Marching across campus to the dedication ceremonies are (l-r) Nathan Schmukler, Mayor Beame, President Kneller and BHE member Harold Jacobs. At right, His Honor speaks to a large crowd gathered on the Plaza Portico. (Photos by G. Bing)

Mayor Abraham Beame led the list of city dignitaries who spoke at the official dedication of the college's new buildings at ceremonies April 26.

Reaffirming his support for free tuition and the Open Admissions policy, Mayor Beame, a CCNY grad himself, said he believed "every student should have the right to a college education."

In his speech, the Mayor lauded the college's continuing academic excellence and its growing commitment to get involved in the community. He singled out the Schools of Education and Performing Arts for their innovative community-oriented programs.

Also speaking at the ceremonies were Chancellor Robert Kibbee, Deputy Borough President John Hays, BHE Chairman Alfred Giardino and President Kneller.

In his remarks, President Kneller said that "we are celebrating the continuing commitment to education which so strengthens the city and state of New York and the borough of Brooklyn. It is that dedication which made these buildings rise, and it is these."

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buildings in turn which make stronger education possible.”

The president particularly thanked the government officials for their commitment to higher education.

“This dedication is a chance to express great gratitude, on behalf of the people of Brooklyn, to our government officials, without whose understanding of the need for education, and without whose commitment to it, our attempt to fulfill the educational aspirations of our citizens would almost certainly fail,” said President Kneller. “The inauguration of these extensive new areas represents not only the culmination of years of careful planning and budgeting, it is also the tangible demonstration of public service at its most enlightened.”

The ceremonies brought distinguished guests from throughout the city to the campus. They included BHE members Francesco Cantarella and Harold Jones, Deputy CUNY Chancellor Seymour Hyman, City Councilmen Thomas Cuite and Robert Steingut and Director of Municipal Services John Carroll. Faculty, staff, students and special BC personages, such as President Emeritus and Mrs. Francis P. Kilcoyne, also attended.

Dorothy Klotzman and the Symphonic Band punctuated the ceremonies with spirited renditions of Sousa and Goldman marches as well as Charles Ives’ “Variations on America.”