



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 be fooled by the calendar. There are only as many days in the year as you make use of."

— Charles Richards

REFLECTING ON COMMENCEMENT

Dragon Country! After a busy week leading up to the college's commencement ceremony last Friday, I hope you were able to take time to rest, reflect, and spend time with loved ones as we observed the Memorial Day Holiday.

It is a huge lift to put a ceremony of this caliber together and to have it run smoothly. Thank you to the faculty and staff that serve on the commencement planning committee, all of our fabulous day-of volunteers, and everyone who had a hand in making the day one to remember for our graduates and their families.

During the ceremony, we recognized our graduates with their well-earned credentials, and I was honored to also present an honorary degree to Alison Canning, chairperson of the Howard Community College Educational Foundation, for her significant contributions to the college. Alison joined the HCCEF board in 2018 and has served as the chairperson since 2023. Under her leadership, the Foundation has seen record fundraising, including the largest single gift in the history of the college.

Relive the *pomp and circumstance* of the day by watching the official recording of the ceremony on the [HCC YouTube Channel](#), and viewing a gallery of photos at [HowardCC.edu/Photos](#).



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- Hannah Connolly
*Workforce, Career, and
Community Education Office
Associate IV (06/02)*
- Anibal Mamo
*Senior Accountant - Foundation
(06/02)*
- Raenel Bivens
Financial Aid Counselor (06/16)
- Juwan Williams
*Event Services/Asset Relocation
Assistant (06/16)*

Congratulations on your new job:

- Christy Koontz
*Director of Student Rights and
Responsibilities, Deputy Title IX
Coordinator (05/16)*
- Hillary Oo
*Accounts Payable Coordinator
(06/02)*

Congratulations on your retirement:

- Rosemary Williams
*Associate Professor, History;
Chair, Social Science (06/01)*
- David Hinton
*Professor, Computer Aided
Design (06/06)*
- Charles Nightingale
*Executive Director of Capital
Projects (06/06)*
- Michael Heffren
Professor, Social Science (06/30)
- Robert Marrietta
*Environmental Health and Safety
Supervisor (06/30)*

DAY OF LEARNING 2025!

Our 2025 Day of Learning will begin at 9 a.m. with a kick-off and a keynote speaker. There will be four tracks of presentations: three 45-minute sessions and one 30-minute session. This should give everyone more time to be fully engaged in the sessions.

There will be lunch and a fun group picture with our new T-shirts. Everyone will have the chance to sign up for their selected sessions and receive professional development credit. This will be a great day to come together as a campus community, meet new faces, learn from one another, and grow as individuals and colleagues. Our goal is that everyone come away from this Day of Learning with a stronger dedication to our students, each other and ourselves.

As the saying goes, "You can't pour from an empty cup." We hope that everyone comes away from this year's event with full cups as we start a new semester. Please consider designing and offering a session. The college will offer professional development credit to presenters who lead a session: [Day of Learning 2025 Presenter Intake Form](#).

If you have any input on sessions you would like to see offered, or questions regarding the 2025 Day of Learning, please contact **Jessica Grim** at jgrim@howardcc.edu

THE CAFÉ ON THE QUAD NEEDS YOUR FEEDBACK!

The Ecker Café on the Quad is seeking feedback and asking members of the college community to share their thoughts.

Whether you eat at the Café regularly or not at all, your input is valuable. This short survey will take just a few minutes and will help the college better meet the needs and preferences of our campus community.

Click the [survey link](#) or scan the QR code to provide your feedback.



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS (CONT.)

Leaving the college:

- Arnold Bascombe

*Associate Vice President, Finance
(05/19)*

- Kirsten Burcat

*Civic and Community Program
Coordinator (06/02)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Shop Local this Summer!

When you choose to shop at a farmer's market, you support the local economy and reduce the amount of emissions needed to transport, and store produce in a traditional grocery store.

Check out this [helpful guide](#) from the Howard County Economic Development Authority for a full schedule of market dates and locations and to learn what's in season.

FITNESS CENTER SOFT OPENING

Howard Community College's brand-new fitness center will be holding a soft opening on June 2. Located on the first floor of the Kahlert Foundation Complex next to the performance gym, the fitness center will be open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. HCC staff, faculty, and students will be able to access the center during its listed hours only.

The center features a great combination of cardio, fitness, and strength equipment that triples the size of the old Athletic and Fitness Center building it replaced.



HCC FORWARD UPDATE

As the HCC Forward initiative progresses, we want to extend our appreciation to all supervisors who have supported their team members' participation in our evolving task forces. Your willingness to encourage and make space for your supervisees to engage in this work is not only generous—it's pivotal to our shared success.

Task force engagement represents a significant commitment—one that often stretches beyond routine responsibilities. We recognize that this can impact team workflows and resource planning, and we are grateful for your flexibility, understanding, and trust in the process.

Your support ensures that these teams are grounded in diverse perspectives, driven by insight, and equipped to carry our shared goals forward. Your encouragement also helps cultivate a culture of innovation, collaboration, and professional growth. By allowing your staff to contribute to these important conversations, you are fostering both individual development and institutional momentum.

This is more than participation—it's partnership. Together, we are laying the groundwork for meaningful change and carrying out the vision of HCC Forward.