



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

UPDATE

#DRAGONCOUNTRY

"Here is the day, we must welcome it with song."

— Marie Laveau

ACHIEVING THE DREAM'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY FRAMEWORK

Dragon Country! The college's **Student Success Steering and Data Committees** have been at work for a year, examining multiple data sources, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Achieving the Dream (ATD) has developed the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT), a survey that gathers more information from our employees about their perceptions of our student support processes.

The questions on the survey are based on the Institutional Capacity Framework. This comprehensive approach addresses the field's emerging needs to improve results for all students, particularly those who are marginalized. The framework is built on seven essential capacities that colleges need to create a student-focused culture that promotes student success.



We will describe each capacity over the next few weeks in preparation for the ICAT survey, which we will distribute in November to collect your responses.



LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Senior Leadership Team Update

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

SUSTAINABILITY @ HCC

**Leave the leaves!**

Let fallen leaves break down naturally instead of raking them up for disposal. Leaves provide a natural mulch to improve soil health and a natural wildlife habitat for species, such as turtles, toads and caterpillars.

Leaves also make a great addition to your garden beds and/or home compost piles.

ONE WEEK AWAY FROM FALL FOR ALL! JOIN US ON OCTOBER 17!

HCC is excited to host its third annual Fall for All festival on Friday, October 17, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free, family-friendly event falls on a day when HCPSS schools are closed for students, making it the perfect opportunity to visit campus and enjoy a day of fall fun and festivities. We'll have pumpkin-themed activities and a pumpkin patch, face painting, moon bounces, candy, an inflatable corn maze, and more! Our sustainability group will feature local exhibitors offering activities for all ages.

New for this year's event, join us as we spotlight our dedicated public safety professionals! Connect with representatives from Maryland and Howard County fire departments, and other local and state agencies. Discover practical tips on staying safe, protecting your property, and preparing for emergencies—straight from the experts who serve our community every day.

As you all know, it takes a village, so please sign up [here](#) to volunteer and help make this great event a success!

To allow the campus community to volunteer or enjoy the event with their families, please consider rescheduling large meetings between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Friday, October 17.

[Learn more at HowardCC.edu/FallForAll](https://www.howardcc.edu/fallforall)

HCC LAUNCHES ONLINE DATA DICTIONARY

We are excited to introduce the online Data Dictionary as part of our ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and improve data management at HCC.

Check it out here: [Online Data Dictionary](#)

This resource serves as a centralized guide, providing clear definitions and descriptions of the various data elements and terms used across our institution. Whether you're a member of faculty, staff, or administration, this tool will help you easily navigate and understand the language and structure behind our data, promoting more effective decision-making, reporting, and collaboration.

This Data Dictionary is a dynamic resource that will continuously evolve and improve with input from the college community.

Provide your feedback here: [Data Dictionary Feedback Form](#)

Questions? Please, contact **Yinyoung Rhou** at yrhou@howardcc.edu.

DRAGON PODCASTS



Dragon Podcasts cover a wide range of fascinating topics, including HCC events and programs, local community organizations, and other relevant subjects.

Dragon Podcast listeners can now tune in to their favorite shows on the Dragon Podcast YouTube channel! [Subscribe now](#) to be notified when new episodes are posted.

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HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS MDEA'S FIRST IN-PERSON SYMPOSIUM

HCC proudly hosted the Maryland Dual Enrollment Alliance's (MDEA) inaugural in-person symposium on Friday, September 26, at the Kahlert Foundation Complex. More than 40 dual enrollment professionals from across the state gathered for robust discussions, engaging presentations, and a panel on defining dual enrollment in Maryland. The agenda included a showcase of HCC's dual enrollment model, statewide perspectives from a panel of college and school leaders, and updates on ARTSYS and transfer pathways.

Participants were warmly welcomed by Provost and Executive Vice President **Dr. Shantay Grays**, Director of Dual Enrollment **Princess King**, and Assistant Director of Dual Enrollment **Raymond Harrod**, who also serves as Vice President of MDEA, with additional support from **Gopika Gopinath** and **Hawa Swen**. Their leadership and hospitality underscored HCC's commitment to statewide collaboration and expanding educational opportunities for students.



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 Tuesday, October 14, employees can pre-order donuts for pickup on Thursday, October 16, in the Galleria from 9 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 for any questions.

HCC FORWARD UPDATE

As the fall semester gains momentum, our Task Forces are hitting their stride — driving HCC Forward and adapting in real time to meet the evolving needs of our institution. Here's a quick snapshot of where things stand:

Accelerated Pathways

During the latest working session, the Task Force reviewed the executive summary developed by Swim and offered feedback to help refine it further. One key recommendation was to incorporate additional data on how many students are currently enrolled in multiple 7-week courses at the same time, which could provide insight into student load and scheduling patterns.

Retention & Completion

The Task Force has been spending time exploring various retention activities to identify what makes them successful for students. Swim is working to organize findings and determine the appropriate key performance indicators, which will both contribute to a successful retention plan.

Workforce Career and Community Education (WCCE) Student Integration

After reviewing a future state process map provided by Swim, the Task Force discussed implementing an RFI process for non-credit students. Ideally, this form would allow WCCE staff to manage, track and connect with prospective and returning students. The group also explored ideas around a student registration system that could automatically provision students in Colleague and allow for on-the-spot event registration.

Together, each Task Force continues to tackle bold, strategic questions that explore institutional systems with purpose and urgency.

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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