



Hostos
Community College



HOSTOS RISING: EDUCATION, EQUITY, AND EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION
2024–2025 ANNUAL REPORT



HOSTOS RISING: EDUCATION, EQUITY, AND EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

My Dear Colleagues and Students,

The following pages offer a vivid contemporary portrait of Hostos Community College. A wealth of facts, figures, illustrations, and statistics that not only capture the many and varied activities of our students and the ways in which their success has been fostered through academic, economic, institutional, governmental, and community-based opportunities and support; they also serve as a guide to the College’s aspirations for the future.



Student success is a crucial element in post-college achievement, and we strive to provide our students with exactly the right tools, skills, and assistance needed to excel during and after their time at Hostos. Our approach is wholistic, encompassing every aspect of our students’ educational trajectories. There is no one path to a vital, happy, healthy life and a satisfying and meaningful career, and this is reflected in the extensive array of services, multiplicity of degrees and certificate programs, and in the glorious diversity of the communities which compose the Hostos Family.

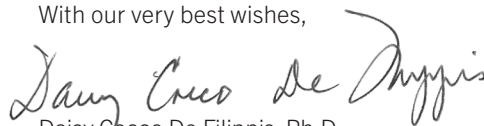
There is much to celebrate here. To name only a few: Enrollment is up, as are first-time freshman retention rates; new funding to expand offerings such as our First Year Experience initiative has been generously offered and accepted with gratitude; our innovative STEM offerings continue to grow; our Allied Health Department burnishes its reputation as a source of first-rate healthcare workers in the Bronx, New York City, and the tri-state area; our athletic teams rack up one victory after another; gifted faculty members make outstanding contributions to their respective disciplines; and the unique relationship between Hostos and the South Bronx grows deeper with every passing year.

Looking beyond the College, matters seem uncertain, restless, unsettled. We acknowledge this, but we also remind ourselves that Hostos has, time and again, weathered challenging times — that, in fact, the institution was born during such an era, the tumultuous 1960s. What sustained the College then sustains it now: Our unwavering commitment to justice, socioeconomic mobility, and equity via the transformative power of education. We proudly stand up for the ideas of access, diversity, and inclusion that motivated those who brought Hostos into being. Those ideas motivate us today and will do so far into the future.

We remain hopeful — and for the very best of reasons. Thanks to faculty research and thoughtful program design in conjunction with the support of our dedicated staff, generous donors, and enthusiastic local partners and allies, Hostos is a beacon for all who wish to do their very best for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Together, we thrive.

With our very best wishes,


Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President, Hostos Community College


José A. Sánchez-Kinghorn
Chair, Hostos Community College Foundation

**EQUITY IS NOT JUST A PRINCIPLE,
IT IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND EVERY PROGRAM,
SERVICE, AND PARTNERSHIP AT HOSTOS,
ENSURING THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS A PATH TO THRIVE.**



WE ARE A COLLEGE DEDICATED TO

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY

CHAMPIONING STUDENT SUCCESS IN EVERY DIMENSION

Standing at the frontline of equity, Hostos Community College remains steadfast in its mission to transform lives through education. We welcome students of every race, nationality, and background, empowering them to pursue their dreams and secure brighter futures. Rooted in diversity, inclusion, and opportunity, our commitment extends far beyond access. It means providing the comprehensive support, academic excellence, and personal care that enable students to persist, graduate, and lead. Here in the South Bronx, Hostos stands as a beacon of hope and achievement.

POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS RECOGNITION PROGRAM AWARD

