



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



OCTOBER 25, 2024

DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.

PRESIDENT'S

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

— Michael Jordan

NEW COURT, NEW ENERGY, SAME FIRE!

Dragon Country! Please join us on Friday, November 1, 2024, as we celebrate the first basketball games in the Kahlert Foundation Complex! Our Dragons will take on the Baltimore City Community College Panthers with the women's game scheduled for 5 p.m. and the men's game for 7 p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase, and free t-shirts while supplies last. Student tickets are available for free with a current ID. Staff and Faculty and members of the general public can purchase tickets at HowardCC.edu/KCOpener. Help us cheer on our Dragons and *White Out* the Panthers by wearing white in the stands!

The first game excitement is a continuation of the fire burning in Dragon Athletics. Earlier this week, I announced a [historic five-year partnership](#) between the college, Nike and BSN Sports to serve as the exclusive apparel and equipment provider for our student-athletes. HCC is the only community college in Maryland to have an agreement of this nature with Nike. I look forward to this partnership showcasing the best of Dragon Country's competitive spirit.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Senior Leadership Team Update

Senior Leadership Team meeting minutes are available on the [portal](#).

Board of Trustees Meeting Notice

The Howard Community College Board of Trustees will meet at **5 p.m.** on **October 29, 2024**, virtually. A public viewing room will be made available in McCuan Hall, room 201/202, and the virtual link can be found in the board materials. Board materials for the public meeting are [posted on the web](#) as part of the library archives.

NEW COURT, NEW ENERGY, SAME FIRE!
WHITE OUT GAME

HCC DRAGONS
VS.
BCCC PANTHERS

NOVEMBER 1
Women's game: 5 p.m. • Men's game: 7 p.m.

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Leaving the college:

- Pheary Pich

Environmental Services
Technician (10/15)

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



This Fall, Leave the Leaves!

*Rather than the tedious task of raking and bagging leaves and taking them to the landfill, the best way to reduce greenhouse gases and benefit your garden is to **leave the leaves!***

Leaves create a natural mulch that helps to suppress weeds while fertilizing the soil as it breaks down. The leaves also serve as a habitat for wildlife including lizards, birds, turtles, frogs, and insects that overwinter in the fallen leaves. These living creatures help keep pests down and increase pollination in your garden, so having a habitat for them in the fallen leaves can help to keep them around when you need them the most.

[Learn more from the USDA!](#)

GET INTO THE HALLOWEEN SPIRIT!

On October 31, 2024, the Student Program Board (SPB) will host the annual Halloween Bash. Halloween Bash is an event open to both employees and students that is full of festive activities and encourages community engagement. The SPB is looking forward to joining both employees and students in the Academic Commons Burrill Galleria from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on October 31, 2024, to participate in the photo booths, fortune telling, game show, and costume contest!

One of the activities at the Halloween Bash is the much-anticipated costume contest. Students and employees are both encouraged to participate in some friendly competition and show off their costumes. The costume contest will be in the back Burrill Galleria (beside the Game Room), and all who wish to participate must be there and ready at 1:10 p.m. Costume contest participants will each have a turn to show off their Halloween style to our panel of student and employee judges, and the 1st place winner for employees and for students will get a special prize!

The Student Program Board has been working hard to make this event a success. Last year the Halloween Bash had over 300 attendees and made countless memories! In order to make this event happen we need volunteers, and we appreciate each person who lends a helping hand. Please visit the Sign-Up Genius link to volunteer for a portion of the event. SPB can't wait to see you there!

Students can learn more on [Campus Groups](#)
Sign up to volunteer: [Sign Up Genius](#)



HCC FORWARD UPDATE



HCC Forward Microsite

The HCC Forward Microsite serves as a central hub for all updates related to the HCC Forward initiative, including updates from the Design and Assessment teams within our HCC Forward Project Structure.

This microsite will act as a repository for teams to access updates, meeting minutes, and recordings. It is designed to streamline information while promoting transparency and alignment across the ongoing changes at HCC, as well as our collaboration with Swim Digital Group, CampusWorks, and ATD.

The site will be updated regularly throughout the course of this project. To stay informed on our progress, please visit www.hccforward.com.

We would love to hear your feedback! If you have any questions or would like further clarification on specific topics or projects, please reach out via hccforward.com/connect. Your responses will be forwarded to our Steering and Leadership Team for review and response.

Meet the Steering & Leadership Team!

The Steering Team plays a key role in guiding the strategic direction of HCC Forward, ensuring our vision becomes a reality. Each team member brings deep expertise in their respective fields, offering valuable insights and expertise to help drive HCC's vision forward. Their dedication helps ensure that every part of our framework aligns with our mission and truly supports the needs of our community.

In addition to overseeing HCC Forward, the Steering Team is leading the development of our inaugural cohorts for President's Leadership Development Program, set to launch this November.

