



**HOWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



## LEADERSHIP UPDATES

### Senior Leadership Team Update

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

**DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.**  
**PRESIDENT'S**

# UPDATE

## #DRAGONCOUNTRY

*"Don't let anyone rob you of your imagination, your creativity, or your curiosity. It's your place in the world; it's your life. Go on and do all you can with it, and make it the life you want to live."*

— Mae Jemison

### FOUR HCC STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS FOR NATIONAL TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

**Dragon Country!** I am excited to share that four of our students have been selected as finalists for the highly competitive Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship!

Please join me in congratulating Carlton Allen, Zakiyyah Brown, Mudiwa Mawema, and Rafael Sampaio Brazil for this tremendous honor. Out of 1,600 applicants nationwide, only 467 were selected to be semifinalists. Finalists will be announced in late spring by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

The scholarship provides up to \$55,000 for two to three years for students to continue their undergraduate studies at top four-year institutions. Additionally, students receive college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with a cohort of fellow scholars. In 2023, HCC alumna Israah Ansari was awarded the scholarship and transferred to Johns Hopkins University to study psychology and political science.

As these students move on to new institutions, they will always be Dragons at heart. I am proud of these students and extremely proud of the college. Our faculty and staff provide academic and personal support to our students in and out of the classroom, allowing them to move forward along their pathways to success.

As we head into spring break, please take time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate. You have finished the first seven-week session strong, and great things lie ahead for the second session and the remainder of the academic year!

## HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

### Please Welcome to Dragon

#### Country:

- Misun Sasse

*Learning Designer (12/16/24)*

- Ronald Suggs

*Environmental Services*

*Technician (01/21)*

- Ariunbolor Davaadorj

*Assistive Technology/*

*Accommodated Testing*

*Specialist (03/20)*

### Congratulations on your new position!

- Tiffany Brown

*Circulation and Access Services*

*Manager (11/04/24)*

## SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



### Save the Date for GreenFest!

**April 12, 2025 – HCC Campus**

*GreenFest is Howard County's largest Earth Day celebration! This event brings together county residents with resources from local businesses, non-profits, and government agencies to promote good stewardship of the environment.*

*Learn more about this year's event:*

[GreenFest 2025](#)

*Interested in volunteering?*

Contact **Belinda Green** at

[BGreen@HowardCC.edu](mailto:BGreen@HowardCC.edu)

## 2025 SPRING EMPLOYEE SURVEY HAPPENING NOW!

On Tuesday, March 4, every member of our eligible employees received an email invitation to participate in the survey. This invitation was sent from [zirvin@howardcc.edu](mailto:zirvin@howardcc.edu) via [surveymonkey.com](https://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 by Friday, April 4, 2025.

If you have any questions or comments about the Employee Survey, please contact **Betsy See** at [ese@howardcc.edu](mailto:ese@howardcc.edu).

## FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ORDERS RESOURCE PAGE

The college has launched a new resource to raise awareness of federal executive orders impacting higher education. As policies evolve, it is essential to stay informed about how these changes may affect our campus operations, programs, and community members. This page serves as a centralized hub for updates and guidance.

We encourage you to visit the page regularly for the most current information and to reach out to the appropriate office or contact listed on the site if you have any questions or concerns. Together, we can navigate these changes and foster a supportive environment for all members of the campus community: [HowardCC.edu/ExecutiveOrders](https://HowardCC.edu/ExecutiveOrders)

## JOIN DRAGONS SOFTBALL TO STRIKEOUT CANCER ON MARCH 22

The HCC Dragons Softball team will host their annual StrikeOut Cancer fundraiser on Saturday, March 22 at [Kiwaniis Wallis Park](#). The Dragons will face the Hagerstown Community College Hawks for a noon doubleheader.

StrikeOut Cancer is an initiative of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association that leverages the personal experiences, community leadership, and professional excellence of fastpitch softball coaches nationwide to increase cancer education and promote healthy living through awareness efforts and fundraising activities. In the four years of HCC's softball program, the Dragons have been the top fundraiser of all **372** NJCAA softball programs each year.

Please see the [flyer below](#) for more information about the fundraiser and to learn about HCC retiree Scott Thomas' personal connection to the cause.

Contributions towards the fundraiser can be made at [www.gofundme.com/f/scotts-story-a-tribute-to-saint-agnes](https://www.gofundme.com/f/scotts-story-a-tribute-to-saint-agnes)

**4TH ANNUAL ROY PEART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER**

On Wednesday, April 2, 2025, join us on the Quad for the 4th Annual Roy Peart Memorial Scholarship Fundraiser, featuring a mini food truck festival in honor of Roy Peart, a beloved and long-serving HCC employee.



