



**HOWARD**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

# UPDATE

**#DRAGONCOUNTRY**

*"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."*

— *Mattie Stepanek*

## **YEP! THEY'RE RIGHT ON TRACK!**

**Dragon Country!** Last week, I joined Howard County Executive Calvin Ball for an update on the summer initiatives, which aim to engage Howard County's youth. During his remarks, Dr. Ball highlighted the success of HCC's year-round youth engagement programs, including the YEP! sports clinics and the Boys & Girls Club in residence at HCC.

Since opening last year, the Club has served nearly 100 young people, allowing them to grow academically, socially, and personally at no cost to their families. Thank you to **Grace Anastasiadis, Phil DeRosier, Mike Smelkinson,** and **Stephanie Wall** for joining me at the event.

On Tuesday, we welcomed Dr. Ball and participants from the college's YEP! Track and Field clinic, along with their families, for an awards ceremony in the Kahlert Foundation Complex. In July, participants from the program traveled to Houston, Texas, for the AAU National Junior Olympics, joining hundreds of competitors from across the country. HCC was well represented, with two incredible students placing nationally at the competition: Zachary Johnson won the Boys 13 and Under High Jump, and Warren Conley placed second in the Boys 12 and Under Pentathlon.

Congratulations to Coach Phil and the entire YEP! Track and Field team for a successful season!



### **LEADERSHIP UPDATES**

#### **Senior Leadership Team Update**

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



## HCC CONNECTIONS, DEPARTURES & TRANSITIONS

### Congratulations on your retirement!

- Cathi Watts

Office Manager for Advising and  
Retention (09/30)

### Leaving the college:

- Mo Smith

Associate Registrar (09/15)

- Frank Cianciarulo

Instructor (09/19)

## SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC



*All emails—even the ones in your inbox—consume power due to the network of data centers around the world that store and manage the delivery of our communications.*

*Deleting old, unneeded messages saves power and reduces your carbon footprint.*

*While you're at it, unsubscribe from unnecessary mailing lists that contribute to both inbox clutter and global emissions.*

## CELEBRATING 20 SEASONS IN THE HOROWITZ VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center opened in the fall of 2006 and quickly became a cultural hub for Columbia and the greater Howard County community.

The Horowitz Center continues this tradition of excellence with a milestone year showcasing the creative talents of student and professional artists. The 20th Anniversary Season offers a wide-ranging lineup of artistic experiences, including children's theatre, modern musicals, classical music, contemporary dance, stunning art exhibitions, poetry readings, film discussions, and more!

Learn more about the offerings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season at [HowardCC.edu/HorowitzCenter/Season](https://HowardCC.edu/HorowitzCenter/Season)



The entire campus community is invited to a reception for internationally acclaimed artist Wonsook Kim's exhibition, "Visual Poetry: the work of Wonsook Kim," on Saturday, September 13, at 6 p.m., in the Horowitz Center's Grand Hall, with light refreshments provided by HCC's culinary students.

Renowned for her authentic, exuberant narratives in paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, multimedia and installations, Kim's work has been on display globally by museums and galleries since 1985. In August 2024, Wonsook, along with her husband, the acclaimed inventor Thomas Clement, made a [historic \\$2.5 million gift](#) to support the college's Department of Engineering. Thomas P. Clement Hall, named in recognition of their support, also displays many of Wonsook's artworks for the college community to enjoy.

Click below to view a video highlighting Wonsook Kim's work.



## 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.

Join Marie Westhaver and Mike Giuliano as they dive into the world of cinema on their exciting podcast, "At the Movies."

This week, Mike and Marie discuss the films "Eddington" and "The Life of Chuck." Tune in now for your dose of movie magic!

[Listen on Podbean!](#)

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN – JOIN US FOR THE HCC 5K CHALLENGE RACE ON SEPTEMBER 28!

All fitness levels are welcome—run, jog, or walk your way to the finish line. Your \$25 registration includes:

- A Race shirt
- Finisher medal
- Weekly wellness newsletters starting in August
- A complimentary 90-day Columbia Association family membership

**Bonus for Employees:** Your registration also counts toward employee giving and automatically enters you into the monthly prize drawings!

[HowardCC.edu/RaceSupport](http://HowardCC.edu/RaceSupport)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 5K CHALLENGE RACE

Not planning to race? You can still be part of the excitement. Volunteers are needed on race day from 8 to 11 a.m. to cheer on participants, staff course stations, and keep the energy high. You don't have to work the entire three hours to help! Morning snacks will be provided.

[Volunteer today!](#)

For questions, please contact the Development Office at 443-518-1970 or [Foundation@HowardCC.edu](mailto:Foundation@HowardCC.edu)

Thank you for helping make this event a success!



