



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

"What would life be if we had no courage to attempt anything"

— Vincent Van Gogh

COUNTDOWN TO COMMENCEMENT CONTINUES

Dragon Country! This week, the college hosted a wide array of events to celebrate and recognize our students as we count down the remaining days of the academic year.

On Tuesday, the office of records, registration, and veterans affairs hosted the annual Grad Get Together, where students picked up their regalia for commencement, posed for graduation photos, and enjoyed fun and refreshments with fellow graduates.

On Tuesday evening, I also attended the induction ceremony for the Alpha Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year and technical colleges. This year's ceremony was all the more meaningful to me, as earlier this year I was reappointed to the PTK Presidential Advisory Board as the representative for Maryland. Having previously served in this role for the state of Washington, I am honored to continue to serve and support a mission that uplifts and empowers students.

On Wednesday morning, I was joined by members of the senior leadership team and the college community to honor our veteran and military-affiliated graduates at the annual Military Cording ceremony. Thank you to the office of records, registration, and veterans affairs for planning such a meaningful event.



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- Arnold Bascombe,
*Associate Vice President of
Budget and Finance (05/19)*
- Courtney Kelly,
*Assistant Director of
Procurement (05/19)*
- Gregory Lane,
*General Maintenance Mechanic
(06/02)*

Leaving the college:

- Katherine Grossman,
*International Student Admissions
and Academic Advisor (05/08)*
- Janet Yakel,
*Payroll and Position Control
Manager (05/09)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



When it comes to grass, the longer, the better! A slightly longer piece of grass contributes to a strong, healthy lawn with fewer pest problems.

Weeds have a hard time taking root and growing when the grass is around 2½ to 3½ inches tall for most types of grass.

DRAGON PODCASTS WINS TWO HERMES AWARDS

Please join me in congratulating HCC's Dragon Podcasts staff on winning two Hermes Creative Awards! The international competition honors the messengers and creators of the information revolution. The competition is administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals, one of the largest and oldest third-party evaluators of creative work in the world.

HCC received a gold award for the Toronto International Film Festival episode of [CineManiax](#). The show is produced by **Danielle Maloney** and **Karen Vadnais** and hosted by **Chris Reed**.

The college also received a platinum award, the Hermes Awards' highest honor for an episode of [Campus Drive](#). Produced and hosted by **Matthew Jackson**, the episode included interviews with Coach **Verkia Smith** and Kenny Akins from the Women's Flag Football team and Ashanti Nollie from the student newspaper, the HCC Times.

With shows covering diverse topics such as sustainability, health and wellness, and student voices, there is something for everyone to enjoy from Dragon Podcasts. Be sure to tune in on [Podbean](#) or your favorite podcast platform.



SPRING INNOVATION FAIR

It's time for HCC's annual Innovation Fair! Join us on May 19, 2025. Now is the time to show off your great work! What recent creative innovation would you like to share?

- How did you get creative in the classroom or while serving students?
- Did you create a new process in your office to improve workflow?
- The ideas are limitless!

To participate in the Innovation Fair, complete the [Interest Form](#) on the Portal.

Please submit forms no later than Thursday, May 15, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact **Shatina Chen** in the Learning Outcomes Assessment office at HChen@howardcc.edu or extension x4899.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE!

Nominations are being accepted for the "2025 Employee Recognition Awards" and we need your help to celebrate the achievements of our co-workers. Please take a moment to nominate a fellow employee who goes above and beyond in serving students, helping colleagues, and making HCC such a great place to work. Nominations are collected for support, professional/technical, administrator, and hourly/temporary employees. Deans and associate deans are eligible in the administrator category and contractual employees (i.e. First Coast Security and Canteen) are eligible in the hourly/temporary category.

Determining factors in the evaluation process include the quality of the nomination and the impact that the individual has had on the HCC community. Therefore, please give specific examples and elaborate where possible. Further details and attributes to consider are available on [the employee recognition portal page](#). Decisions are based on the content of the submission, not on the number of nominations that an individual receives. Award recipients will be recognized during spring convocation. Please use [the online nomination form](#) to submit entries by 5 p.m. on May 15, 2025.

YOU'RE INVITED TO SPRING CONVOCATION!

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming Spring Convocation. Spring Convocation will take place on Monday, May 19, 2025. You can watch convocation in the Smith Theatre or streaming using the [Vimeo link](#). Breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Café on the Quad. The Innovation Fair will be from 8:45 – 9:40 a.m. followed by Convocation which will begin at 9:45 a.m.

Please join us as we celebrate our new employees, faculty promotions, outstanding employee awards, Innovation Fair winners, milestone years of service, honor our retirees, and much more. Offices will be closed during this time for the college to enjoy the year-end celebration.

EMPLOYEE GIVING

Thank you to everyone who is generously contributing to the employee-giving campaign. Your contributions help to open doors for our students, providing them with an opportunity to succeed. Employees supporting the Howard Community College Education Foundation (HCCCEF) 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 **Aubrey Bacho** as the winner for April. 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: Gift and Pledge by Payroll Deduction Form](#)

CONNECTED COMMUNITY: WILDE LAKE

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, HCC welcomed 40 9th-grade students from Wilde Lake High School to learn about and explore the college's amazing resources and offerings. Cohort student leaders from Ambiciones, Parent Scholars, Honors, Howard P.R.I.D.E., and Silas Craft Collegians led small groups. Additionally, Assistant Director of Student Life **Thelma Bush**, Dual Enrollment Director **Princess King** and her team, Director of Athletics **Mike Smelkinson**, and SGA president Miduwa Mawema gave educational and inspirational talks about belonging, opportunities, and grit.

After the sessions, HCC student ambassadors **Soha Kabir** and Mudiwa Mawema led the students on a campus tour. They then participated in a hands-on demonstration in our Emergency Medical Services and Cardiovascular Technology labs with **Robert King** and **Kelly Scible**.

Finally, the students enjoyed lunch in the Ecker Café, hosted by the Canteen staff and student ambassadors **Salihah Burt** and **Daniel Masale**.

The program would not have been possible without the organization of **Tenisha Bryant**, **Molly Hong**, the recruitment staff, **Stephanie Wall**, the Howard County Public School System, the teen parent coordinator, and **Kazandra Anderson**.



HCC FORWARD UPDATE

This week, the change management development team engaged in an empathy walk focused on WCCE facilitated by Swim Digital Group. The experience invited participants to "walk in each other's shoes" through intentional storytelling, active listening, and reflective dialogue.

Key elements of the experience included:

- Paired storytelling, where participants responded to provided prompts, such as sharing moments of feeling unseen or unheard
- Small group reflections, including capturing takeaways, surprises, and emotional responses
- Full group share-outs and written reflections, promoting collective insight

Additionally, Swim Digital Group met with Task Force chairs and co-chairs to reinforce the foundation of this work. Together, they reviewed and refined task force charges, primary objectives, key milestones, membership representation, and participation expectations.

These conversations reinforced alignment across the HCC Forward initiative and will empower each task force to move forward with clarity and shared purpose.