



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

2026 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 1 marked the beginning of Women's History Month, an annual celebration of the indelible – if often shamefully ignored or neglected – contributions women have made to every realm of society. From politics to academia, from law to engineering, from medicine to marketing, from literature to architecture and beyond, women have profoundly shaped the lives we lead.

Even a short list of our country's pioneering women indicates the scope of their ambitions and the scale of their achievements. Rising above racial and gender prejudice, they are a remarkable group indeed, and such a list could include: Elizabeth Blackwell who, in 1849, became the first woman in America to receive a medical degree; Harriet Tubman who, after escaping enslavement herself, helped enslaved citizens gain their freedom through the Underground Railroad; Grace Hopper who, as a computer savant, pioneered the creation of COBOL; Donna Hitchens who, as a lawyer and judge, has fought for LGBTQIA+ rights and founded the organization known today as the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Alice Coachman who, in 1948, became the first Black American woman to win a Gold Medal at the Olympics; and Maya Lin, artist and sculptor and the designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Washington, D.C.'s National Mall.

They are only a fraction of the brilliant, innovative women this nation has produced. Many, many more names both famous and lesser-known could easily be added.

Hostos is proud to celebrate not only Women's History but also to contribute to Women's Futures. Women from every part of the globe have come to the South Bronx to realize their dreams through the power of education. It is a privilege to play a part in their lives by providing the knowledge and the skills they require to transform their worlds – and ours.

With the deepest appreciation for remarkable women everywhere,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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