

**Remarks by President Regina Peruggi
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
Kingsborough Athletic Field
May 14, 2010**

Good Morning.

Welcome to the ribbon-cutting for our new athletic field at Kingsborough Community College. Isn't it spectacular!

For the past six months through cold temperatures, snow and rain, we have watched the field's incredible transformation. And, today, we are thrilled to finally begin play following this program. So let's begin.

This new 181,100 square foot synthetic turf field, which includes a complex underground drainage system, replaces our old grass field. Our old field was in terrible shape and required continual and extensive maintenance. Much of that maintenance – and clean up – was due mainly to our many fine feathered friends on campus. If only we could collect tuition and sign them up to one of our teams, we might just weather the budget storm.

For those who might be concerned about the environmental impact of this artificial surface, let me assure you that the Parks Department has used the newest and safest surface here. Yes, it's true -for those of you who delight in the summer fragrance of freshly mowed grass, you're not going to get that here. However, for those of you who are allergic to the grass, that absence may actually be a plus. In addition, this surface does not require fertilizer, which eventually finds its way into our waters, and we won't be using gasoline for the lawn mowers.

Additionally, the sub-surface drainage system will allow for a more controlled dispersal of rainwater run-off in the event of heavy downpours.

The new softball, baseball and soccer fields are not only an integral part of the Health and Physical Education program for instruction and teams sports, but also will be used for the college's Continuing Education specialized classes and summer camp. This new field will also provide more opportunities for

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community recreational events. I'm sure it will soon become an attractive venue for many athletic activities.

The construction of this field demonstrates something very important in these days of budget deficits and reductions. It demonstrates what can happen quickly and efficiently when two public agencies intelligently collaborate on a project. Because it took a good deal of time for all of the financing for this job to fall into place, we wanted to do the actual construction as quickly as possible. So we immediately thought of our great New York City Parks Department which had already done many similar projects throughout the city.

The partnership of CUNY, Kingsborough, and New York City Parks worked perfectly... and, I'd like to thank Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall of CUNY's Office of Facilities Planning Construction and Management, Kingsborough's Vice President for Finance and Administration Bill Keller, and City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe for their contributions to that success. Commissioner Benepe is represented today by Therese Braddick, deputy commissioner for Capital Projects, who was responsible for overseeing the project. Thank you for coming.

There are so many others to thank who made this project possible. The support of the Brooklyn delegations to the New York City Council, New York State Senate and Assembly was invaluable. Among the members of those groups, Council Member Michael Nelson, who led the charge, supported by Domenic Recchia, and Lewis Fidler. New York State Senators Carl Kruger and Martin Golden and New York State Assembly members Steven Cymbrowitz, Helene Weinstein, Alan Maisel were particularly helpful and deserve special recognition. Unfortunately, today, with important budget matters being discussed, they couldn't be here to take part in this ceremony.

But one of our Brooklyn officials, who never lets us down, has joined us today. He, too, was responsible for securing the funding for this field. Last year, he helped us open our new nursing lab, this year the athletic field, and I understand in the near future he may return for something connected with our performing arts center. Frankly, I hope he can make a Kingsborough ribbon-cutting an annual event.

Thank you all for coming. Let's play ball.