Hostos Community College has made numerous notable achievements in various areas during this fiscal year, delivering on our commitments to our supporters, and making every dollar count as we provide our students with top quality academic programs and 360 degrees of support to help them succeed. Time and time again, we hear from students that they feel supported at Hostos in ways they had never experienced at other schools. This dedication to student success led to one of the most prestigious accolades the College has received to date. In January 2025, the U.S. Department of Education presented Hostos with the inaugural Postsecondary Success Recognition Program (PSRP) award. The College is one of only six institutions chosen from hundreds of eligible colleges throughout the country to receive this recognition. According to Nasser Paydar, Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Hostos was selected because its work “is a shining example of the transformative power of higher education, especially for underserved students.” As part of this recognition, the College was invited to join Secretary Miguel Cardona, Under Secretary James Kvaal, and Assistant Secretary Paydar for a celebratory event at the U.S. Department of Education headquarters in Washington, D.C. Provost Shiang-Kwei Wang attended the event, which honored the Department’s achievements during the Biden-Harris Administration, and featured the PSRP winners. This moment not only highlights Hostos’ national recognition but also reinforces the institution’s longstanding role as a leader in educational equity, innovation, and student-centered practices. It reflects the tireless efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators who are committed to advancing opportunity and access. The other winners include Miami Dade College, Salish Kootenai College, San Jose State University, University of South Carolina - Upstate, and University of Texas at Arlington.

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Strategic Enrollment Initiatives

- Expanded transfer enrollment through targeted support.
- Enhanced student engagement through high-impact programs.
- Streamlined enrollment processes for a smoother student journey.

Data-Informed, Mission-Driven

- Leveraged cross-campus collaboration to remove barriers.
- Advanced retention through financial and academic support.
- Embedded data-driven insights into student success strategies.

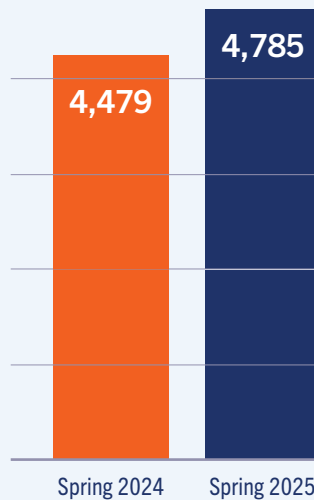


\$30 MILLION
IN FINANCIAL AID
AWARDED

SUPPORTS **80%**
OF DEGREE-SEEKING
STUDENTS

DRIVING ENROLLMENT GROWTH THROUGH CAMPUS UNITY

Total Enrollment



7.97%
Continuing Students

14.89%
Transfer Enrollment

Spring 2025

6.35%
Continuing Students

11.36%
Transfer Enrollment

Fall 2024

Meeting the Targets

The Division of Student Development and Enrollment Management Exceeded **5% Growth Target** Each Semester.

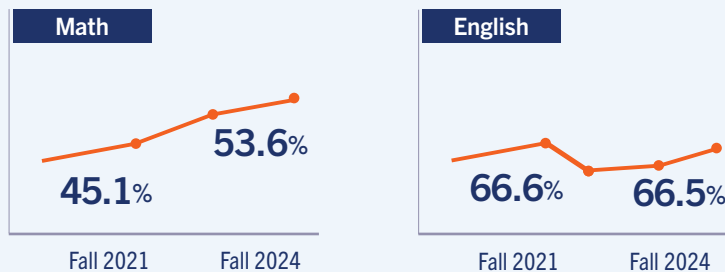
Continued Enrollment Growth—The PSRP award is a testament not only to the quality of the education Hostos provides, but also to the depth of the support the College offers our students, both of which are helping to drive continued enrollment growth. The Division of Student Development and Enrollment Management (SDEM) has consistently delivered programs and services that foster student engagement and support their path to graduation. Over the past year, SDEM’s strategic enrollment initiatives have exceeded the College’s 5% growth target each semester. Notable achievements include a 6.35% increase in continuing students in Fall and a 7.97% increase in Spring, along with significant growth in transfer student enrollment — 11.36% in Fall and 14.89% in Spring. Overall, total enrollment rose from 4,479 in Spring 2024 to 4,785 in Spring 2025.

SDEM’s success is driven by cross-campus collaboration aimed at removing barriers to student success and streamlining key processes. Initiatives such as No Money Left on the Table and improvements to Satisfactory Academic Progress have contributed to sustained momentum.

For the 2024–2025 aid year (Summer 2024 through Spring 2025), the Hostos Financial Aid Office awarded approximately \$30 million in financial aid to degree-seeking students, with 80% receiving some form of assistance. By leveraging data-informed decision-making and fostering cross-departmental collaboration, SDEM has prioritized student financial stability as a cornerstone strategy for retention and academic achievement.

