers about how to prevent and, if necessary, identify and eliminate home health hazards. Our goal is to help families help themselves and to create a healthy home that helps promote a healthy family.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, housing conditions can significantly affect public health. Childhood lead poisoning, injuries, respiratory diseases such as asthma, and quality-of-life issues have been linked to the more than 6 million substandard housing units nationwide. Residents of such units are at increased risk for fire, electrical injuries, falls, rodent bites, and other illnesses and injuries. Other issues of concern include exposure to pesticide residues, indoor toxicants, tobacco smoke, and combustion gases. The burning of oil, gas, and kerosene can release a variety of combustion products, including carbon monoxide, a known cause of illness and death.

On the other hand, even in residences that are considered up to standards, there are important health hazards to which attention must be paid. According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, home accidents such as poisoning, falls, fires, burns, strangling, choking, suffocation, and unsafe fire arms and tool use kill one person every 16 minutes and injure one person every four seconds. Everyone needs to learn how to keep their homes dry, clean, safe, well-ventilated and pest-free.

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The Expo will offer workshops to address critical household conditions that can lead to unhealthy conditions including air quality, household products, toxic chemicals, lead paint, mold, moisture, mice, cockroaches, carbon monoxide, radon, bed bugs, gas appliances, fireplaces, chimneys, furnaces and many more.

A complete list of speakers and workshops can be found on the Kingsborough Community College Website at [www.kingsborough.edu/HealthyHomesExpo](http://www.kingsborough.edu/HealthyHomesExpo)

### **About Kingsborough Community College:**

Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn's only community college, is located on a 70-acre campus in Manhattan Beach, on the southern tip of Brooklyn. The breath-taking campus overlooks three bodies of water: Sheepshead Bay, Jamaica Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. It serves approximately thirty thousand students per year, offering a wide range of credit and non-credit courses in the liberal arts, career education, and specialized programs

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