Meet Our Steering Team Members:

- **Dr. Tyria Stone**, Vice President of Campus Services and Chief Financial Officer
- **Stephanie Wall**, Chief of Staff and Special Projects
- **Dr. Shantay Grays**, Provost and Executive Vice President
- **Minah Woo**, Vice President of Workforce, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships
- **Delisle Warden**, Vice President for Policy and General Council
- **Zoe Irvin**, Executive Director of Planning, Research and Organizational Development
- **Jarrett Carter**, Vice President for External Affairs, Communications and Advancement

CELEBRATING BANNED BOOKS WEEK WITH THE LIBRARY, CENTER FOR CIVIC AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AND ENGLISH FACULTY AND STUDENTS

From September 24 to 26, 2024, the college's Center for Civic and Community Engagement collaborated with professors **Rick Leith** and **Brian Martin** to host the annual Banned Books Week event, involving approximately 120 English students. Launched by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week raises awareness about efforts to restrict access to books across the United States and celebrates the freedom to explore diverse ideas. During the event, students and staff visited the banned books graveyard in Duncan Hall, room 100 to learn about the controversy surrounding some of the most frequently challenged titles as students had designed and prepared visual displays and presentations to teach participants about books that are frequently banned or challenged. Additionally, HCC community members were encouraged to participate in one of three storybook recording sessions, where they shared personal stories about the impact books have had on their lives. Faculty and staff who attended the event were eligible for professional development credit.



I want to thank Professors **Rick Leith** and **Brian Martin** for continuing this tradition of educating our campus community about the consequences of censorship; **Grace Becraft, Kiri Burcat,** and **Jackie Regales** from the center for civic and community engagement for sponsoring this event; and **Amy Krug** from the HCC Library for providing resources from the library collection at the graveyard events and providing digital hosting for the collection of storybooth recordings. Finally, thank you to Professors **Jennie Charlton-Jackson** and **Lisa Wilde** for bringing their students to participate in these rich learning opportunities.

GLOBAL COMPETENCY TOWN HALL

On November 19, 2024, all members of the Howard Community College campus community are cordially invited to participate in a town hall meeting dedicated to the dissemination of assessment results pertaining to the global competency general education goal. This meeting aims to provide transparent insight into the assessment process, outcomes, and strategies for continuous improvement. Members of the global competency goal team will present the results of the general education assessment as well as answer any questions. The meeting will be held from 2:00 to 3:30 in the Catherine Joan Cochran Community Room (SET 101). This session is open to all HCC faculty and staff and available for professional development credit using [course number 13037, section 13696](#).

HCC JOINS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN REFUGEES

On Friday, October 18, **Dr. Darren Gibson, Rosie Verratti, and Mary Barton** represented HCC at the U.S. Department of State's inaugural "Friends for Future" Cross-Community Network meeting. This initiative is dedicated to sharing and promoting resources for the more than 500 North Korean escapees living in the U.S., with the goal of supporting their dignity and long-term integration into American society.

During the event, HCC staff had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador Julie Turner, U.S. Special Envoy to North Korea, and gain insight into the unique needs of North Korean refugees. HCC was invited to participate due to the strong relationship between the **English Language Center** and leaders of the local and state Korean American community, reflecting the college's commitment to fostering cross-cultural understanding and support.



CHROMEBOOK GIVEAWAY EMPOWERS STUDENTS THROUGH DIGITAL ACCESS

The Division of Workforce, Career and Community Education's Languages and Culture department recently held a successful Chromebook Giveaway Week, distributing 500 free Chromebooks to eligible students from the English Language Center, high school diploma program, and Project Elevate, as well as community members and HCC staff.

Staff worked to ensure their students could easily access the Chromebooks provided through the Maryland Connected Devices grant. These devices will not only support students in their educational journey but also open doors to essential services like healthcare, job opportunities, and key resources needed to fully engage in society. This initiative represents an important step toward social and economic empowerment for individuals often facing barriers to digital access.

Thanks to **Brad Knieriem, Katie Edwards, Jimmy Hancock, Tamara Jones, Kathie Martin, Rob Rickenbrode, Viviana Simon, Jen Stadler, and Jon Wiley** for working tirelessly throughout the week to get laptops in the hands of students. Many thanks to student workers Cho Kim, Kenia Lovo Medina, Isabella Pedrozo de Moraes, Tayna Souza Damasceno, Kristy Vazquez Rodriguez, and Cherry Yoo for helping students complete their applications and serving as interpreters. Special thanks to **Mike Altobelli, Mary Barton, Jessica Grim, Rosie Verratti, and Chuni Wang** for envisioning and organizing the event.

FREE CHROMEBOOKS FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

The college in partnership with Howard County, is offering eligible Maryland residents a Chromebook through Maryland's Connected Devices grant. The program is open to students and community members who meet the eligibility criteria. For more information and to apply for a device visit HowardCC.edu/ChromebookInfo