



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Senior Leadership Team Update

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

Holiday Party - Save the Date

HCC's campus-wide holiday party will be held on Monday, December 16, from noon - 2 p.m. in the Ecker Cafe on the Quad. Offices will be closed to allow all employees to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

College Closed December 23

Thank you to all college employees for another year of your hard work as we meet our students where they dream. To allow you to enjoy the winter break early, the college will be closed on December 23. I hope you are able to enjoy your time with your family and loved ones.

NOVEMBER 8, 2024

DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"You don't have to be the best... but you have to be YOUR best."

— Skylar Diggins-Smith

DRAGON ATHLETICS SOAR ON AND OFF THE FIELD

Dragon Country! Last Friday, we opened the doors to the new home of Dragon basketball, the Kahlert Foundation Complex! Following a celebratory ribbon cutting, our women's and men's basketball teams were victorious in their inaugural games in the center against the Baltimore City Community College Panthers.

Fans and supporters of Dragon Athletics can now shop for branded apparel through the [new team store](#)! I hope to see you rocking your new swag around Dragon Country soon.

The first games marked the conclusion of a historic week of competition and program-building for the Dragons:

The men's cross-country team captured its first Region 20 championship since 2019 on Saturday in Hagerstown. The talented roster, led by head coach **Philippe DeRosier** finished second overall behind Division I Hagerstown to capture the Division II regional title.

On Wednesday, the men's soccer team advanced to the Region 20 men's soccer championship tournament semi-finals but fell to top-seeded rival, CCBC Essex, 4-1. It was the team's eighth straight appearance in the regional field of four and concludes an 8-7-1 season for the team and head coach **Robert Ryerson**.

Our women's softball team also made national headlines for breast cancer awareness advocacy and fundraising this week. Congratulations to head coach **Shannon Riley** and the Dragons, who raised more than \$22,000 for a local family and finished the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association's 'Strike Out Cancer' campaign as the top-grossing community college in the nation!

View a gallery of photos from the ribbon cutting and first games at [HowardCC.edu/Photos](https://www.howardcc.edu/photos).

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon

Country:

- Drewry Brown

*Assistant Director of
Procurement (11/04)*

- Angela Hickman

Howard Hub Specialist (11/04)

- Leila Scott

Howard Hub Specialist (11/04)

Congratulations on your new position!

- Cierrah Dixon-Styles

Office Associate V (11/04)

- Tanner French

Application Specialist (11/04)

- Aubrey Bacho

*Coordinator, Center for Learning
Excellence (11/18)*

Congratulations on your retirement!

- Penny DeYoung

Accounting Manager (12/31)

- Linda Slomski

Office Associate V (01/31/25)

DRAG[ON] EXTRAVAGANZA CELEBRATES LGBTQIA+ HISTORY AND CULTURE

On October 24, HCC hosted the third-annual Drag[on] Extravaganza, an educational and entertaining drag show in celebration of LGBTQIA+ History Month. Over 200 students, faculty, staff and community members enjoyed a pre-show resource fair and queer vendor market, a screening of **Dragon Media's** award-winning [Dragumentary](#), a panel discussion, LGBTQIA+ history trivia, an on-stage intermission dance party and performances from regional celebrity drag artists, including a special guest performance from HCC's own Stealya-Manz Blue.

During a pre-show resource fair and queer vendor market, guests met with representatives from the Howard County LGBTQIA+ Commission and learned about campus resources including the Wellness Center, the Maryland Connected Devices Program, and HCC's All Gender Facilities and Chosen Name policies. Relive the excitement with a [gallery of event photos](#).

Congratulations to **Grace Anastasiadis, Adam Leatherman** and **Darius McKeiver** for planning another fabulous extravaganza! I'm proud to share that this year's event was made possible in part by the Howard County Arts Council through a generous grant from the Howard County Government. Thank you to **Sarah Angerer** and the office of development for working to secure the grant funding.

Thank you to **Rachel Adams, Mike Altobelli, Auxiliary Services and Canteen Staff, Janelle Broderick, Jessica Chaney, Kyle Dill, John Elder, Event Set Up Staff, Tara Gary, Jess Grim, Linwood Milan, Eric Moore, Office of Public Relations and Marketing, Office of Public Safety, Donna Randrianjohary, Mark Smedley, Zak Starry, Audrey Tutko, Patty Veri, Sonny Via, Julie Via, Bill Watson** and **the Wellness Center** for their support of the event.



SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Many of us start the day with a cup of coffee or indulge in a warm beverage as we enjoy the flavors of fall and winter. If you have a K-Cup brewer in your office, you can reduce your waste through the Keurig K-Cycle recycling program!

Used pods are collected and returned to recycle the plastic and aluminum and use the grounds and filter for compost.

If your office is interested in participating, please contact **Bob Marietta** or **Belinda Green** for more information!

FALL 2024 JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR SUCCESS!

On October 24, 2024, the office of career services hosted the Fall 2024 Job and Internship Fair in the Dwight A. Burrill Galleria and the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center. The event saw a tremendous increase in attendance turnout, with over 100 employers and 586 participants, including students, alumni, and community members. Employers, in attendance, aligned with the college's academic pathways, offering direct connections to diverse industries and opportunities.

Special thanks to the career services team, including **Amy Crawford, Debby Curry, Uche Maple, Paul Martin, and Keyara Stevenson** for coordinating this impactful event. The career services department extends their gratitude to the teams from the Academic Center for Excellence, administrative information systems, audio-visual design and services, disability support services, development and alumni, facilities, finance, public relations and marketing, public safety, student life, and the Wellness Center for their invaluable support. Additional thanks to Stephen Cherry Photography for providing LinkedIn headshots for attendees, and to our faculty and staff career champions for promoting this event to students.

The career services team would also like to thank the following staff for volunteering: **Mary Barton, Brandon Bellamy, Heather Boswell, Thelma Bush, De'Asia Clark, Eileen Diggs, Jen Duncan, Frannie Edwards, Genele Godana, Sayed Abdul Hameed Hashmi, Detra Hooper, Zaula Kennedy, Jean Melvin, Pamela Okechukwu, Mary O'Rourke, Keshawna Price, Damion Reed, Irma Rosado, Naseem Skaarenborg, Jennifer Stadler, Zana Watson, Cathi Watts, Brittany White, Terrell Willis, and Ellen Wolf.**

Thank you also to our student volunteers: Nelson Achuo, Michael Akinduro, Arika Anthony, Ahmed Awan, Amy Bram, Kemberly Bruno, Joshua Collier, Jack Dempsey, Deya Dimitrova, Tasnim Fatima, Faith Foncham, Obanex Francois, Nathan George, Mahnoor Humayoun, Ashley Johnson, Daesha Johnson, Simone Joseph, Latisha Kinard, Carmen Lalani, Khang Nguyen, Tomi Omosanya, Keren Peters, Daniel Safriet, Zala Weyker, Allison Wise, and Amanda Xavier de Oliveira.

Join us for the next career services Job and Internship Fair in Spring 2025! In the interim, connect with employers, explore on-campus jobs, and find summer internships and full- or part-time opportunities on [Handshake](#).



SECOND ANNUAL 'FALL FOR ALL' A SMASHING SUCCESS!

Thank you to all who had a hand in welcoming our Howard County community to campus for the second annual Fall for All festival on October 18. Over **550 families** attended the event to enjoy the beautiful fall weather, visit community resource and sustainability tables, enjoy games, activities and inflatables, and of course, candy!

Thank you to the members of the planning committee, **Grace Anastasiadis (chair), Bronwyn Bates, Janelle Broderick, Kiri Burcat, Wendell Epps, Belinda Green, Dewey Grim, Jess Grim, Molly Hong, Kim Jewer, Anne Johnson, Adam Leatherman, Bob Marietta, Kia McLeod, Clint Neill, Sumeeta Raj, Betsy See, Denise Smith, Jackie Taylor, Karen Vadnais, Stephanie Velazquez Alfonso, and Yang Yu**, for planning the activities and coordinating the logistics, décor, and promotion of the entire event. Thank you to the event set up team and facilities staff for ensuring our campus was ready for our guests and the tents, tables and chairs were ready for our vendors and partners.

