An Educational Gem in Brooklyn for Adults: College of New Rochelle; School of New Resources - Credit for Life Experience  By Linda Armstrong

Did you know that there is a college in Brooklyn that focuses on accommodating adult students—21 year olds and up? A college in the heart of Bedford, Stuyvesant? A college that gives you college credits for life experience? Yes, that's right, life experience? Well, there is and it is the College of New Rochelle, School of New Resources—located at 1368 Fulton Street, in Restoration Plaza. One flight up on the second floor, it is a hidden gem in Brooklyn and has been a source of higher education at this location since 1983. Prior to that it was housed in Boys & Girls High School from 1982 to 1984. “The mission of the College is to provide access to education,” explained Brooklyn Campus Director, Dr. Veronica Lawrence Wright. “The School of New Resources offers a trimester schedule, day 9:30-11:15am, 10am-2pm, and evening 5:30pm-7:15pm and 6:00pm-10pm, weekend classes on Saturdays morning and afternoon. Classes are in a seminar format rather than by lecture. It’s inclusive of the professor—it’s a dialogue conversation in the classroom,” Dr. Lawrence Wright added.

The college offers a Bachelor of Arts in liberal arts with an area of interest in communications, psychology, social science, letters and foreign languages. It offers 6 credit classes and there’s a life’s art project—a combination of the student’s life experience, research and the content of the class. “They bring their experience to the classroom and align it with the academic standards that they fit. When you do it that way it’s difficult for the professor to stand and lecture because there is so much experiential learning being brought to the classroom. Students can earn 2 college credits from their experiential learning,” Lawrence Wright said.

“Life is the biggest classroom. At the school of new resources we understand that some students have gone through some things that no text book would have prepared them for,” Lawrence Wright shared.

The faculty is comprised of Phds, or professors that hold masters degrees in their areas of specialty. Something that distinguishes the School of New Resources is that students have a clear say in what their courses consist of because they are actively a part of course development, according to Dr. Lawrence Wright.

If you want to try the School of New Resources, the school accepts up to 90 college credits from other school. To apply, visit the campus and bring your High School diploma or GED. You can also go to CNR.edu/snrcrapp. Once an application and High School diploma are received students do an assessment that includes reading, writing and vocabulary. A math assessment takes place when they are enrolled. Students have tuition options of federal and state aid, PELL and TAP grants, college-need based grants, and Federal Student loans. Classes run $395 per credit.

In addition to regular classes The College of New Rochelle, School of New Resources offers programming. “We offer CASAC—Certiﬁcation, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor. Students will have their bachelors degree and CASAC certiﬁcation asked for by hospitals and community based organizations. We also offer PCAP—Pre-college Academic Program. It prepares students to take their High School equivalency test. Study Abroad programs, this summer students studied in Brazil. They studied the culture during a 2 to 4 week period. We have clubs—MEN (Male Empowerment Network) and a Sister-to-Sister club,” said Dr. Lawrence Wright.

Named a Best Practice Institution by the Council of Adults in Experiential Learning. Dr. Lawrence Wright explained, “Students are able to study full time two days a week. Students earn their degree faster with six credit courses. Students can earn up to 30 credits for experiential learning—learning or work experience apart from the traditional classroom setting. We also have dedicated faculty that helps students to craft the educational plan that prepares them for life and their career. We try to help students accomplish whatever academic goal they have, if it was to get your GED or be the first in your family to go to college, we are here for them. We offer graduate programs, a masters in guidance and counseling and we’re offering a master degree in education. They are two year programs. Students can complete their certification in education in one year. It is a privilege to know I have the ability to impact 500 plus students during an academic year in a positive way. In some how, in some way that I’ve helped these students accomplish a life-long dream.” The college’s next informational session will be Nov. 18 from 11am-2pm for those who want to register for the Spring 2016 semester, starting Jan. 21st. The School of New Resources has campus located in the Bronx, Manhattan and Harlem.

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