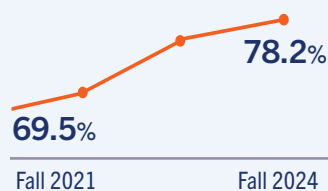
FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE, LIFELONG IMPACT

Improved Pass Rates in Foundational Courses



First-time Freshman Retention Rates Jump

9% Retention increased from 69.5% in Fall 2021 to 78.2% in Fall 2024 reflecting the College's coordinated effort to engage and retain first-time freshmen.



First-Year Experience and Retention Gains — The First-Year Experience (FYE) program was established to help new students identify clear academic and career pathways and develop skills and access resources to succeed and sustain momentum towards degree completion. FYE supports improved student outcomes by proactively engaging incoming students, connecting them to campus services, and fostering a deeper sense of belonging. A key feature of the program is the evidence-backed peer mentor model, which provides students informal guidance as well as more formal support from the peers embedded into foundational math and English courses who provide tutoring and academic guidance. Embedded tutoring has contributed to

significantly improved student pass rates: in Math, the pass rate increased from a low of 45.1% in Fall 2021 to 53.6% in Fall 2024. In English, while rates fluctuated over six terms, they rose sharply to 66.5% in Fall 2024 — nearly matching a peak of 66.6% in Fall 2021. Another notable achievement is the increased first-term retention rate, a measure of how many first-time freshmen return after one semester to complete their first year at Hostos: between Fall 2021 and Fall 2024, the first-term retention rate rose by an impressive 9%, from 69.5% to 78.2%, an improvement that can be attributed to the coordinated, College-wide efforts around FYE.

THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE



helps students build academic confidence, find community, and gain clarity, all key ingredients for success and persistence.

First-Time Freshman Retention at the Heart of FYE

- Peer mentors embedded in Math and English.
- Real support: tutoring + lived experience.
- Built-in accountability by creating a sense of belonging.

EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY

Hostos drives retention, strengthens enrollment, and removes barriers so every student can achieve long-term academic and professional success.



Ichigo Foundation funds First Year Experience's Gateway to Year 2

Building on the remarkable success of Hostos' FYE, in April of 2025, the Ichigo Foundation awarded a generous \$200,000 grant to pilot the Gateway to Year 2 First Year Experience (FYE) expansion. This marks the first time the Ichigo Foundation has directly supported the College, and Hostos is deeply grateful for this transformative investment which affirms that our donors recognize the value of their investments in our community's future.

This exciting two-year initiative will support up to 60 students, empowering them to take or retake foundational English or math courses required to advance academically, which is one of the main goals of our five-year Strategic Plan. Students who have struggled to complete foundational math or English courses remain at greater risk of not returning for a second year. The new Gateway to Year 2 pilot is designed to address this challenge by giving students a powerful second chance to succeed during the summer. By covering tuition costs and offering incentives for participating in tutoring and peer mentor check-ins, the program removes financial barriers and encourages students to remain engaged.

Taking these foundational courses during the summer allows students to focus on a single subject, maximizing their chances of success. This strategic timing aligns with best practices in community college retention, ensuring students remain connected to their academic journey. As part of the program, participants will continue to receive guidance and mentorship throughout the following academic year, further enhancing their path to success.

Thanks to the generous support of the Ichigo Foundation, Hostos launched this impactful program in Summer 2025. This investment reflects a shared commitment to empowering students, strengthening retention, and providing access to higher education and opportunity.

“We are thrilled to receive support from the Ichigo Foundation, which will help Hostos expand and enhance our FYE Mentoring Program. Through mentorship, FYE participants will gain valuable insights into their academic and career interests while recognizing the importance of staying engaged with academic support and campus resources. Over the next two years, we will track the program’s impact and use data to guide future improvements.”