I'd also like to thank the many HCC community members who came together and took the time to volunteer and make the day a success: **Sarah Angerer, Blessy Anna Mathew, Bayaan Ansari, Christianne Aranguren, Miora Arintsoa, Aubrey Bacho, Grace Becraft, Sarah Bridgett, Tenisha Bryant, Thelma Bush, Ania Byrd, Quinn Carberry, Rebecca Carmody, Nisa Chaudry, Hsiangting Chen, Salina Chung, Sandra Clabough, Sue Clemens, Cynthia Cupples, Michelle Cutick, Isha Dawadi, Isabella DeGaine, Penny Deyoung, Eileen Diggs, Deya Dimitrova, Kalyn Do, Jennifer Duncan, Margie Dunklee, Lars Eidsness, Christi Ewing, Joseph Fox, Diana Freyman, Louis Garcia, Marilu Garcia-Yellin, Brittany Gates, Genele Godana, Jordan Grable, Suzanne Grooms, Nathan Hefty, Phoebe Hogle, Tony Hoos, Mahnoor Humayoun, Simone Joseph, Hal Kenny, Lombuso Khoza, Carmen Lalani, Christopher Liv, Larissa Lopez, Marisol Lopez, Michele Lutz, Danielle Maloney, Anthony Marra, Eric McCoy, Carl Merritt, David Milburn, Ryan Morrison, Tina Murray, Hillary Oo, Pengmin Pan, Kim Pavlovsky, Jy'Shawn Pearson, Laureat Pich, Keshawna Price, Zonun Puii, Jackie Regales, Lisa Rehwoldt, Irma Rosado, Zonun Sanga, Kevin Shin, Katie Siegwarth, Ana Silva, Naseem Skaarenborg, Linda Slomski, Rachel Smith, Marisa Strickland, Ewa Surowiec, Karen Surette, Andrea Thompson, Deon Tillman, Julie Via, Birgit Von Koll, Jen Ward, Cathi Watts, and Xueqiong Yang.**

View a gallery of photos from Fall for All [here](#).



HCC FORWARD UPDATE



Utilization of Existing Committees/Teams for HCC Forward

As we progress through the semester, I'm continually amazed by the dedication and teamwork within our HCC community. Our HCC Forward framework has been in full swing, and I can't say enough about how many of you have devoted countless hours to drive us closer to our goal: achieving a 59% graduation, transfer, and completion rate by the fall term of 2025. Many of our committees and teams have been actively working together since early 2023, laying the groundwork for our progress.

To amplify our efforts, we're partnering with Achieving the Dream (ATD), CampusWorks, and Swim Digital Group. These collaborations, while complex, are strategically aligned, each one supporting our collective focus—student success. With these partnerships, we're leveraging expertise that complement our strengths here at HCC, creating a truly comprehensive approach.

In the coming weeks, we'll be realigning our committees into specialized Design Task Forces under HCC Forward. These task forces will carry on the incredible work already underway, utilizing the support and guidance of our partners at ATD, CampusWorks, and Swim Digital Group. This is an exciting next step in our journey, and I encourage you all to keep an eye out for the announcement of these new Design Task Forces!

Your hard work and commitment to our shared vision continue to inspire me. I'm proud of everything we've accomplished so far, and I'm excited to see all that we'll achieve together. Thank you for being an essential part of HCC Forward.

PULSE SURVEY #3 - ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE INPUT INTO THE FY2026 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Your unique perspective is incredibly valuable to us. Please take about 10 minutes to fill out the Fall 2024 Pulse #3 Survey.

Thursday, October 31st, every member of our eligible staff, including adjunct faculty, received an email invitation to participate in the Pulse #3 Survey. This invitation was sent from zirvin@howardcc.edu via surveymonkey.com. If you have not already taken the survey, we kindly ask that you prioritize this opportunity to contribute your perspectives by completing the survey before **November 14, 2024**.

For those in supervisory roles, we encourage you to motivate your team members to set aside approximately 10 minutes in their schedules to this important endeavor.

Thanks to the 140+ individuals who have already entered their responses!

If you have any questions or comments about the Pulse Survey, please contact **Betsy See** at esee@howardcc.edu.

