



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 Tuesday, April 29, 2025, in The Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, room 400.

Board Materials are [posted on the web](#) as part of the library archives.

DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.

PRESIDENT'S

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be"

— Kahlil Gibran

STRONG COUNTY INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Dragon Country! Last Thursday, I was honored to join Howard County Executive Calvin Ball for a press conference to provide an update on the college's upcoming Cathy and Danny Bell Workforce Development and Trades Center. I am excited to share that Dr. Ball has requested \$5 million in county funding to support the project and \$1 million for systemic renovations at the college in his proposed FY26 Capital Budget.

During the press conference, students, partners, and donors shared remarks encouraging support for the center. A video of the press conference and a press release from the county are available in the college's digital magazine, [Pathways](#).

On Wednesday evening, I attended the Howard County Council's Capital Budget hearing to advocate for the council's support of the proposed capital budget. Interim Chair of the Board of Trustees Vivian Moore Lawyer and CEO of Prime Manufacturing Luke Chow also provided testimony in support of the center.

The County Council is responsible for approving the final county budget, and while they cannot increase proposed funding, they can reduce it. Thank you to our trustees, faculty, and staff who attended to show their support. HCC was the largest group represented in the audience by far, and your presence goes a long way in encouraging the council's support.

The council will hold a public hearing for the operating budgets of the county's educational institutions on Wednesday, April 30, at 6 p.m. in the George Howard Building in Ellicott City.

Please plan to arrive early to secure parking and wear your HCC apparel!

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- David Martinez

*Groundskeeper/Mechanic Helper
(04/21)*

Leaving the college:

- Dwayne Lewis

Lead Clinical Liaison (04/11)

- Leonard Johnson

*Environmental Services
Technician (04/15)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Shop and Eat Responsibly!

In the U.S., nearly 40% of edible food goes to waste—along with all the land, water, and other natural resources that went into producing it.

Prevent food waste by shopping smartly and planning ahead.

Additionally, make sure you consume what you purchase.

CELEBRATE ACADEMIC ADVISORS DURING GLOBAL ADVISING WEEK: APRIL 27–MAY 3

[NACADA: The Global Community for Academic Advising](#)

celebrates the work of advisors, tutors, personal tutors, counselors, and coaches who advise students worldwide.

Learn more about Global Advising Week on the [NACADA website](#).

The **Office of Advising** will be celebrating, and we encourage you all to celebrate, too! In addition to our on-campus activities, NACADA is encouraging faculty, students, and staff to post positive messages about their academic advisors on the Global [NACADA Kudoboard](#).

Here are some things you can do to promote and celebrate advisors!

- Sign the Global Advising Week kudo board.
- Change your [signature](#) to show it is Global Advising Week.
- Change your [Zoom background](#).
- Download other digital assets from the NACADA website.

Thank you for all you do for our students!

HCC FORWARD UPDATE



The progress of HCC Forward does not just rest on those appointed to a task force—it's a collective journey that belongs to everyone at Howard Community College. From faculty to staff, students to administrators, every member of our community plays a vital role in shaping the future we want to build together.

You don't have to serve in an organized group to make an impact. Whether you're offering your thoughts during listening sessions, encouraging a colleague who's directly involved, or simply staying informed through our weekly updates, you are part of this movement. Your engagement—no matter how big or small—strengthens our shared vision and ensures it reflects the true needs and aspirations of our campus.

This is your invitation to be part of something bigger. Stay connected. Speak up. Ask questions. Celebrate progress. Share ideas. Every action, every voice, and every perspective counts.

Together, we move forward.

LEARNING AND SERVING ON ALTERNATE BREAK TRIPS

In 2025, 20 HCC students and six faculty members embarked on three Alternative Break trips to volunteer and learn more about specific social justice issues. HCC's Alternative Break program offers students the opportunity to use their winter and spring break time to travel while giving back to a worthy cause.

From January 12–17, professors **Cindy Nicodemus** and **Katie Otte** led the Alternative Winter Break: a Housing and Migrant Rights in the Southwest trip to Las Vegas, NV. The group volunteered with partners such as The Just One Project, Project 150, ThreeSquare, Lighthouse Charities, Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada, and the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth. Their service included various activities, such as handing out donations at a food distribution site, preparing meals for residents at a homeless shelter, and sorting donated clothes. The group also met with the Immigration Center for Women and Children to learn how attorneys provide their time and expertise to offer free legal services to families in the migrant community. Their time in Nevada also involved sightseeing and visiting landmarks around the city while walking along the Las Vegas strip.

From January 12–18, professors **Rick Leith** and **Nadene Vevea** led the Alternative Winter Break: Environmental Justice in the Southeast trip to Fort Myers, FL. The students served those in need alongside the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. The group sorted donations at the food bank, helped rebuild houses in the city as it recovered from recent hurricanes, and cleaned up trails in the wildlife preserve on Sanibel Island. They also made time for fun outings, such as going to the beach and taking a guided kayak tour to see manatees in their natural habitat.

From March 20–22, professors **Kofi Adisa** and **Carla Lawson** brought students on the Alternative Spring Mini Break: Food Justice in the Mid-Atlantic trip to Philadelphia, PA. The students volunteered with Novick Urban Farm, Philly House, Sharing Excess, and the Karen Community Association of Philadelphia. They helped prepare garden beds for the upcoming growing season at a community farm, served dinner at a homeless shelter, cleaned and restocked community fridges, and packed and sorted food donations. The mini-break format is a new addition to our Alternative Break program that accommodates the schedules and needs of students and faculty much better.

Thank you to our faculty leaders for continuing this tradition of educating students about how they can apply their skills and enthusiasm to serve communities in need. Much appreciation also goes to **Grace Becraft** and **Jackie Regales** from the Center for Civic and Community Engagement for sponsoring and organizing the Alternative Break program.

