



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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 **November 20, 2024**, in The Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, room 400, at 5 p.m. for their monthly regular meeting. Board materials for the public meeting are [posted on the web](#) as part of the library archives.

NOVEMBER 15, 2024

DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.

PRESIDENT'S

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"I am one grateful and fortunate man who was given a second chance."

— Thomas Park Clement
from the memoir, *'Dust of the Streets: The Journey of a Biracial Orphan of the Korean War'*

CELEBRATING INVESTMENT IN ENGINEERING

Dragon Country! On November 12, I was honored to join faculty, staff, members of the HCC Educational Foundation, and honored guests Thomas Clement and Wonsook Kim, for a ceremony to unveil the new name of the former SET Building.

The newly-named Thomas P. Clement Hall houses programs in science, engineering, technology and cybersecurity. The building is named in honor of inventor and philanthropist Thomas Clement who [earlier this year donated \\$2.5 million](#) to support scholarships, equipment upgrades and other support for engineering and other STEM programs.

During the ceremony, Mr. Clement spoke fondly of his time as a community college student and shared how his education prepared him to successfully transfer to an electrical engineering program and begin his career as an inventor and entrepreneur.

View a gallery of photos from the building unveiling ceremony: [Thomas P. Clement Hall Unveiling Ceremony Photos](#).



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country:

- Seaknay Sok

*Environmental Services
Technician (10/07)*

Congratulations on your new position!

- Bret Schulze

*Mechanical, Electrical &
Plumbing Supervisor (10/21)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Mind the Gaps!

Take a moment to inspect your windows and doors for drafts. Small gaps can let out a large amount of heat. By sealing these gaps with caulk or a different sealant, you can protect your home against a jump in your heating bill.

For an alternative, simple, low-cost solution, you can also seal these drafts with towels or old t-shirts, to block the cold air from coming in and the hot air leaking out.

PROFESSOR FAHIMEH VAHDAT RECEIVES HOWIE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ARTIST

On Saturday, November 2, 2024, the Howard County Arts Council hosted their Celebration of the Arts gala in the Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center. Held on campus since 2011 (with the exception of 2020 and 2021), the annual event serves as the Arts Council's premier fundraiser and includes a reception, silent auction, rising stars competition, and presentation of the year's Howie Award winners. Howie Awards are presented to those who contribute to the artistic life of Howard County through the arts, arts education, and support of the arts. Each year, the Arts Council seeks nominations from the community to honor those who create, teach, and support the arts. The nominations are reviewed, ranked, and selected by the Howie Award Committee.



During the celebration, the 2024 Howie Award for Outstanding Artist was presented to HCC visual arts professor, **Fahimeh Vahdat**. As recipient of this year's award, Professor Vahdat was recognized for her work in mixed media, installation, and performance art, which focuses on wound healing, human rights, gun violence, domestic violence, and LGBTQ communities. Please join me in congratulating her on this very special recognition. For more information on the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County, visit www.HoCoArts.org.

Pictured: Fahimeh Vahdat with Coleen West, Executive Director of the Howard County Arts Council.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TOWN HALL

The entire Howard Community College community is warmly invited to a town hall on November 26, 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Duncan Hall, room 100. This event will focus on sharing the results of the general education assessment for the written communication goal. Join us as members of the written communication goal team present their findings and discuss strategies for ongoing improvement.

This town hall offers a unique opportunity for transparent dialogue on the assessment process, outcomes, and next steps. Attendees are encouraged to bring questions and participate in the conversation. This session is open to all HCC faculty and staff, with professional development credit available (Course #13056, Section #13719). We look forward to your participation in this important discussion!

HCC FORWARD UPDATE



What are Task Forces?

As we continue our journey with the HCC Forward framework, I'm excited to share insights into the role of our upcoming Task Forces. These teams are essential to ensuring that we're not only looking ahead but also consistently evaluating and enhancing our current efforts.

The Task Forces play a core role in our initiative. Their mission is to evaluate our processes, identify opportunities for growth, and ensure our programs reflect our commitment to continuous improvement. By assessing what we're currently doing in our work with Swim Digital Group, ATD, and CampusWorks, they help us create a foundation that supports our students, faculty, and staff. These efforts aim to go beyond simple assessment, by building pathways to a more collaborative, resilient, and forward-thinking Howard Community College.

As always, the contributions from all of you—whether on Task Forces, in classrooms, or in administrative roles—drive us forward. Let's keep the momentum and support one another in making Howard Community College an exceptional place for student success and innovation.

DRAGON OF THE MONTH WINNER

The office of human resources is proud to announce the October 2024 recipient of the Dragon of the Month award, **Chetra Kim**, Set-Up/Asset Relocation Assistant & Groundskeeper, Facilities. Colleagues nominated Chetra for his demonstration of the HCC Values of Excellence, Service, and Partnerships. He was commended for his unwavering positivity and providing excellent customer service and satisfaction. Chetra was recognized for going above and beyond his duties to ensure the success of all campus events. The award includes a \$100 gift card and a reserved parking space in the West Garage for the month of November. Congratulations, Chetra!

To nominate a colleague for next month's award, please use the [Dragon of the Month](#) nomination form located under Useful Links on the myHCC portal.

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.

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 Café on the Quad. Offices will be closed to allow all employees to attend. I look forward to seeing you there!

IMPROVE LIVES AND NEIGHBORHOODS ACROSS CENTRAL MARYLAND WITH YOUR GIFT TODAY: HELP PARENTS WITH QUALITY CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Simone, who lives in Laurel, wanted to return to work after she had her baby but couldn't find affordable childcare and was forced to take extended leave from her job. She learned about United Way's Family Center in Columbia through Social Services and decided to apply to get her child in the program. "Immediately after applying, I knew I couldn't afford it. However, Sharon (Buttari, Director of the Family Center) recommended I submit some scholarship requests for financial assistance. A few weeks later, I got a call from someone willing to give me a scholarship for \$5,000 to assist with the fees. I can finally get my baby into daycare thanks to this program's willingness to go above and beyond to assist me."

Video Link: [Family Center in Columbia](#)



The instructions on how to access the United Way Pledge portal are available [here](#). Questions can be sent to zirvin@howardcc.edu.

CRYSTALS FOR A CAUSE: BRINGING SMILES TO OUR PARENT SCHOLARS' CHILDREN

'Tis the season of giving, and we're filled with cheer, our Crystals for a Cause fundraiser is here! With a goal of \$5,000 to make spirits bright, for 100 sweet children, a holiday delight.

100% of proceeds from each sparkling buy, goes to Parent Scholars—let's reach for the sky! One catalog per office is ready to see, or [shop with our link](#), it's as easy as can be.

The deadline is set for November's last day, so, let's scurry and shop, don't let time slip away! Together we'll bring joy, a sparkle worthwhile, And holiday magic to make each child smile.

For questions, please reach out to **Brooke Barrick** or **Jamie Bourne**, and let's spread the cheer!



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/>