



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"We first make our habits, and then our habits make us."

— John Dryden

EUROPEAN CULINARY ADVENTURES

Dragon Country! Recently, I embarked on a memorable journey to Spain, where I explored the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid. Amid my travels, I immersed myself in the rich culture and history of this beautiful country.

Delving into the culinary delights of Spain, I relished traditional dishes like Cochinillo Asado in Segovia and the iconic paella. A visit to the renowned Real Madrid stadium for lunch was a highlight, and witnessing my first Flamenco performance left me captivated by this mesmerizing art form.

I'm reminded of our students who recently completed a European culinary adventure of their own through our Passport to Pastries study abroad program, where they explored the origins of French baking.

This journey was not just a travel escapade; it was a soul-enriching experience that reminded me of the significance of solitude and serenity in our quest for higher purposes.



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Senior Leadership Team Update

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



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please welcome to Dragon Country!

- Christina Murray,
*International Student Admissions
and Academic Advisor (07/16)*
- Lin Gao,
*Languages and Culture
Operations & Registration
Assistant (07/21)*
- Adriana Pearlman,
*Associate Director of Financial
Aid Services, Program Admin.
(07/21)*
- Alice Robinson,
Production Manager (07/21)

Leaving the college:

- Kofi Adisa,
*Associate Professor, English
(08/13)*

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Recycle all of your paper, not just newspapers and magazines.

Every ton of paper reused saves 17 trees from being cut down, allowing them to continue standing, looking beautiful, and working hard to absorb carbon dioxide on our behalf.

REPRESENT HCC AT THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR!

Volunteers are needed to help represent HCC at the Howard County Fair, taking place from August 2 to August 9.

Please consider signing up to work the HCC booth in the air-conditioned main exhibition hall, where you will greet visitors, distribute information, and offer guidance to potential students.

Volunteering offers a unique opportunity to connect with the community and discuss all that HCC has to offer. All volunteers will receive a day pass to the fair for the date of their shift. If you are scheduled for an evening shift, consider arriving early to take advantage of the fun.

The booth shift schedule is as follows:

- Weekdays, 12 to 9 p.m.
- Weekends, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sign up for a shift using our [Sign-Up Genius form](#).

Armed Forces Day is Saturday, August 2, and Senior Day (62+) is Tuesday, August 5. Each group receives free admission on their respective day. Please consider volunteering for a shift on these days if you have experience working with these groups.

“HCC Out in The Community”

Also, please take a photo of the table (as shown below) for our “HCC Out in The Community” series on social media. Our goal for the photo is to encourage fairgoers to drop by and recognize your contributions to ensuring we support the community we serve. Text your photo to Kia McLeod as soon as your shift starts at 240-750-7749.

Thank you in advance for representing HCC at the fair!



TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE!



Take the Challenge! I am proud to announce that registration is now open for the HCC 5K Challenge Race on Sunday, September 28, 2025, welcoming all fitness levels. You can run, jog or walk your way to the finish line. The \$25 registration fee includes:

- An official 5K Challenge Race T-shirt.
- A finisher medal.
- Weekly wellness newsletters starting in August.
- A 90-day complimentary Columbia Association family membership.

Bonus for employees: Your registration counts as an employee giving contribution, so you'll automatically be entered into the monthly prize drawings!

👉 Register at: www.howardcc.edu/racesupport

Volunteers are needed: Help cheer on your colleagues and support scholarships!

Volunteers are needed on race day from 8–11 a.m. to help along the course and keep the energy high. Morning snacks will be provided.

👉 Sign up to volunteer: [Volunteer Form](#)

For questions, contact the development office at foundation@howardcc.edu or 443-518-1970.

Thank you for your support!

<p>RACING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS</p>	
	<p>Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 • 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>WHY TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE RACE?</p>	<p>EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>HEALTH & WELLNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exercise can reduce anxiety and lower your risk of heart disease </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>MOTIVATION & TEAMWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Compete against your HCC co-workers for bragging rights all year long </div> </div>	<p>\$25 per person</p> <p>Includes t-shirt, medal, and 90-day complimentary Columbia Association "family" membership. <i>(Must sign-up by 8/1/2025 to guarantee t-shirt)</i></p> <p>THREE CONVENIENT WAYS TO SIGN UP</p> <p>HowardCC.edu/ HCCChallenge 443-518-1970 Foundation@HowardCC.edu</p>
<p>FUNDING PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS</p>	

HCC FORWARD UPDATE



The first official convening of the monthly HCC Forward Chairs and Leaders Meeting took place on July 10, bringing together leaders across task forces to further advance their work under the HCC Forward Initiative.

The session began by reviewing Swim's role in supporting the initiatives for each of the task forces, emphasizing their function as strategic partners and co-pilots alongside task force chairs/co-chairs, who remain the primary drivers of their initiatives.

Task force chairs/co-chairs then provided updates on their work, including:

- **Accelerated Pathways Initiative:** Continued efforts to improve the 7-week course model, focusing on process improvement and scaling, are taking place. In addition, **Candace dePass** and **Jon Iuzzini** are leading faculty and course development discussions, including ways to measure course-level success and expand high-impact practices.
- **Retention & Completion Task Force:** This task force is continuing their institution-wide inventory of retention and completion activities as well as researching peer and for-profit institutions to gather insight on innovative practices.
- **Strategic Scheduling Task Force:** The task force is reviewing course information for the top 22 enrolled programs to ensure prerequisite accuracy and optimal scheduling with both full-time and part-time students in mind.
- **WCCE Program Alignment Task Force:** Ongoing work is taking place to develop a framework for aligning programs with certifications and credit opportunities; currently, the task force is reviewing guidelines for credit for prior learning.
- **WCCE Student Integration Task Force:** The task force has been working on defining student journeys for WCCE students, from inquiry to enrollment, to better understand how WCCE processes and tracking mechanisms work.

All task force chairs/co-chairs will provide monthly updates, and these meetings will continue to play a critical role in ensuring progress, accountability, and alignment across all initiatives within the HCC Forward Initiative. We look forward to sharing additional updates in the coming months as the task forces advance their work.