



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

"Hope is but the dream of those who wake"

— Matthew Prior

STARTING OFF AUGUST WITH A BASH!

Dragon Country! Next week marks the start of our August Registration Series – a trio of events designed to help new and returning students with every step of the enrollment process.

Summer Bash returns Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 12 to 2:30 p.m. on the Quad! Students and the community can learn about the college's academic programs; apply and register for classes; take a campus tour; and enjoy free food, games, prizes and more!

August 14th is also the first of three **Dragon Days** – an in-person extension of the online new student orientation. Newly admitted students explore campus, meet students and faculty, and get familiar with campus resources.

On August 23, 2025, in addition to the final Dragon Days, all student success offices will be open for **Super Saturday!** Students that need help registering for fall classes can drop in from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with no RSVP needed.

Please share these events with your networks and encourage the prospective students in your life to attend Summer Bash.

For more information, visit www.HowardCC.edu/RegEvents



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Please Welcome to Dragon

Country:

- Jamie Gaskin

Director of Skilled Trades
Program (08/18)

Congratulations on your new position!

- Gopika Gopinath

Dual Enrollment Operations Data
Analyst (07/15)

- Tiffany Ricks

Director of Events & Conference
Center (08/01)

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



Consider your AI use!

Data centers that enable the development of generative AI tools require large amounts of water to cool servers and prevent overheating.

Large data centers can use up to 5 million gallons of water a day, equivalent to the daily water usage of 10,000-15,000 people.

DAY OF LEARNING 2025!

Over the summer, the Day of Learning Committee has been working hard in preparation for this year's event. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions:

- The Day of Learning will be held on **Monday, August 18, 2025**, at 9 a.m. All campus offices will be closed for the day, and all full-time employees are expected to attend. Part time employees are welcome to attend.
- The keynote and group picture will take place in the Kahlert Foundation Complex Gym (KC), allowing us to start the day together.
- Day of Learning T-shirts will be available for pickup starting on Wednesday, August 6, through Friday, August 15 (weekdays only). Please visit the Box Office, located outside the Smith Theater on the first floor of the Horowitz Center (HVPA), between 12-4 p.m. to pick up your T-shirt. If you are unavailable for pickup during this time, please get in touch with Jess Grim. Just a reminder: hold off on wearing your T-shirt until the Day of Learning!
- Registration for sessions will open at 11 p.m. on Sunday, August 10. The committee feels this is the best way for everyone to have a fair chance to register for their desired sessions.
- We will be collecting food for the Fueling Dragons Program again this year. Donations will be collected before the keynote session and during lunch. This is a great opportunity to stock the shelves for our students before they return to campus!
- Sandwich boxed lunches will be served at the Café on the Quad. If you have any dietary or religious restrictions, please email them to **Dewey Grim** at dgrim@howardcc.edu and **Chef Kelly** at Kelley.Abbajay@compass-usa.com by Thursday, August 14 to ensure your needs are met.
- For any questions or updates please reference the Day of Learning Portal Page. [Day of Learning 2025 Portal Page](#)
- Prepare for the upcoming Day of Learning by downloading the Unified Talent App to view PD courses as both an instructor and a participant. As a participant, you can mark your attendance by scanning the QR code on the sign-in sheets.
- When you log in for the first time, use the District App Code: gYQVtT and log in using your Howard CC Single Sign On (SSO) credentials. You can find the download instructions in the Mobile App section of the PL's homepage. Download the app on the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store today!
- We are looking forward to having everyone back on campus and kicking off a new school year!

See you on Monday, August 18, 2025.

CENTRAL MARYLAND LOGISTICS WORKFORCE PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP

On Wednesday, July 23, 2025, the college celebrated the first completers of the Central Maryland Logistics Workforce Pipeline Partnership program. Supported by the Maryland Department of Labor Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) grant, the program focuses on preparing members of the neurodiverse community for jobs in the logistics and supply chain industry.

After completing two seven-week courses -Certified Logistics Associate and Certified Logistics Technician-students participated in a 48-hour paid externship at Shimadzu, Inc. Students and employers received essential skills training in partnership with the Autism Society of Maryland, the ARC of Howard County, and career services from the Howard County Office of Workforce Development. Industry training and real-world experience have prepared the students for employment opportunities in the local logistics workforce.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the event. A special thanks to students Ed Ofori-Okyere, Brian Smith, and Marvin Titus, as well as the Workforce, Career, and Community Education representatives: **Nathan Bates, Carl Bolar, Carissa Morin, Pamela Osuri, Jeff Richmond, Heather Ryan, Jim Rzepkowski, Adriana Sanchez, Melissa Smith, and Minah Woo.**

**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](#)

TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE!



Registration is now open! All fitness levels are welcome – run, jog, or walk your way to the finish line. The \$25 registration fee includes:

- Race shirt
- 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

We Need Volunteers!

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>Howard Community College</p>  <p>5K CHALLENGE RACE RUN. CLIMB. CRAWL.</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 • 8:30 a.m.</p>
<p>WHY TAKE THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE RACE?</p>	<p>EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION</p>	
 <p>HEALTH & WELLNESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Exercise can reduce anxiety and lower your risk of heart disease 	 <p>MOTIVATION & TEAMWORK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Compete against your HCC co-workers for bragging rights all year long 	<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 HCC Forward Initiative continues to advance with momentum as task forces deepen their collaborative efforts to align institutional strategies with student success outcomes. In recent weeks, they have engaged in meaningful dialogue, and each task force remains focused on tangible progress and cross-functional collaboration as the fall semester approaches.

Accelerated Pathways Task Force

Chaired by **Jon Iuzzini**, the task force continues its work evaluating the 7-week course structure. Members shared reflections on how this model has affected operations within their respective areas. This qualitative input will be used to contextualize institutional data and inform enhancements to faculty and student experiences.

Corequisite Education Task Force

Under the leadership of **Sylvia Lee**, the task force is working on creating training materials specifically for faculty members teaching corequisite education classes. Additionally, they are drafting an assessment plan aimed at capturing students' awareness pertaining to corequisite education, which will include focus groups and surveys. These findings collected from the assessment plan will help inform future professional development programming for both faculty and staff.

Retention & Completion Task Force

Co-chaired by **Zakia Reaves Johnson** and **Candace dePass**, the team recently explored the impact of technological access and digital literacy on student persistence; these discussions are shaping the broader framework for a retention strategy inclusive of both credit and workforce student populations.

Strategic Scheduling Task Force

Led by co-chairs **Kismet Flagg-Webster** and **Jon Iuzzini**, the task force is on track to complete its review of the top 22 enrolled programs this week; focus has been comparing program catalog entries with the self-service planner to ensure consistency as well as clarity in program sequencing.

WCCE Program Alignment Task Force

Chaired by **Darren Gibson**, the task force is initiating work on documenting program and course pathways where students can fluidly transition between non-credit and credit options; this work lays the groundwork for crosswalk development aligned with the anticipated Credit for Prior Learning policy.

WCCE Student Integration Task Force

Under the leadership of **Jim Rzepkowski**, the team continues to address operational disparities in processes that impact the student experience, particularly those tied to federally funded programs and visa-related constraints. The group has been mapping the WCCE student journey, including stages of first contact, application, and registration as well as identifying wraparound supports available to WCCE students.

Together, the collective efforts of HCC Forward are laying a strong foundation for transformative change across the institution.