



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

"Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family."

— Kofi Annan

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Dragon Country! Recently, I had the privilege of representing the college twice to help establish international partnerships that benefit our students, campus, and the broader Howard County community.

In June, I was joined by faculty, administrators, and senior leaders for a journey to Setsunan University in Neyegawa, Japan. While visiting, we signed an MOU that builds on previous programs and creates new opportunities for study abroad and student and faculty exchanges. Learn more about this historic academic partnership in HCC's digital magazine, [Pathways](#).

Earlier this month, I joined Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball, CEO of the Howard County Economic Development Authority, Jennifer Jones, and my fellow HCEDA Board Members for a weeklong trade mission to Canada. The trip focused on building partnerships with Canadian businesses, creating pathways for international tech companies to enter the U.S. market through Howard County.

In Niagara, the delegation visited the Niagara College Walker Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Center, where we learned how the center supports southern Ontario businesses in bringing productions to market, and trains students in engineering design, 3D laser scanning, lean manufacturing, and prototyping.



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- Elijah Foulks,
*Event Services/Asset Relocation
Assistant (07/07)*
- Valerie Lee,
*Program Manager, Faculty
Development & Learning
Innovation (07/07)*
- Richard Ryans,
*Director of Budget and Finance
(07/07)*
- Hawa Swen,
*Dual Enrollment Academic
Success Coach (07/07)*
- Taylor McEldowney,
Materials Handling Clerk (07/21)
- Frank Cianciarulo,
*Engineering & Technology
Faculty (08/11)*
- Hollis White,
Instructor, Accounting (08/11)

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



From trash dumped in a park to foamy scum on the surface of a river, if you see something you think might be pollution, notify your local environmental agency. Someone else may have reported it, but two reports are better than one.

CELEBRATING THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE CYBER READY CLINIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM!

I'm excited to celebrate the successful completion of the Cyber Ready Clinic's (CRC) 10-week internship program, held from March 31 to June 9, 2025! This milestone marks the first cohort of students who gained hands-on experience in cybersecurity risk assessment and digital resilience planning. Interns worked directly with local nonprofit organizations, applying CRC's Discover5 and Ready5 assessments under the mentorship of seasoned cybersecurity professionals. Weekly one-on-one coaching with John Bruns, CEO of CRC and former CISO of Maryland, provided invaluable guidance and insight. This paid internship opportunity was made possible through funding from a National Institute of Standards and Technology RAMPS grant that was awarded to the division of workforce, career, and community education in the fall of 2025.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to NIST and the Cyber Ready Clinic for partnering with Howard Community College to make this program a reality. Special thanks to **Bronwyn Bates, Joel Offenber, Ahnica Truong, Minah Woo, John Bruns,** and **Cyndi and Ronald Gula** for their leadership, mentorship, and unwavering support. Your contributions have empowered the next generation of cybersecurity professionals and created a meaningful, career-launching experience for our students.



NAME BADGES AND STATIONERY

As part of the rollout of the college's new visual identity, updated name badges and other branded stationery items are now available.

Name badges will continue to be available for purchase through ODP Business Solutions (formerly Office Depot) under the "Brand Identity" tab. Employees may include their preferred pronouns on their name badges if they wish. Please contact the Office of Procurement for ODP access.

Updated envelopes, letterhead and business cards are available through the college's Print Shop and will no longer be available from ODP Solutions. Please submit a Print Shop Request ticket through the myTSC portal to place an order. Submit your [Print Shop Request](#) ticket.

HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS (CONT.)

Congratulations on your new position!

- Christina Fontanez Garrison,
Associate Dean, Health and Sciences (07/01)
- Stefanie Mena-Gonzalez,
Assistant Director of Financial Aid Services, Compliance (07/01)
- JH Pitias,
Department Head, Liberal Studies (07/01)
- Laura Yoo,
Associate Dean, Foundational Learning (07/01)
- Elin Kim,
Student Finance Associate (07/16)
- Reyhaneh Hejad,
Instructor, Dental Hygiene (08/11)

Congratulations on your retirement!

- Portia Logan,
Compensation & HRIS Manager (06/30)

Leaving the college:

- Susan Clemens,
Scholarship & Donor Relations Associate (07/15)
- Marcia Schwartz,
Teaching and Learning Senior Support Specialist (07/24)

TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE!

The HCC 5K Challenge Race, presented by Havtech, returns on Sunday, September 28! Take the challenge, compete for bragging rights and support student scholarships!

Employees can register to participate for \$25 and will receive a T-shirt, medal and a complimentary 90-day Columbia Association "family" membership.

Learn more and sign up at HowardCC.edu/HCCChallenge.



HCC FORWARD UPDATE

Wednesday, June 25, marked another key step for the HCC Forward Initiative as the Accelerated Pathways Task Force, chaired by **Jon Iuzzini**, and the Corequisite Education Task Force, chaired by **Sylvia Lee**, met with Swim Digital Group to reorganize around new charges and refresh their direction for the work ahead.

These sessions provided an opportunity for each group to revisit their charge, walk through the governance structure, and align reporting and escalation paths. Task force members also explored how to use project planning tools to track milestones and manage interdependencies—laying the groundwork for effective collaboration and sustained momentum. The meeting also reinforced the support system available to each task force, including dedicated teams for Change Management, IT/Related Issues, and Data.

In addition, the Strategic Scheduling, Retention & Completion, and WCCE Student Integration Task Forces also met this week to discuss their next steps, including:

- **Strategic Scheduling Task Force:** Conducting an institutional assessment of scheduling & program flow alignment
- **Retention & Completion Task Force:** Compiling an inventory of existing retention interventions
- **WCCE Student Integration Task Force:** Conducting an assessment of current WCCE enrollment & tracking processes

As these task forces launch into this next phase, we're energized by their clarity of focus and grateful for the leadership guiding this work. We'll continue to share updates as their work progresses throughout the summer.