**THIS FUNDRAISER BENEFITS THE ROY PEART MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR HCC STUDENTS**

Wednesday, April 2 | 11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
HCC Quad (in front of HVPA)

*Proceeds from the fundraiser will support students pursuing a theatre, music, or dance education.*

Roy worked at HCC for 18 years, and was beloved by staff and students alike. After he passed in 2021, his children established a scholarship in his name to assist HCC students.

His daughter Althea Hanson, owner and operator of Althea's Almost Famous food truck, will be on campus with additional mobile vendors to raise funds for the Roy Peart Memorial Scholarship. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support HCC students pursuing an education in theater, music, or dance.



HowardCC.edu/Foundation  
443-518-1970

**YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2025 PRESIDENT'S GALA!**

Please join me at the 2025 President's Gala! This signature event supports HCC's programs designed to help students overcome challenges and achieve their goals.



**Daria J. Willis, Ph.D. invites you to join us at the 2025 President's Gala!**

The President's Gala is more than just a premier event; it's a celebration of our shared vision for the future. Please join us for an unforgettable evening of appreciation and recognition with dinner, dancing, and the inaugural Dragon Awards ceremony, where we will honor the college's biggest champions of the past year. This black-tie gala will be an event to remember!

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**  
**POWER PLANT LIVE!**

7–10 p.m. • Black tie Event

**Ticket Price: \$250 • Limited Tickets Available**

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the Development office at 443-518-1970.

Amplify your impact by supporting our raffle and silent auction! Purchase raffle tickets today for a chance to win big, all while helping deserving HCC students achieve their goals. You do not need to attend the gala to win.

Prizes include tickets to Orioles and Ravens games, overnight stay packages at Maryland Live! and Sagamore Pendry, relaxing rounds of golf, unforgettable concert experiences, and more!

Tickets are [\\$100 for one](#) or [\\$250 for three!](#)



# STRIKEOUT CANCER

## MARCH 22

### 12PM DOUBLEHEADER

KIWANIS WALLIS PARK

JOIN US ON MARCH 22 AT KIWANIS WALLIS PARK (FIELD 7) TO RAISE MONEY FOR STRIKEOUT CANCER. CHECK OUT OUR DONATION SITE FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR FUNDRAISER. IN ADDITION TO THAT ON GAME DAY WE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING:

- T-SHIRTS FOR SALE (ALL PROCEEDS GO INITIATIVE)
- 50/50 RAFFLE (50% TO ONE LUCKY WINNER AND 50% TO THE INITIATIVE.
- A LOCAL COMPANY WILL BE DONATING \$50 PER STRIKEOUT FOR EACH GAME!!!
- LOTS OF FUN AND COMMUNITY!!!!

# DRAGONS

It's that time of year again, and HCC Softball is proud to continue our fundraising efforts for Strikeout Cancer. Last year, we raised over \$24,000 to support a local mom in need! As a fourth-year program, we've been fortunate to win the Strikeout Cancer initiative every year—an achievement we're proud to hold across all of NJCAA. Our goal this year is to continue that tradition and surpass our fundraising target.

This year, we are honoring Scott Thomas (who worked at Howard Community College for 23 years!) whose life was saved by the care he received at Saint Agnes Cancer Institute. In his honor, Scott has requested that all funds raised be donated to this incredible institution, which he credits with saving his life. Please see what Scott had to say:

"I've been married to my darling wife Michele for 51 years. We have 2 beautiful daughters, great son-in-laws and 6 wonderful grandchildren who are all local.

I spent 6 years in the United States Air Force after graduating high school. I had a 24-year career as a Baltimore City Police Officer, 11 of which were spent in the elite motorcycle unit escorting presidents and VIPs throughout the city. After retiring from the city, I worked as a Computer Solutions Manager in the Technology Services Division at Howard Community College where I retired after 23-years.

I was 6 months into enjoying my second retirement when an x-ray revealed a 7 cm. cancerous tumor in the upper lobe of my right lung. After treatment at another oncology center, our daughter recommended we get a second opinion at Ascension Saint Agnes Cancer Institute, as she had a friend being treated there. After speaking to the doctor, we realized that Saint Agnes was where we belonged. I had 6 rounds of chemotherapy, 35 rounds of radiation along with iron infusions. I was also deeply touched by all the staff, from doctors, assistants, social workers, dieticians and others who were always friendly. My questions were always addressed, whether I was onsite or home. I felt like home there. I'm currently in complete remission 2 years after being diagnosed. I would highly recommend Saint Agnes Cancer Institute to anyone dealing with this disease. I firmly believe my life has been extended by their care."

Sincerely,

Scott M. Thomas

We hope you'll join us in this important cause and help us make a difference once again!



**gofundme**



Scan to donate to Shannon's fundraiser  
**"Scott's Story: A Tribute to Saint Agnes"**