— Silvia Reyes, Ph.D.
Director, Special Projects &
Student Engagement

Hostos Peer Mentor Program Ensures Transfer Success to Four-Year Colleges

The Hostos Transfer Peer Mentor Program (TPMP) is a student-centered initiative that helps recent associate degree graduates successfully enroll in four-year colleges. Led by four peer mentors—Jeremy Quinones, Kristina González, Lorelyn Céspedes, and Ghina Alrefee—the program ensures students follow through with applications, enrollment, and registration after being accepted to transfer institutions. With support from the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation and the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, the program addresses the national “leaky transfer pipeline,” where only 16% of community college students who aspire to earn a bachelor’s degree eventually do so.

Peer mentors, who are Hostos graduates themselves, offer hands-on support, including one-on-one outreach, walk-in appointments, classroom visits, and events.

Each mentor brings unique strengths: Quinones manages communications logistics; Céspedes tracks student progress; and González and Alrefee lead outreach efforts, often reconnecting with students. Together, they made over 7,000 contacts with Hostos students, helping them navigate CUNY systems, use the Transfer Explorer tool, and understand how to transfer FAFSA and credits.

The creation of the TPMP program has been instrumental in driving an impressive growth of transfer rates. The peer mentors, through their targeted outreach, increased Hostos’ transfer application rate from 23% in Fall 2022 and 40% in Fall 2023 to 75% in Fall 2024. Recognizing that most Hostos students balance jobs, caregiving, and financial pressures, the Transfer Services remained accessible and responsive, both in-person and virtually, including an Instagram community that garnered over 40,000 views. Events like Snack N’ Apps, Transfer Fairs, Welcome Day, and Decision Day created clear, supportive pathways for students to take their next steps.

Now, Transfer Services is laying the groundwork to go even further, aiming to exceed the national benchmark of 16% for bachelor’s degree completion after community college by reaching 25%.

Thanks to renewed funding received this year, the program now includes a mobile lab, more workshops, and increased pay for peer mentors. As the program enters its third year, Hostos continues to collaborate with CUNY partners to improve course articulation and credit transfer, ensuring long-term student success and upward mobility.

SOLVING THE LEAKY PIPELINE PROBLEM



Only 16% of community college students who plan to earn a bachelor’s degree actually do.

TPMP directly addresses this gap with personal, proactive mentorship.

FOUR MENTORS.
7000+ CONTACTS, REAL IMPACT



Jeremy Quinones
Communications
Logistics



Lorelyn Céspedes
Student Data
Analytics



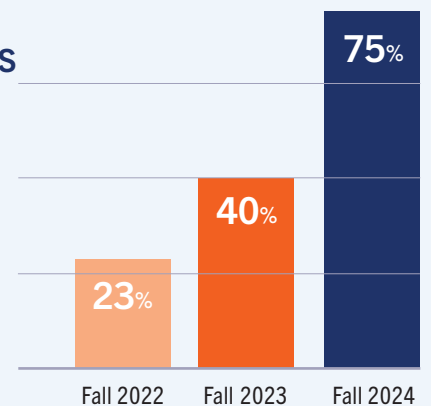
Ghina Alrefee
Program
Outreach



Kristina González
Program
Outreach

TRANSFER APPLICATIONS SKYROCKET AT HOSTOS

52%
increase in two years
thanks to peer-led support
and consistent follow-up.



THROUGH GROUNDBREAKING GIFTS, NATIONAL RECOGNITION,
AND EXPANDED PROGRAMS, HOSTOS IS BUILDING PATHWAYS
IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS,
EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO LEAD IN HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS.



WE ARE A COLLEGE ADVANCING

STEM EXCELLENCE

FUELING DISCOVERY AND SOCIOECONOMIC MOBILITY

STEM education at Hostos is more than a pathway to a career, it is a promise to our students and our community. With visionary donor support, national grants, and innovative faculty leadership, we are expanding access to disciplines that fuel progress in an increasingly technology-driven world. From engineering scholarships and cybersecurity certifications, to Science Week celebrations and community health research, Hostos students are solving real-world challenges while building futures of resilience, discovery, and prosperity.

TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT IN STEM

Benny L. Lorenzo had partnered with the Wright Foundation in the Fall of 2024 to donate \$1 million, the largest endowed scholarship gift in the College's history, to support students pursuing degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). Given that one of the goals in our Strategic Plan is to increase student socioeconomic mobility, this gift is particularly significant because, out of the top 10 highest paying college degrees, six are STEM degrees.

