



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

"We are all one - and if we don't know it, we will learn it the hard way."

— Bayard Rustin

MORE TO CELEBRATE FOR THE CLASS OF 2025!

Dragon Country! This week, I was in Aspen, Colorado, to serve as a panelist for the American Academy of Arts & Sciences Higher Education Forum, "Is Higher Education Leadership Possible?" During my travels, I took the time to reflect on the last year, and on the success of our graduates.

I thought of students like Karol Hess, who shared her pride in earning her degree as an adult learner. In fact, she was one of the [39 graduates who earned a credential over the age of 50](#), proving that it is never too late for our students to chase their dreams.



Additionally, 19 dually enrolled students earned their high school diploma and an associate degree. Our youngest graduate was 15 years old!

I'd also like to congratulate the 34 members of this year's graduating class who were able to cross the stage with their outstanding balances covered, thanks to the [Howard Community College Educational Foundation's "Finish Line" campaign](#). The campaign erased more than \$83,000 in outstanding debt for our graduates and provided support for 50 currently enrolled students to continue their studies at the college.

As we move into the summer terms and preparing for the next academic year, thank you for all your work in meeting our students where they dream. Happy June!

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- Raluca Milinichik

Instructor, Chemistry (06/16)

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Looking to celebrate at home with a bit of sparkle? Check out our eco-friendly, certified, biodegradable glitter!

Traditional glitter products are most often made from plastic. Nothing dampens your celebration quite like realizing you're introducing harmful microplastics into the environment.

As a reminder, loose glitter of any kind is not allowed as decoration for events at the college.

STUDENT PROGRAM BOARD'S "SPRING FLING!"

On Wednesday, April 30, 2025, the Student Program Board (SPB) hosted "Spring Fling" on the HCC Quad, in collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA) and The HCC Times. The annual event, coordinated by SPB coordinators Mercy Akinduro, Maribel Elias Reyes, and Christione Johnson, was an all-out bash on the quad, reminiscent of nostalgic childhood field days. Over 400 students attended! With food, competitive games, and interactive experiences, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The event featured a rage room, a splatter paint room, racing simulators, balloon artist and all-around entertainer John Cassidy, henna and caricature artists, and an interactive inflatable. Additionally, there were several novelties, such as lawn games, tie-dye, and volleyball, to top off the fun. Students enjoyed funnel cake and fried Oreos, which were sponsored by Raising Cane's.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to and attended the event, including many student volunteers. Special thanks to **Maryam Abdurrahman, Jojo Agaze, Buruj Ansari, audio/visual services staff, Iryna Berestenko, Amy Bram, Dr. Drewry Brown, Kemberly Bruno, Thelma Bush, Caleb Celeste, environmental services staff, Bre' Eaddy, Wendell Epps, Alexa Gill, Dewey Grim, Danny Hall, Kim Jewer, Bennett Jacob, Anne Johnson, Chetra Kim, Simon Lee, Kari Manu, Bob Marietta, Alyssa Matthew, Mudiwa Mawema, Tero Moberg, Ryan Morrison, Christian Nazaire, Clint Neill, Bree Nolan, Areeba Qureshi, Kemberly Bruno, Zakia Reaves-Johnson, Aisha Rivers, Tara Rupp, and Kevin Shin.**



THANK YOU, HCC FACULTY, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS!

On Friday, May 23, 2025, we celebrated the achievements of our graduates at the college's 54th Commencement Ceremony. Commencement is a complex and multifaceted event, and we are very fortunate to have such excellent employees organizing and planning all aspects. Special thanks go to **Grace Anastasiadis, Molly Hong, Adam Leatherman, Danielle Maloney, Jessica Peterson, Mark Smedley, Karen Vadnais, Patty Veri, and Lindsay Wiley** for their hard work coordinating.

Thank you to everyone who taught and supported our graduates during their time at HCC! Commencement requires college-wide participation to ensure its success.