### SUPPORT STUDENT PARENTS THOUGH KRISPY KREME

The Executive Support Committee is hosting its annual Krispy Kreme fundraiser to support HCC's student parents during the holiday season. From now through October 14, employees can pre-order donuts for pick up on Thursday, October 16 in the Galleria from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Please see the [attached flyer](#) and [order form](#) for additional information about the fundraiser. Please contact **Belinda Green** at [BGreen@HowardCC.edu](mailto:BGreen@HowardCC.edu) for any questions.

**NEXT WEEK: 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 Montebardo Recital Hall and streamed online. 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](https://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**

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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's 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 in full swing, HCC Forward is continuing to build momentum. Three task forces met last week to advance their initiatives, and highlights are shared below. More details and resources are available on the [HCC Forward site](#).

**Workforce, Career, and Community Education (WCCE) Student Integration**

The task force recently reviewed Swim's draft of the WCCE student journey future-state process map and identified several key areas for consideration. In discussing Student Inquiry and Request for Information (RFI), members noted that non-credit students often bypass the RFI step, choosing instead to proceed directly to an application. Currently, there is no RFI option tailored to non-credit students who are ready to enroll, though creating one that connects with Recruit could streamline the process. The group also explored whether a simplified application might serve as an effective replacement for the RFI. On the topic of Instant Enrollment, the team reviewed Ellucian's product, which enables students to register and pay for courses online. Since approximately 90% of WCCE programs are eligible for instant enrollment, the tool plays an important role in accessibility and efficiency. However, the discussion highlighted that removing the instant enrollment option could shift more registrations to in-person, potentially creating added operational demands.

**Retention and Completion**

The task force continued its discussion on student retention, focusing on both the effectiveness of current activities and the importance of ensuring inclusivity for all learners – whether credit or non-credit. Members emphasized the need to advocate for improved data collection moving forward, particularly around resources that directly support student retention. Looking ahead, the group will keep reviewing and completing the retention activity assessment spreadsheet while also updating the project update tool as each area is evaluated.

**Strategic Scheduling**

The task force continued its review of the executive summary, with a particular focus on the recommendations. Members emphasized the value of capturing data and explored ways to share information more effectively using a student-facing tool. While questions were raised around management and student tracking, these conversations opened the door to thoughtful planning and the creation of stronger systems. The group also discussed the exciting possibility of using Early Childhood Education as a pilot program for strategic scheduling, which could provide valuable insights for broader implementation. Recognizing the importance of consistency, the task force highlighted the need for a standard process across programs, an opportunity to create a more seamless experience for all students.

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

**Executive Support Committee Annual Fundraiser!**  
**Order a box of Krispy Kreme donuts for pickup on October 16 in the Galleria from 9am-11am.**

**Purchases of donuts are only per dozen. NO 1/2 dozen or mixed flavors.**

**Donuts can be ordered starting Friday, September 12 through Tuesday, October 14, 2025.**  
**Payments can be made by cash, check, or credit card at the Cashiers Office,**  
**Monday - Thursday from 8:45 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Friday from 8:45 a.m. - 5:00p.m.**  
**Attach order form on back.**

**\$ 16**  
**PER DOZEN**



**SPECIAL VARIETY DOZENS**

- Chocolate Iced
- Lemon Filled
- Raspberry Filled
- Kreme Filled

**\*ONE VARIETY PER DOZEN**

**SIGNATURE COFFEES**



**\$ 10**  
**PER BAG**

**\$ 14**  
**PER DOZEN**



**ORIGINAL GLAZED® DOUGHNUTS**

**CERTIFICATE**

**\$14**



**Valid for one dozen Original Glazed® Doughnuts at your local Krispy Kreme store.**





# ORDER FORM

Hello, I'm \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

I'm selling Krispy Kreme products to raise money for \_\_\_\_\_

Check the product you are selling:

- Fresh Krispy Kreme Original Glazed® doughnuts for a price \_\_\_\_\_ per dozen.
- of Fresh Krispy Kreme Assorted doughnuts for a price of \_\_\_\_\_ per dozen.
- Krispy Kreme BOGO Cards for a price of \_\_\_\_\_ each.
- Krispy Kreme Fundraising Certificates for a price of \_\_\_\_\_ each.
- 12 oz. Bags of Krispy Kreme Signature Coffee for a price of \_\_\_\_\_ each.  
(available in Smooth, Rich and Decaf)

CUSTOMER INFORMATION	# OF DOUGHNUT DOZENS					# OF BOGO CARDS	# OF FUNDRAISING CERTIFICATES	# OF 12 OZ. BAGS OF SIGNATURE COFFEE			AMOUNT COLLECTED
	ORIGINAL GLAZED®	CHOCOLATE ICED	KREME® FILLED	RASPBERRY FILLED	LEMON FILLED			SMOOTH	RICH	DECAF	
1											
2											
3											
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