



**HOWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**DARIA J. WILLIS, PH.D.**

**PRESIDENT'S**

# UPDATE

**#DRAGONCOUNTRY**

*"The future rewards those who press on. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. I don't have time to complain. I'm going to press on."*

— President Barack Obama

## IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SECTOR

**Dragon Country!** Last month, I was privileged to be appointed to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Commission on Research and Community College Trends and Issues. Community colleges are the backbone of higher education, and I look forward to collaborating with fellow leaders to drive innovation, equity, and student success in our sector.

Comprised of CEOs and senior leaders from member institutions, the commission is one of nine authorized by the AACC board to provide advice and recommendations to the association. Having previously served on the Commission on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, I am excited to return and represent our dynamic community of scholars and employees. Dragon Country is well-represented with Dr. Grays serving on the AACC Commission on College Readiness.

I am also excited to congratulate the association on the selection of their next president and CEO, Dr. DeRionne Pollard. When her tenure begins in the fall, Dr. Pollard will be the **first woman** to lead the organization in their **105-year history**.

I'd be remiss if I didn't congratulate outgoing president and CEO, and former HCC employee, Dr. Walter Bumphus, on his retirement.

Congratulations and best wishes, Dr. Pollard and Dr. Bumphus!



## LEADERSHIP UPDATES

### Senior Leadership Team Update

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

## SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Check out the latest episode of *Green Dragon!*

Produced by the award-winning **Dragon Podcasts**, this episode features **Marcus Nicks** for a conversation about the intersection of history, science and sustainability.

[Tune in on PodBean, or your favorite podcast platform!](#)

## 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 this [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 the "HCC Out in The Community" series on social media. The 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!



## PUBLIC HISTORY IN ACTION: HCC INTERNS BRING COLUMBIA'S LEGACY TO LIFE

This summer, our Liberal Arts Division partnered with the Columbia Association to offer an intensive three-week internship in public history that ran from June 9 to June 26, 2025. Spearheaded by HCC history instructor **Terrell Bratcher** and **Erin Berry**, head archivist of the Columbia Archives, the program provided students with a hands-on introduction to archival research, exhibit curation, and the power of storytelling through history.

Four of our talented students participated as interns:

- McKenzie Campbell, a first-year communications major.
- Dillon Mossman, a second-year history major.
- Christian Nazaire, a recent HCC graduate and former SGA vice president bound for UVA.
- and Sa'nya Smith, a second-year health sciences student.

Together, they explored the RGV Miscellaneous Organizations collection, which documents over 435 organizations, events and community programs based in Columbia. Their research culminated in a curated exhibit celebrating the diverse events that have united the Columbia community over the years. The program received invaluable support from **Kristen Lash** and direction from **Candace dePass** in the Division of Learning Engagement. The exhibit is now on display in the Academic Commons building, located across from Classroom AC 212, and will remain available to the public through June 2026. Be sure to stop by and see how the next generation of public historians is preserving Columbia's vibrant story.



## HCC HOSTS GIRLS FLAG AND CHEER COMBINE WITH THE RAVENS!

HCC will host a flag football and cheerleading combine on Saturday, August 9, in association with the Baltimore Ravens! The combine will give participants a chance to hone their skills while highlighting HCC's two newest competitive sports.

The Ravens cheer squad, entertainment and mascot Poe will be in attendance, and a Ravens legend will make an appearance! Fans and participants will have the opportunity to take part in a giveaway during the event. The event will be held at the college's athletic complex, with the flag football portion taking place on the athletic fields and the cheerleading combine held in the main gym of the Kahlert Foundation Complex.

Participants can sign up by following this link: [www.Howardcc.edu/FFCCombine](http://www.Howardcc.edu/FFCCombine)

**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](http://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](mailto:foundation@howardcc.edu) or 443-518-1970.

**Thank you for your support!**

<p>RACING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS</p> 		 <p>Howard Community College</p> <p><b>5K CHALLENGE RACE</b> RUN. CLIMB. CRAWL.</p> <p><b>Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 • 8:30 a.m.</b></p>
<p><b>WHY TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE RACE?</b></p>	<p><b>EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION</b></p>	
 <p><b>HEALTH &amp; WELLNESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Exercise can reduce anxiety and lower your risk of heart disease</li> </ul>	 <p><b>MOTIVATION &amp; TEAMWORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Compete against your HCC co-workers for bragging rights all year long</li> </ul>	<p><b>\$25</b> 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><b>THREE CONVENIENT WAYS TO SIGN UP</b></p> <p>HowardCC.edu/ HCCChallenge 443-518-1970 Foundation@HowardCC.edu</p>
<p>FUNDING PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS</p>		

**FRIENDLY CAMPUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

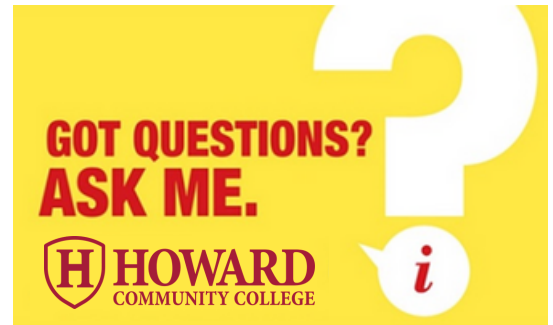
Please volunteer for Friendly Campus, an excellent way for you to connect with students!

On Monday, August 25, and Tuesday, August 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., we need your assistance in welcoming students to Howard Community College for the Fall 2025 semester.

