



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

"The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values."

— William Inge

STARTING SEPTEMBER STRONG

Dragon Country! Before starting this week's update, I'd like to take a moment to thank the dedicated members of our **facilities staff** who identified the outdoor gas leak behind Clark Library and worked tirelessly to stop the leak and restore gas and hot water service to campus.

I am excited to announce that September marks National Student Parent Month, a time to celebrate the diversity that student parents bring to campus and the classroom. Across the country, more than 3 million undergraduate students are parents, lifting as they climb to support the next generation.

These 3 million students make up one-fifth of the total undergraduate student population, and most are women and students of color. I'm reminded of students like Abby, featured in the documentary series [Raising Up](#), who had to pause their educational journey due to a lack of childcare.

Through services like the Parent Scholars Program, the Children's Learning Center, family-friendly study spaces, and events like [Fall for All](#), HCC is taking a multi-generational approach to higher education - and I could not be more proud to lead this institution.



HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

Congratulations on your new position:

- Christel Wohlfaka

Department Head –
Foundational Learning (07/01)

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC

If you cannot live without your dishwasher, at least consider cutting out the pre-rinse. With a decent detergent, your dishes will be just as clean, and you can save an average of 20 gallons of water per load.

DRAGON PODCASTS



Did you know HCC has a podcast network? Dragon Podcasts cover a wide range of fascinating topics, including HCC events and programs, local community organizations, and more.

This week, tune in to the dynamic duo of Carolyn Kelemen and Judy Templeton as they take you on a theatrical journey like no other, featuring Elizabeth Higgins of HCC's Dance Program!

[Listen on Podbean!](#)

HCC CELEBRATES NATIONAL STUDENT PARENTS MONTH

September marks National Student Parents Month, a time to recognize the vital role student parents—including dads—play in the college community. These students balance academics, caregiving, and employment while striving to build better futures for their families. Their resilience enriches the college experience for everyone.

This month, the Parent Scholars Program will induct 30 new student parents. Posters featuring Parent Scholars will be displayed across campus, and the Student Government Association, led by Christionne Johnson, will launch a social media campaign to raise awareness.

We are also excited to announce the opening of the Parent Scholars Study Room on the third floor of the Rouse Company Foundation Building. Funded by Ohana HC, this space allows student parents to study while bringing their children with them.

Special thanks to the Parent Scholars Program staff: **Brooke Barrick, Dayle Bowser, Shelly Caldwell-Bennett, Eileen Diggs, Samar Khan, and Jocelyn Vera.**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 5K CHALLENGE RACE

We need volunteers from 8 to 11 a.m. to support the 5K Challenge Race. Cheer on participants along the course as they race to raise funds for scholarships! Morning snacks will be available to all volunteers.

To reserve your spot, please complete the Volunteer Sign Up form: www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BA5A929A2FDC43-57516577-2025

For more information, contact **Faith Reed** at FReed@HowardCC.edu or 443-518-1970. Thank You!

2025 BAUDER LECTURE FEATURING SAFIA ELHILLO

Howard Community College will host the fifth annual Bauder Lecture on Thursday, September 18. The 12:30 p.m. lecture will be hybrid in format, presented in person in the Montebaro Recital Hall and streamed online via Vimeo. A 6 p.m. lecture will also be offered, in person only.

Safia Elhillo, distinguished, bestselling author of "Bright Red Fruit," will deliver the keynote lecture. Following her address, Elhillo will be joined by celeste doaks—editor, journalist, and author of "Cornrows and Cornfields"—for an in-depth conversation.

The Bauder Lecture by Howard Community College is made possible by a generous grant from Dr. Lillian Bauder, a community leader and Columbia resident. "Bright Red Fruit" was selected by the Howard County Book Connection committee as its choice for the 2025–2026 academic year. The Howard County Book Connection is a partnership of the college and the Howard County Poetry and Literature Society.

Professional Development credit is available for employees. For more information and to view the livestream, please visit HowardCC.edu/BauderLecture.

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE presents **THE BAUDER LECTURE**

Safia Elhillo,
*Distinguished
bestselling author of
"Bright Red Fruit"*

Thursday, Sept. 18

HowardCC.edu/BauderLecture

Hi HOWARD COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM **DTC** PARTNERSHIP

HoCoPoLitSo
HOWARD COUNTY POETRY & LITERATURE SOCIETY

Sudanese by way of Washington, D.C., Safia Elhillo is the author of the books "The January Children," "Girls That Never Die," "Home Is Not A Country," and "Bright Red Fruit." Elhillo's work appears in Poetry Magazine, Callaloo, and The Academy of American Poets' Poem-a-day series, among others, and in anthologies including "The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop" and "The Penguin Book of Migration Literature." Elhillo received the 2015 Brunel International African Poetry Prize and was listed in Forbes Africa's 2018 "30 Under 30." Her work has been translated into several languages and commissioned by Under Armour, Cuyana, and the Bavarian State Ballet.

celeste doaks' journalism work has appeared in the Huffington Post, Village Voice, Time Out New York, and Quarterly Black Book Review. Her poems have been published in the Chicago Quarterly Review, Asheville Poetry Review, Bayou Magazine, and Beltway Poetry Quarterly. Her most recent work, "American Herstory," won Backbone Press's 2018 chapbook competition and was named Best Chapbook by the Maryland Poet Laureate. doaks holds a bachelor's in English from the University of Baltimore and a Master of Fine Arts from North Carolina State University and has held teaching positions at East Carolina University, Morgan State University, Stevenson University, and the University of Delaware.

HCC FORWARD UPDATE

With the fall semester now underway, HCC Forward is building on its momentum. Everyone has been working diligently, laying the groundwork that makes this progress possible. Three task forces had meetings last week, and updates include:

Accelerated Pathways Task Force

The group reconvened to discuss an executive summary drafted by Swim that provided a synthesized view of student and faculty experiences with the seven-week accelerated course format implemented during the 2024–2025 academic year. It consisted of information obtained from institutional data, student surveys and focus groups, and faculty feedback. The task force will continue to review the executive summary and identify opportunities for collecting additional data. Once approved, the executive summary will be posted to the [HCC Forward microsite](#).

Corequisite Education Task Force

This task force met to share initial feedback and insights collected from student focus groups that took place during the first week of classes. These focus groups are a part of the task force's assessment plan that will inform the future of the corequisite curriculum, and the focus group questions were concentrated on the student experience with enrolling in corequisite courses. Once the focus groups are completed, a thematic summary of the initial student experiences will be drafted, including recommendations for immediate interventions.

WCCE Program Alignment Task Force

This team met to begin identifying programs and courses for beta testing and crosswalk development between credit and non-credit. The task force has been working from a spreadsheet that provides the best points of contact for programs and courses, documents any initial concrete connections already in place, and notes additional accreditation or licensure requirements. The next meeting will consist of the task force discussing the contents of the spreadsheet and prioritization.

For more information, please visit the [HCC Forward Website](#).