

HCC: Coming Together to Achieve More



**“Hope”
By Emily Dickinson**

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all,

And sweetest in the gale is heard;
And sore must be the storm
That could abash the little bird
That kept so many warm.

I've heard it in the chilliest land,
And on the strangest sea;
Yet, never, in extremity,
It asked a crumb of me.

Bienvenidos a todos. We are delighted to share with you the achievements of our students, the contributions of our faculty and staff, the outstanding leadership of the Executive Cabinet, our community members and elected officials, the support of our Foundation and Community Advisory Council, and many grants and scholarships made possible by the generous support of donors and sponsors.

It has been a great year. Retention gains and enrollment increases of more than 9% are among the highest reported by CUNY's 25 institutions and are important markers of our continued progress. In addition, 800 students graduated with degrees from the College, and approximately 75% of them will likely transfer to four-year institutions.

Our strategic plan for 2023–2028 will continue to guide us in strengthening Hostos' role as an engine of socioeconomic change in our community. Already, the opening of the Hostos Research Center and multiple other initiatives supported by Ms. MacKenzie Scott's \$15 million gift have opened doors to educational and research opportunities for our students and faculty.

Additionally, a number of government grants have made the enrichment and expansion of our programs possible, empowering the next generation of leaders, innovators, and change makers. Over \$6 million have been awarded to the College in support of program enhancements, transfer pathways, student employment, accessibility programs, capital improvements and other resources that help us prepare our students for successful careers and lifelong learning.

Thank you again for your support of the College and of our students who rely on the many educational opportunities Hostos offers.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

President

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, CUNY



EVER-EXPANDING AND EVOLVING

Hostos Community College is growing and going far. Enrollment has continued to climb in the wake of the pandemic. With 5,526 students enrolled for Fall 2023, up from 4,303 in Fall 2022, we continue to have one of the top enrollment percentage increases at CUNY for degree-seeking students (9%). Our footprint on the Grand Concourse has also grown. In February, the College officially unveiled the brand-new Hostos Advisement Center facilities with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by members of the Hostos community and local leaders, including Deputy Mayor for Strategic Initiatives and Hostos alumna Ana Almanzar '97, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, District 17 Council Member Rafael J. Salamanca, Bronx Regional Representative at New York State Executive Chamber Fidel Malena, and NYC Mayor's Office Community Affairs Unit Bronx Borough Director Leonardo Coello. Located at 429 Grand Concourse, the beautiful new space is home to our Student Success Coaching Unit (SSCU), ASAP, and soon the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC).

In addition to expanding our physical presence in our beloved South Bronx neighborhood, Hostos has also expanded its influence and reach across the country and globe! Hostos students made a splash at the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland, for the third time in a decade. In August, 10 members of our Repertory Theater Company participated in the prestigious event's International Collegiate Theater Festival (ICTF), where they performed "What You Will," a modern take on Shakespeare's romantic comedy, "Twelfth Night," written by James Zager and directed by Professor Ángel Morales. And in February, Hostos students Laura Saint-Hilaire, Yessica Pacheco and Kimberley Hill, accompanied by Student Leadership Coordinator Jason Libfeld embarked on a memorable trip to Washington, D.C., where they attended the White House Reception celebrating the Dominican American community. This experience was facilitated by Chair of the Community Advisory Council Elías Alcántara.

We've also broadened our skills to stay ahead of the curve. As Hostos evolved to now offer a few fully online degree programs, 21 of Hostos' own were part of the inaugural cohort of faculty to successfully complete the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) certification, "Effective Online Teaching Practices."

Last year, Hostos proudly launched its bi-annual Industry Summit series. Spearheaded by the Office of President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, the purpose is to provide real-world insights into the expectations, challenges, and opportunities

in specific industries. It also showcases the College's degree programs and identifies ways to optimally prepare students to compete successfully in the job market. The series kicked off in June with a cybersecurity summit, followed by one focused on business management in November, and the latest, a radiologic technology summit, in May 2024.

The Hostos Research Center (HRC), which was opened in Spring of 2023, is a space dedicated to fostering the development of new faculty and staff-led research projects and faculty-student mentorship. Among the many research-focused events, the HRC held its first Mini-Conference in Spring 2024 to showcase the work and experiences of ADVancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, scieNces, Technology and Engineering (ADELANTE) and Innovating, Developing and Executing Actions with Success (IDEAS) grantees. The HRC has also become a site for cultural enrichment by hosting several exhibits over the 2023-2024 academic year, including the celebration of the launch of the new digital repository of the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art (MoCHA) Collection and a special presentation by William Casari, Professor and College Archivist of the virtual exhibit, "La Lucha: The Save Hostos Movement" Online Exhibit, which served as a visual documentation of the College's formative decade, marked by community activism.

SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS

Ms. MacKenzie Scott's Gift: President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth and Stakeholders' Engagement has continued to grow with the vision of President Cocco De Filippis and thanks to the additional support from local leaders. Our inaugural cohort of NextGen Public Health Scholars are now studying at Columbia University, and thanks to new funding and partnerships, more students will be privy to similar transfer opportunities. Last fall, Congressman Ritchie Torres presented \$1 million in Community Project Funding to the College, allocated for the "Building Transfer Pathways and Pipeline Initiative," which will enable 16 exceptional students to transfer to high-quality baccalaureate and postgraduate programs in public health at Columbia University, engineering at City College's Grove School, and arts administration at Queens College.

Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson recently officially presented the College with a \$1.5 million check, which is earmarked for cafeteria renovations. Not long after, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D - NY) shared with President Cocco De Filippis that he and Senator Kirstin Gillibrand had



secured a \$1 million congressional earmark for the College. The Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) funds will be used to expand the College's Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus program and the HRC's faculty-student mentorship program — both of which pay students and provide them with administrative, professional workplace, and research skills.

The Hostos Community College Foundation's 17th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Classic brought together more than 140 local leaders to play and support our students, raising over \$120,000 for scholarships at the College. The Foundation raised almost \$400,000 at the 2024 Annual Scholarship Benefit.

Other President's Initiatives that have both garnered and heaped praise include our President's Recognition Events, which celebrated a total of 31 deserving determined students this spring. Established in honor of students who have overcome significant challenges while achieving their academic goals, the President's Recognition Tea in Honor of Women's History Month and President's Recognition Barbeque in Honor of Student Resilience, held in March and April, respectively, are now in their second year at Hostos and part of a tradition established by President Cocco De Filippis during her tenure at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Each student received a stipend, a certificate and was gifted a book.

FIGHTING HATE, FOSTERING COMMUNITY

Guided by our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, "Hostos: Elevating Justice," the College has been working diligently to build upon a culture of justice, diversity, equity and inclusion. The President's Campus Climate Initiative continued its efforts of fostering a more equitable, respectful and supportive campus environment, hosting a three-part series of community-building circles. Facilitated by the New York Peace Institute, each circle addresses specific topics: Community-Building at Hostos, Understanding Gender Identity/Sexual Orientation, and Building a System of Respect.

Hostos also built upon our campus climate work with support from a \$20,000 grant from the CUNY Anti-Hate Initiative, a five-year initiative that aims to confront discrimination within CUNY campuses and focuses on different communities each academic year — this year's focus is on the Jewish community and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In March 2024, we hosted "The Jewish Identity & Jewish Diversity" photo exhibit, which showcased

international photographer Zion Ozeri's stunning black-and-white photographs documenting nuanced and multifaceted Jewish experiences around the world. April was a busy month for the initiative. We held our second annual Multi-Faith Symposium & Luncheon, during which members of the College community shared and learned about different forms of faith expression on our campus and spoke with faith leaders from our community about their experiences building bridges across differences.

The Anti-Hate Initiative, in collaboration with Hostos' College Civility Committee (CCC), also hosted an important interactive discussion on how to use authentic listening to increase empathy and mitigate bullying and hate in the digital age, featuring a presentation by Dr. Jeffrey Lane, author of "The Digital Street" and Associate Professor of Communication at Rutgers University, followed by a student panel discussion on cyberbullying. In May, the Asian-American Federation presented a hybrid — in-person and virtual — workshop to foster understanding of diverse Asian communities nationally and in the metropolitan area. It also addressed anti-Asian hate and its impact on Asian New Yorkers and society in general, as well as discussed protections for Asian New Yorkers against hate crimes.

President Cocco De Filippis, in collaboration with Hostos' Writing Center, also hosted the second annual "Peace & Poetry" event which encouraged poetic expression to raise a collective plea for peace, fostering hope, understanding, and compassion among all members of the College's diverse community. The event provided a platform for faculty, students, and staff to contribute their voices to a shared commitment to peace and unity on campus.

It was our privilege to welcome back Hostos alumnus Van Tran, who delivered a presentation titled "Asian Americans and Pandemic Discrimination" as part of the College's Social Sciences Speakers Series, an effort that celebrated 12 years since its establishment.