Thank you to all those who played an important role, including (but not limited to): **Roxanne Asi Andoh, Brooke Barrick, Bronwyn Bates, Brandon Bellamy, Cheryl Berman, Kaitlyn Butler, Thelma Bush, Cheryl Campo, De'Asia Clark, Evan Carrington, Shatina Chen, Anne Halili-Crews, Cynthia Cosgrove, Eileen Diggs, Eloge Doglan, Jen Duncan, Kristel Ehrhardt, Greg Fleisher, Louis Fritz, Brittany Gates, Larisa Gray, Sue Geckle, Megan Gibbs, Darren Gibson, Gopika Gopinath, Deborah Greenberg, Belinda Green, Mike Griggs, Jess Grim, Raymond Harrod, Karla Hercules, Wei-Der Huang, Bridget Holmes, Detra Hooper, Danielle Johnson, Shelby Johnson, Julie Jones, Mona Kamal, Hal Kenny, Carla Lawson, Caitlin Lucado, Kelly McMillan, Kia McLeod, Tina Mignon, Voreak Liv, David Milburn, Jessica Mondonedo, Ed Orlando, Antonia Monica Owens, Pengmin Pan, Bethany Pautrat, Kimberly Pavlovsky, Kristin Pavlovsky, Jenny Penniman, Jessica Peterson, Keshawna Price, Mark Quinn, Renee C. Richardson, Aisha Rivers, Jim Rzepkowski, Betsy See, Kelly Scible, Kathy Schultz, Rashida Shelton, Allison Shultz, Melissa Smith, Mo Smith, Linda Slomski, Yingzhe Tao, Andrea Thompson, Kiersten Riffert, Anu Rishi, Heather Ryan, Caroline Torcaso, Don Trahan Jr, Ahn Truong, Audrey Tutko, Christel Wohlfacka, Ellen Wolf, Lamont Vaughan, Kristy Vernille, and Rosie Verratti.**



ACCESS AND PRESENCE SUMMIT

The Access & Presence Summit was held on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Designed by a collaborative team of faculty, staff, and administrators, the Summit offered a variety of learning opportunities, including micro-lectures, discussions, workshops, tours, videos, and more. The keynote address, "35 Years of the ADA – What's Next?" was presented by John Wodatch, a disability rights attorney who served for 42 years in the federal government. During his tenure, Mr. Wodatch co-authored the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 and was honored with the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award in 2010.

Special thanks to the following employees and faculty for their contributions to this professional learning event: **Kelley Abbajay, Rachel Adams, Robyn Alexander, Aubrey Bacho, Brooke Barrick, Bronwyn Bates, Gideon Bawi, Christie Berkey, Cheryl Berman, Jamie Bourne, Shatina Chen, Wanda Colon-Canales, Brandi Carrington, Ari Davaadorj, Emily Drechsler, Wendell Epps, Derek Flake, Sherita Flake, Yessica Flores, Matthew Fitzwater, Deborah Greenberg, Jessica Grim, Shantay Grays, Becky Harley, Raymond Harrod, Ken Herron, Carol Howald, Jon Iuzzini, Danielle Johnson, Princess King, Adam Leatherman, Yulan Liu, Kari Manu, Bob Marietta, Maureen Martin, Ayelete Multer, Dianne Nagle, Benjamin Owusu, Pengmin Pan, Tiffany Ricks, Lee Ann Roberts Sweeney, Misun Sasse, and Meghan Smallwood.**



DAY OF LEARNING 2025 ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18!

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

Lunch will be provided, along with a fun group picture featuring our new T-shirts. Everyone will have the opportunity to sign up for their selected sessions and receive professional development credit. This will be a great day for the campus community to come together, meet new faces, learn from one another, and grow as individuals and colleagues. Our goal is for everyone to leave the Day of Learning with a stronger dedication to our students, one another, 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 suggestions for sessions you would like to see offered, or if you have questions regarding the 2025 Day of Learning, please contact **Jessica Grim** at jgrim@howardcc.edu.

HCC FORWARD UPDATE

Last week offered another exciting step in the HCC Forward Initiative, with collaborative gatherings and professional learning that energized our continued efforts to advance student success.

On Tuesday, May 29, the Corequisite Education Summit brought together faculty, staff, and national experts to deepen the college's collective understanding of corequisite education. Hosted in the Kahlert Complex, the summit featured keynote addresses from Dr. Nikki Edgecombe of the Community College Research Center and Dr. Desmond Lewis of Houston Community College, who shared compelling insights about the power of the corequisite model to promote access, equity, and momentum for students.

Throughout the day, HCC faculty led interactive sessions that explored inclusive pedagogy, course design, and cross-disciplinary support strategies for students in corequisite education classes. Faculty engaged in meaningful conversations about the broader implications of this work—extending beyond English and Math into students' full academic journeys. The summit was a resounding success, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment of our educators to ensure that all students thrive.

In addition to attending the Corequisite Education Summit, the Swim Digital Group also convened with the Student Success Steering Team to begin mapping out the second year of the Accelerated Pathways initiative and the launch of corequisite courses in Fall 2025. Discussions centered on refining the 7-week course model, proactively identifying institutional needs ahead of the fall corequisite launch and ensuring alignment of the Achieving the Dream (ATD) Action Plan with Swim's continued work.

Together, we are turning strategy into action.