Please choose from one of five locations below:

- Kalhert Foundation Complex (KC) inside, mathematics entrance.
- Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center (HVPA), inside, in front of the dance studio entrance, next to the Smith Theatre.
- Galleria inside the HW/AC connector across from the elevators.
- Science, Engineering and Technology building (SET) inside, front lobby, next to SET-101-front entrance from RCF circle.
- Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Building (RCF) inside café.

To volunteer for a shift (one hour each), please click on the following link and complete the form: [Friendly Campus Sign Up](#)

**COLLEGE FUNDRAISING AND GRANT POLICY**

If you are looking for additional funding to help meet the needs of students or to start new programs, the Development Office and the Howard Community College Educational Foundation (HCCEF) are here to assist you. HCC receives private grants, grants from public entities and gifts.

These gifts and grants can be obtained from public funding sources, such as federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as private funding sources, including individuals, corporations, corporate foundations, and nonprofit foundations.

Gifts and private grants to HCC must be made through HCCEF, which the HCC Board of Trustees authorizes to receive all restricted and unrestricted scholarships, gifts (including in-kind and loaned gifts), and grants for purposes related to the advancement of the college.

The HCCEF accepts gifts and grants that support various instructional, research, scholarship, and public service functions, thereby enhancing the college's mission. Grants from public entities may be made directly to HCC.

Scholarships designated for specific HCC students by external organizations, such as service organizations or churches, will be disbursed directly to the finance office. All college staff seeking to obtain funding, equipment or other forms of support from public or private donors must consult with the Development Office for approval of all grant applications and fundraising efforts.

More information about the college's fundraising policies and procedures can be found here: [Fundraising and Donations Policy - 61.05](#).

## HCC FORWARD UPDATE

Significant progress is taking place within the HCC Forward Initiative as task forces continue their efforts to advance institutional priorities. Many groups are actively engaged in critical assessments and planning activities aimed at supporting student success and operational alignment, including:

### Accelerated Pathways Task Force

Chaired by **Jon Iuzzini**, this task force continues its exploration of 7-week course structures. During the latest meeting, **Deb Greenberg** presented insights from a report, such as how students enrolled in at least one 7-week course attempted and completed more credits than those in traditional 15-week formats—but with slightly lower overall completion rates. Task force members are now documenting the impact of the 7-week model within their respective areas, and these findings will be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

### Corequisite Education Task Force

This task force, chaired by **Sylvia Lee**, has been looking ahead to the faculty and adjunct training and development sessions scheduled for the week of August 11, identifying opportunities to provide content related to wraparound student supports. The team is also exploring how to evaluate the effectiveness of corequisite strategies, and discussions will continue around defining success metrics.

### Retention & Completion Task Force

Co-chaired by **Zakia Reaves Johnson** and **Candace dePass**, this task force is reviewing high-impact practices that affect retention and completion with the goal of outlining a holistic retention strategy focused on both credit and workforce students. To support this effort, task force members are collecting benchmarking data from peer and for-profit institutions and contributing to a central inventory of existing retention activities.

### Strategic Scheduling Task Force

Led by co-chairs **Kismet Flagg-Webster** and **Jon Iuzzini**, this task force is emphasizing the importance of building coherent two-year sequences for full-time students, while still supporting flexible part-time pathways. A key focus has been on identifying and deconstructing dependency issues that may obstruct registration and program progression. Task force members are also actively reviewing the top 22 enrolled programs, comparing catalog entries to the self-service planner to ensure alignment, and checking program sequencing for clarity.

### WCCE Program Alignment Task Force

Led by **Darren Gibson**, this task force is actively reviewing a draft of PLA guidelines as well as a nontraditional credit policy document, while awaiting approval of the Credit for Prior Learning policy document. Members are also beginning to identify programs where students naturally transition between non-credit and credit offerings using these as a starting point before work on program-level crosswalks begins.

### WCCE Student Integration Task Force

Under the leadership of **Jim Rzepkowski**, this task force is focused on aligning enrollment and student support processes across Workforce, Career, and Community Education (WCCE) and credit-bearing programs. The task force has continued mapping enrollment and tracking processes to identify inefficiencies and opportunities for greater cohesion.

During these ongoing efforts, task forces are utilizing established project planning tools to document their progress, track milestones, and identify dependencies. These activities demonstrate the institution's commitment to aligning strategy with execution and fostering collaboration across departments.



**DRAGONS FLAG FOOTBALL FRENZY**

# GIRLS FLAG & CHEER COMBINE

**HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**SATURDAY AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> 9AM-12PM**

**AGE GROUPS: 12 & UNDER AND 13+**



## FLAG FOOTBALL COMBINE

LEVEL UP YOUR GAME & LEARN THE SKILLS & STRATEGIES TO COMPETE IN THE EMERGING WORLD OF WOMEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

**40 YARD DASH**

**SCRIMMAGES**

**CATCHING &  
FLAG PULLING**

**AGILITY  
& ENDURANCE**

## CHEERLEADING CLINIC

JUMP INTO THE SPIRIT OF CHEER & GROW YOUR CONFIDENCE & SKILLSET IN THIS HIGH ENERGY CLINIC

**STUNT PROGRESSIONS**

**JUMP DRILLS**

**TUMBLING TECHNIQUES**

**SIDELINE DANCE & CHEER**

**FLEXIBILITY &  
STRENGTH TRAINING**



**LOCATION: HCC ATHLETIC FIELDS  
5500 DRAGON PLACE COLUMBIA, MD 21044**

**BALTIMORE  
RAVENS**

**\$20 ADMISSION  
REGISTRATION: [BIT.LY/FFCCOMBINE](https://bit.ly/fcccombine)  
MORE INFO CONTACT: [ATHLETICS@HOWARDCC.EDU](mailto:ATHLETICS@HOWARDCC.EDU)**