EDUCATING FOR DIVERSITY

The College's commitment to fostering community engagement in scholarly discussions on important issues pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion remains unwavering. This is reflected in the many impactful series supported by our Educating for Diversity Initiative, like our 2024 Hostos Black Studies Black History and Futures Month program, which featured an array of interactive and educational events inspired by the theme set out by the Association for the Study of African American Life

and History (ASALH): African Americans and the Arts. The celebration kicked off with a presentation on hip-hop feminism in the 21st century, followed by an Afro-Brazilian dance workshop and capoeira workshop, and closed with an interactive African American Read-In. Hostos' Women's History Month programming — inspired by this year's theme: Women's History, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion — included a thought-provoking discussion on how the diversity in the film "Barbie" reflects today's women, followed by a roundtable discussion with Latina poets on their experiences writing and publishing across languages. The series concluded with a powerful discussion, held virtually, in commemoration of the 113th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, which killed 146 workers, mostly Italian and Jewish immigrant women, in New York City in 1911.

Now in its fourth year at the College, the Black at Hostos Town Hall Series brought Glenda Grace, Esq., CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Institutional Affairs, Strategic Advancement and Special Counsel, to campus to discuss the racialized politics of education in February. Then in April, we held a timely and important panel discussion with local librarians on how their libraries are standing up against the alarming rise in book ban attempts, featuring panelists Emily Drabinski, President, American Library Association, and Associate Professor, Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies; Hong Yao, Director of Technical Services, Queens Public Library; Evelyn Muriel-Cooper, Supervising Unit Head Reference, Bronx Library Center's Latino and Puerto Rican Cultural Collection/ New York Public Library; Genee Bright, Supervising Youth Services Librarian, New York Public Library; and Jackson Gomes, Young Adult Internship Coordinator, Brooklyn Public Library.

The Division of Institutional Advancement (DIA) launched its "Nourishing Conversations" series during DIA's CUNYTuesday campaign. The series invites guest chefs and food industry experts to discuss the social value of cultural foods and issues like food insecurity, and participants are treated to culinary demonstrations. The series also highlights on-campus resources, like Hostos' food pantry. We've had the pleasure of welcoming Chefs Carmen Báez, known widely as Chef Yala, and Grace Ramírez to Hostos.

The College community was also invited to two screenings of "Stonebreakers," a 2022 documentary about the conflict over controversial monuments and statues that arose in the U.S. following the murder of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020, followed by a Q&A session with the film's director Valerio Ciriaci and producer Isaak Liptzin.

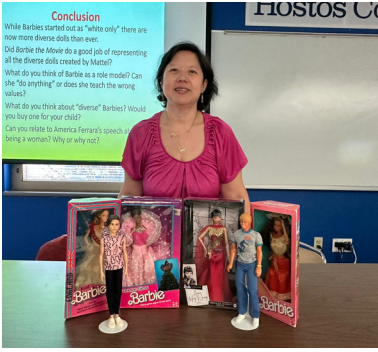
SHOWCASING EXCELLENCE

We are only as successful as our college community, which is why we excel. Last year, the College received three significant national accolades that highlight its commitment to academic excellence and student success. Not only did we secure a place among the Aspen Prize Top 10 U.S. Community Colleges finalists for an impressive second time, but the College was also ranked seventh in Intelligent.com's "Best Community Colleges in New York" list and fifth among the top Practical Nursing programs in New York roster by PracticalNursing.org. Then, early this year, Hostos earned the seventh position on the EDSmart list of the 2024 Best Community Colleges in New York.

Our students scored high praise, and we couldn't be prouder. In August, the Hostos Black Male Initiative (BMI) team was presented with the 2022–2023 Outstanding Academic Enhancement Trophy at the BMI Directors Retreat at the Ford Foundation, marking the first time the College has been honored with such recognition! And we were thrilled to learn in April that 100% of the 39 Hostos dental hygiene students who took the Simulated Patient Treatment Clinical Examination (SPTCE) ADEX Licensure Exam this spring have passed, echoing the perfect pass rate we boasted in 2020. Plus, eight of our stylish and brilliant students were selected to receive VF Foundation X Fashion Scholarship Fund (FSF) Community College Scholarships.

Moreover, our scholars showcased their expertise and burgeoning knowledge during the College's Second Annual Student Symposium, a highly anticipated event that showcased our exceptional students' significant academic achievements. The Symposium featured the innovative work of 120 students across a variety of disciplines, including STEM, Allied Health, Game Design, Education, Literature, Humanities, and Behavioral and Social Sciences.

And last but certainly not least, we had double the reason to celebrate our amazing Hostos Caimans basketball teams this year. Both our women's and men's basketball teams clinched the 2024 CUNY Athletic Conference Championships (CUNYAC) in historic manners; the women's team won its 7th consecutive championship, and the men's team emerged victorious in double overtime, a first in CUNYAC history. Our own Jae'oni Davis won the CUNY Community College Scholar-Athlete of the Year after a successful 2023–2024 season while maintaining a strong GPA. Go Caimans!



INCLUSIVE AND INNOVATIVE

