



**HOWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

**#DRAGONCOUNTRY**

*"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."*

— President John F. Kennedy

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Dragon Country!** Please join me in welcoming Alicia V. Altamirano, Esq.; Michele Douglas, Esq.; H. Russell Frisby Jr.; and Stacey Ullrich to the Board of Trustees! The newly appointed trustees joined members of the board for an orientation and training session on Thursday morning.

The College's senior leadership team is committed to carrying out the trustees' vision of HCC as an economic driver for Howard County and a premier resource for our neighbors and residents' personal and professional development.

The trustees bring a wealth of expertise and a deep commitment to community service, further strengthening the board's capacity to lead the college's mission and strategic direction:

**Alicia V. Altamirano, Esq.**

Managing Attorney at Ayuda and member of the Howard County La Alianza Latina Workgroup.

**Michele Douglas, Esq.**

Partner at Public Policy Partners; State Policy Director for the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter.

**H. Russell Frisby, Jr.**

President of HRF Group LLC and Section Chair of the American Bar Association Board of Governors.

**Stacey Ullrich**

Vice President of Communications and Marketing at Exelon and active board member of several philanthropic organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House Charities, the University System of Maryland Foundation, and the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

Learn more about the new members of the board in the College's [online newsroom](#).



**LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

**Senior Leadership Team Update**

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

## HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

### Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- John Watsic

*General Maintenance Mechanic  
(04/07)*

- Randolph Woodland

*General Maintenance Mechanic  
(04/07)*

- Anthonese Gavin

*Executive Assistant to the Vice  
President of External Affairs,  
Communications, and  
Advancement (04/14)*

- Daryl Ondatje

*Senior Producer/Director (04/21)*

### Congratulations on your new position!

- Michael Griggs

*Howard Hub Counselor(11/04/24)*

- Iryna Berestenko

*Procurement Coordinator  
(04/07)*

## PRESIDENT'S GALA RAISES OVER \$330,000

I am thrilled to share that the 2025 President's Gala was a resounding success! Thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors, sponsors, and community partners, we exceeded our fundraising goal, grossing more than \$330,000 to support scholarships for our deserving HCC students.

Held at Power Plant Live!, this gala brought fresh energy to the event, attracting new and diverse sponsors, expanding our partnerships beyond the footprint of Howard County, and ultimately generating more opportunities and funding for our students. Guests enjoyed an unforgettable evening filled with great food, lively entertainment, and a celebratory spirit that truly honored our mission.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presence of 36 HCC students from the Silas Craft Collegians Program, Howard P.R.I.D.E., Howard R.I.S.E., Ambiciones, the Student Government Association, and our culinary program. They spent the evening assisting guests to their tables, networking, and celebrating with donors—a powerful reminder of why we do this work. In a sweet finishing touch, HCC's pastry program students prepared beautiful and delicious macarons for guests to take home as favors.

I also extend my deepest gratitude to the incredible staff and volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make this event possible. Your creativity, hard work, and dedication truly made a difference. Special thanks to: **Amy Bram, development office staff, Dragon Media staff, facilities staff, Yessica Flores, Marilu Garcia-Yellin, Belinda Green, Jessica Grim, Hal Kenney, David Milburn, public relations and marketing staff, and Ahn Truong.**

If you haven't already, I invite you to take a moment to browse the photos from the event on our [website](#) and the [roaming photo booth album](#) to see the joy, connection, and celebration that filled the historic evening.



SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



GreenFest is **tomorrow**, April 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Academic Commons!

Join us for Howard County's largest celebration of Earth Day.

The event aims to connect residents with the resources that local businesses, non-profits and government provide to help anyone be a good steward to the environment.

Learn more: [GreenFest Website](#)

**HAPPY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH!**  
**Celebrate Community College Month with HCC!**

Did you know that HCC's first commencement was held on Sunday, June 4, 1972, at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center (shown in the photo)?

HCC's history, development, and success are closely linked to Howard County's growth.

Learn more: [HowardCC.edu/CCMonth](http://HowardCC.edu/CCMonth)

(Photos by HCC Photographer, **Sarah English.**)



HCC's mascot, Duncan the Dragon, holding a photo of HCC's first commencement, which was held on Sunday, June 4, 1972, at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.



HCC's first commencement was held on Sunday, June 4, 1972, at the Wilde Lake Interfaith Center.

## HCC FORWARD UPDATE



As the HCC Forward initiative continues to gain traction, we're excited to share that a number of task force rosters will begin to take shape in the coming weeks. In partnership with Swim Digital Group, each task force will be grounded in purpose, focused on impact, and equipped to move work forward with intention. These teams are an essential part of the next chapter in our shared work to bring HCC's vision to life—turning big goals into clear, actionable steps.

If any of your supervisees are encouraged to participate on a task force, we ask that you support their involvement fully. Their engagement may stretch beyond their typical day-to-day responsibilities, and your understanding will be key in helping them contribute meaningfully to this important work. Your support as a supervisor is critical to the overall success of the HCC Forward initiative.

This is an opportunity to lead transformation together—strategically, collaboratively, and with people at the center.

## EMPLOYEE GIVING

Thank you to everyone who is generously contributing to the employee-giving campaign. Your contributions help open doors for our students, providing them with opportunities to succeed. Employees supporting the Howard Community College Educational Foundation (HCCEF) with a one-time donation or recurring gift are eligible for a prize drawing held each month from September through May. We are happy to announce **Suzanne Andreassen** as the winner for March. Congratulations!

Make a difference in a student's life. Donate to the employee giving campaign and help fund pathways to success. Learn more by calling x4580.

Consider signing up for a recurring payroll deduction or make a one-time donation today!

[Employee Giving Campaign Payroll Deduction Form](#)