At a special check presentation ceremony held in October 2024 at the Hostos Art Gallery, CUNY Chancellor Dr. Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, President Cocco De Filippis, and HCC Foundation Chairman José Sánchez Kinghorn warmly thanked the donors, Mr. Lorenzo, managing partner of Aspira Capital Management, and hedge fund founder, Peter A. Wright, who launched the Wright Foundation and collaborated to make the million-dollar endowment possible. Their donation will fund countless scholarships of \$1,500 to \$7,000 each for qualified students in their penultimate semester of Hostos' STEM programs.

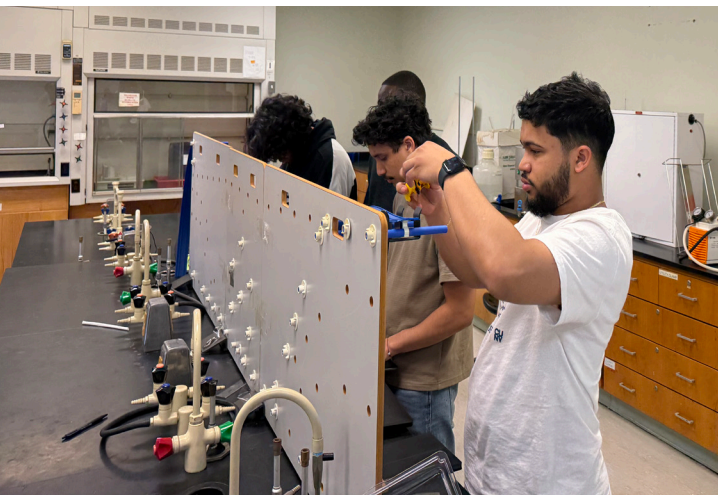
"To say that my heart is dancing is an understatement. On behalf of the entire Hostos community, I want to express our most profound gratitude to Aspira Capital and the Wright Foundation for their incredible generosity and for their clear-eyed vision," said President Cocco De Filippis. "By supporting, in perpetuity, our students pursuing STEM degrees, they are also investing in the future, not only of our College and our community, but in the ability of this nation to maintain its leadership in science and technology during a time of explosive growth."

Mr. Lorenzo explained why he and Mr. Wright had chosen to support STEM programs at Hostos. "The US produces 800K STEM graduates per year, or just 20% of our total graduates. In contrast, among the top three countries for STEM education, 40% of all graduates are in a STEM field. This is a problem that we need to solve locally to maintain our technological leadership in an artificial intelligence-driven world. We considered many institutions and we felt that the Hostos student body best matched the underrepresented cohort we wanted to address."

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STEM LEADERSHIP

Hostos creates opportunity by connecting underrepresented students to cutting-edge fields, from engineering and computer science to health and technology.



“This award represents years of effort and hard work by our students, faculty, staff, and administration to make Hostos’ Engineering and STEM programs competitive nationwide. For the College, this award signals that we, as a community college, are building a reputation for managing and successfully implementing large funding projects that impact students academic trajectory.”

— **Professor Yoel Rodríguez**
Professor and Chair
Natural Sciences Department

Hostos Engineering Academic Talent-2 Expanding Opportunities

Another endorsement of Hostos’ increased focus on STEM was the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) \$2M grant to fund the Hostos Engineering Academic Talent-2 (HEAT2) Scholarship Program through 2030, marking the College’s seventh concurrent NSF-funded award. This program provides financial and academic support to 30 students pursuing associate and bachelor’s degrees in mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, and environmental engineering.

HEAT2 builds on the success of the original HEAT program but is designed to be more inclusive to increase retention and graduation rates for STEM students. The program will offer comprehensive support, including scholarships of up to \$15,000 annually for undergrad and \$20,000 for postgraduate studies, faculty and peer mentoring, undergraduate research opportunities, exposure to STEM-related professional environments, and participation in STEM conferences.