STARTALK GRANT FUNDS YEAR-ROUND LEARNING IN CRITICAL LANGUAGES

HCC has again been awarded a STARTALK federal grant! Students accepted to the program will be awarded full scholarships to study Mandarin Chinese in the 2025 spring, summer, and fall semesters. The year-round student engagement program in critical languages provides credit courses integrated with culture-focused events and learning activities.

HCC has consistently been awarded a STARTALK federal grant, managed and funded by the National Security Agency (NSA), every year since 2007, earning an excellent reputation nationwide for stellar instruction. Through the most recent 2023 grant, 81 students were awarded full scholarships to study Arabic and Chinese in spring, summer, and fall 2024, with the program receiving an outstanding evaluation from the NSA on-site visit evaluator.

Across the U.S., STARTALK funds innovative instructional programming with strong language learning outcomes for K-16 students, aimed at increasing the number of U.S. citizens learning crucially needed world languages and increasing the number of highly effective critical language educators.

Thank you to program director Professor **Yulan Liu** and to the staff in our academic division offices, grant office, and Admissions & Advising for their hard work and support of the STARTALK programs, including **Sarah Angerer, Jeremy Bomberg, Nicholas Boyd, Janelle Broderick, Janet Lombard-Cullison, Pamela Eidsness, Sarah English, Margaret Garroway, Xiaoli Gong, Christina Harb, Tara Hart, Christopher Ho, Detra Hooper, Shiya Hsu, Jessica Kirkpatrick, Valerie Lee, Christine Liu, Tina Narmouq, Lauren Nitz, Abdelrahim Salih, Weiwei Shao, Ming Jun Sun, Ewa Surowiec, Yingzhe Tao, Audrey Tutko, Chun Ye, and Yang Yu.**

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Today the college will launch its efforts for the United Way of Central Maryland Campaign. Thank you for your past generous support of this appeal. Your contributions have made a real difference in the lives of so many – in making our community a better place to live, and to work – in helping others meet their basic needs – in family safety – in school readiness – and in helping our youth achieve their full potential.

Why should you support the United Way? United Way works with families to keep them in their homes and out of shelters, with kids who are falling behind in school, and with people who need healthy food and jobs to pay the bills. Your gift to the United Way can make a difference in the life of a child, a veteran, a struggling family, or even someone you may know. I hope that you will contribute cheerfully to this year's goal and show everyone in our region that Dragon Country is the heart of kindness in Central Maryland!

Please see the [attached Giving Guide](#) along with a [video](#), which highlights United Way's focus areas and "what your gift can do" infographics.

The HCC community has always been generous in its support of the United Way. We have set a goal of \$5,000 for this year. The campaign will run from November 1 to November 22. You will be able to make your donation electronically or by filling out paper donor forms. The information on how you can access your personalized giving page is attached to this Update. (See: Employee Electronic Pledging Instructions.)

Thank you to this year's HCC United Way team, **Yonas Berhane, Dr. Shatina Chen, Lars Eidsness, Christi Ewing, Tony Grabow, Deb Greenberg, Dr. Pengmin Pan, Betsy See, Dr. Yinyoung Rhou, and Zoe Irvin.** Any Questions? Email: zirvin@howardcc.edu.



United Way
of Central Maryland

UWCM.ORG

Strong Neighbors Create Stronger Neighborhoods



United Way of Central Maryland lives and breathes this region. Thanks to our extensive network of partners, supporters, and volunteers, United Way is prepared like no other organization to translate donations into meaningful, lasting change. We strive to make lives better for those who call Central Maryland home, because strong neighbors create stronger neighborhoods.

We provide what's needed where it's needed, promoting equity, creating opportunities, combating health inequality, and more. Throughout Greater Baltimore, our neighbors are working hard to survive—United Way wants them to thrive.

Let us connect you with the causes you care about most and ensure your dollars go as far as possible for our communities and neighbors in need.



Candice's Story

Candice just returned to work after her daughter was born. She was excited to take this next step in her career—and as

a mother. She was starting to enjoy her new normal, but then her daughter's daycare center closed. Candice faced some decisions she never thought she'd have to make. Soon enough, the bills started to pile up, her rent was overdue, and Candice was trying to find a way to make ends meet.

Read the full story at uwcm.org/candice

What your gift can do.



