



**A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT**

**Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.**

Good morning, dear colleagues and students,

I am happy to write these few words to say I am here, ready to collaborate on behalf of our students and communities, and on our own behalf. Hostos is a place that does not need to be reminded of commitment and care, of generosity and kinship.

I offer, as I have done in the past few months, words of thank you, of sincere gratitude for the kindness of Dr. David Gómez, el Sr. Presidente, my predecessor and friend. I wish him peace, joy and the satisfaction of knowing how much he has contributed to the advancement of Hostos and to the human quality of our college.

We have been working with colleagues on securing an effective transition in a number of ways. I have met as often as a very tight schedule permitted with a number of colleagues at their request. From the beginning I wanted to affirm that I know it is our good work together, working in harmony and with an understanding of the devastating impact of this cruel pandemic on our communities and the need to work together to contribute to the healing by means of strong academic offerings and student support.

Filling some of the vacancies in the Office of Academic Affairs has been a priority. Dr. Christine Mangino has been collegial in her support of my transition, sharing information and speaking with colleagues about potential opportunities for leadership. I wish her as I know we all do, much success as we congratulate her on this very important recognition.

It is my intent as we move forward with interim appointments to work with colleagues who have the interest and credentials and whose experience is a good fit for the work that needs to take place in the office. Next week, or as soon as we receive the approval for these interim appointments from CUNY's Central Office, we will be sending out an announcement about our new leaders.

As I close these brief remarks, I'd like to share a quote you will hear me repeat often. It is an excerpt from our beloved poet of the Americas, Pablo Neruda's Nobel Laureate Speech. Reflecting on his many crossings of the Andes, in the middle of the night, to avoid political persecution, he noted the importance of signs left by others. For him, it underscored the fact that he was not the first, nor the only one, nor the last one to have had to make these crossings. He understood the importance of being connected to those who come before us and those who will follow our path:

*All paths lead to the same goal, to convey to others what we are...but in this dance  
or in this song there are fulfilled the most ancient rites of our conscience in the awareness  
of being human and of believing in a common destiny.*  
Pablo Neruda, Nobel Lecture, December 13, 1971

Thank you for welcoming me, as so many of you have done with such kind notes. I am happy to be back to a place I love, to work hand-in-hand (virtually, at this time) for that common destiny, a world that is fair and equitable for all.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
Interim President

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