



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else,"

— Booker T. Washington

**AN EMPHASIS ON THE WORD "COMMUNITY" IN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE!**



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Senior Leadership Team Update

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



Dragon Country! At HCC, we work hard to cultivate strategic partnerships that not only support our students but also serve the community as a whole. On Wednesday, June 11, we welcomed state and local representatives, the Howard County Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commission, the Howard County Office of Human Rights and Equity, community partners, and friends of the college to the "Know Your Local Leaders" meet-and-connect event.

The goal of this event was to provide members of the Howard County community with an opportunity to learn more about their local representatives and for elected officials to speak directly with constituents about issues impacting the AAPI community.

A week prior, on Wednesday, June 4, we hosted Howard County's third Career Fair, offering displaced federal employees and other job seekers an opportunity to connect with hiring employers. National, statewide, and local businesses were on hand, showcasing open positions and building connections on-site.

At HCC, we are proud to be a beacon of hope and a supportive hub for Howard County and the state of Maryland! We will continue to welcome and serve our community by opening our doors and campus grounds and fostering strong community partnerships that connect critical resources to those in need.

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon

Country!

- Conswella Gilmore,
*Executive Assistant to the Chief
of Staff (06/16)*
- Thomas Perry,
Materials Handling Clerk (06/16)

Leaving the college:

- Xenia Baranova,
Programmer/Analyst (06/13)
- Jennifer Duncan,
Academic Advisor (06/20)
- Dominic Gambogi,
*Computer Solutions Tech III
(06/27)*
- Christianne Aranguren,
*Dean of Health, Science &
Technology (07/01)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Next time you stay in a hotel, please reuse towels and bedding. Skipping the laundering of towels and linens during a short stay saves water and reduces the emissions required to run laundry appliances and heat water.

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.



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.

LIVE! CASINO AND HOTEL, MARYLAND VOLUNTEERS FOR HCC GARDEN



On Friday, June 6, a dedicated group of volunteers from Maryland LIVE! Casino and Hotel braved the heat in the spirit of service to help with planting, weeding, mulching, and watering the HCC garden.

As part of the college's Fueling Dragons Program, the garden helps address student food insecurity by producing fresh, organic fruits and vegetables for the Vivian C. "Millie" and William Harrison Bailey on-campus [food pantry](#), which provides nutritious meals for approximately 450 to 500 students monthly during the fall and spring semesters.

Thanks to **Zakia Reaves Johnson**, **Tricia Zadjura** and **Roxana Segovia-Beltran** for coordinating this effort.

HCC FEATURED IN ARTICLE ABOUT WRAPAROUND SERVICES FOR STUDENT PARENTS

Thank you to Quanic Fullard and the Annie E. Casey Foundation for including HCC in this wonderful profile by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond on the value of wraparound supports for community college students.

Our college community takes great pride in its partnerships with the Association of Community College Trustees and the Community Action Council of Howard County in powering our Children's Learning Center. Considering the family experience on campus in alleviating hunger, encouraging study and degree persistence, and engaging youth throughout our communities is foundational to the two-generational approach in higher education. We will remain innovative in providing our students and neighbors with educational access.

Read "[Student Parents: The Power of Wraparound Supports.](#)"

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.