\$30 provides a week of healthy lunches for one toddler at our Family Centers



\$75 supplies a uniform, stethoscope, and safety glasses for a CNA/GNA student



\$175 covers one month of transportation needs for a veteran



\$250 connects 5 middle school students to skill-building mentorship



\$1,000 purchases a laptop and school supplies for a Young Men United participant

Your donation will improve lives and neighborhoods across Central Maryland.

Your Gift to United Way of Central Maryland



United Way
of Central Maryland

UWCM.ORG

Basic needs are essential—but not equitable. We work to improve lives for those who call Central Maryland home, providing what’s needed, where it’s needed to create change.

Your gift to United Way supports our core programs:



Education

United Way breaks down barriers to educational equity from every angle, putting more students on the path to learning, earning their diplomas, and achieving their dreams. Our On Track 4 Success program provides a blueprint for helping more at-risk students stay and succeed in school. We are also bridging the digital divide by providing technology today’s learning environment demands.



Economic Advancement

United Way works with our neighbors to remove obstacles keeping them from a job that pays the bills. Programs include specialized work initiatives, like a new program and resources to help employers better support and retain hardworking employees facing economic instability. Through GED instruction, job readiness training, career mentoring, and apprenticeships, we put people on track to gain the self-sufficiency we all desire and deserve.



Housing

A place to call home is a basic—and essential—human need, but evictions are taking place at a staggering rate. United Way is one of the largest non-governmental funders of eviction prevention in this area with 14 housing programs, the STEP program, 211 Emergency Assistance, and Relocation and Rent Forgiveness.



Health

We are committed to health equity by improving social determinants throughout the region. We strive to ensure everyone can access healthy food and resources to support optimal health.

2-1-1

211 Maryland United Way Helpline

Our 24-hour, free, confidential 211 Maryland United Way helpline and website connects people of all ages from all communities to essential health and human services. Our professional and caring call specialists can provide information, community resources, and referrals for a variety of needs.

United Way of Central Maryland

1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 340, Baltimore, MD 21230 | 410-547-8000





Employee Electronic Pledging Instructions

Step 1. Login:

Access your campaign donor site with the following address:

<https://epledge.uwcm.org/epledge/Begin.jsp>

Type your Username, which is **your work email address**

Type your Password, which is **your 7 digit Employee ID (add leading zeros if necessary, i.e. 0001234)**

Step 2. Make Your Pledge

- Start by selecting **"Give"** from the Main Menu on the top of the screen.
- After selecting **"Give"**, scroll down the page to select your payment method. Select your preferred payment type and click "next".

Step 3. Enter Payment Details

- If you selected payroll deduction, you will be prompted to enter either the amount per pay or the total annual amount that you wish to give.
- If you selected credit card, you will be prompted to enter your total donation amount and then specify your billing frequency below.
- If you wish to designate your gift, check the "Yes" box below your pledge amount information.

Step 4. Designate Your Gift

- If you chose to designate your gift, you can direct your gift to a specific United Way initiative by typing in the amount you wish to allocate in the corresponding box.
- If you chose to designate your gift to a specific nonprofit, please use the Nonprofit Keyword field and instructions to search for nonprofit. When you have typed in a keyword, please click the "Search" button on the right-hand side of the screen
- Once you locate the nonprofit of your choice, click the "+" button on the left-hand side and then go to the top of the page to fill in the total amount that you want to give to that nonprofit. Repeat this process until you have added all of your nonprofits.
- If you cannot find the nonprofit you had in mind, please use the "Write-In" button to enter as much information as possible so we can designate your funds according to your wishes
- When you are finished designating your gift, please click "Next"

Step 5. Review Personal Information & Confirm Your Gift

- Provide your email address if you wish to receive confirmation of your electronic pledge
- Select any affinity groups you are interested in learning more about or joining
- Click "Next" to review your information
- Review this screen carefully and confirm that your pledge information is correct
- If you wish to make changes, click the "Previous" button at the bottom of your screen and adjust your information/pledge accordingly
- If the information is correct, please click "Confirm"

Thank you for using the United Way of Central Maryland's ePledge system and supporting your local United Way! If you experience any problems making your on-line pledge, please visit

<https://www.customersupport-uwcm.org/>