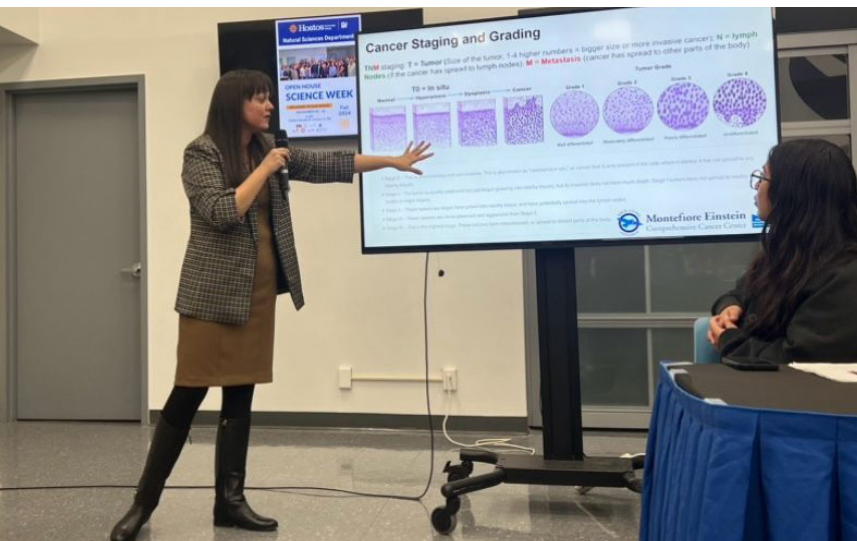
The HEAT2 team consists of Principal Investigator Yoel Rodríguez, Professor and Chair in the Natural Sciences Department, Co-Principal Investigators Nieves Angulo and Clara Nieto-Wire, Professors in the Mathematics Department, and Antonios Varelas, Professor in the Behavioral and Social Sciences Department.

Through HEAT2, Hostos continues its commitment to providing students with the resources they need to succeed and contribute meaningfully to the future of engineering. And for Prof. Rodríguez and the other faculty members, the rewards are personal. “Seeing these kids and the conditions in which they enter this institution, lacking preparation, lacking skills, and many economic challenges, they go all the way: From Hostos to Grove, Cornell, Stanford, wherever. Some of them continue on to grad school and they end up in jobs and even make more money than us. That is priceless. And this is the kind of reward we get every day working at this institution.”

Science Week 2024: A Celebration of Discovery

Our commitment to STEM was exemplified during the College’s 2024 Science Week Open House, a five-day celebration of discovery, learning, and innovation held from November 18–22, 2024 at the Hostos Research Center and other locations across campus.

“This week-long celebration brought together students, faculty, staff, and administration to talk about true science — much needed in these times,” said Professor Rodríguez, one of the main organizers of the week’s events. He added, “We have had a myriad of activities including teach-ins, an Olympiad, science games and demonstrations, and STEM conversations, among others. Our Natural Sciences team is very committed to continuing providing the highest quality education with excellence to our students and the community.”



Building on this spirit of collaboration, Dr. Bianca Rivera-Peña’s keynote address highlighted the stark health disparities in cancer outcomes across the Bronx, which underscore the importance of localized research and community engagement in improving cancer outcomes.

“Science cannot be siloed,” she said. “To make a real impact, it must engage with the communities it serves. Only then can it heal.”

In that spirit she announced the Bronx Oncology Living Daily (BOLD) Program, which focuses on patient engagement, behavioral research, and cancer wellness programming, aiming to improve the quality of life for cancer patients in the Bronx.

For Hostos students, the program offers a one-year hybrid internship designed to provide hands-on experience in patient care, behavioral research, and program operations. “This internship is a game-changer,” said one student attendee. “It’s not just about learning; it’s about being part of something big.”

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE EXPANSION



For their part, the Math Department at Hostos expanded its purview and was renamed accordingly as the Department of Math and Computer Science. Under the leadership of Dr. Nieves Angulo, the department has made significant strides in both academic innovation and student opportunity. One major highlight is the new Cybersecurity program, which now includes four professional certifications — CompTIA A+, Network+, Security+, and Linux+ — at no additional cost to students, positioning them for lucrative jobs after completing the two-year course of study.

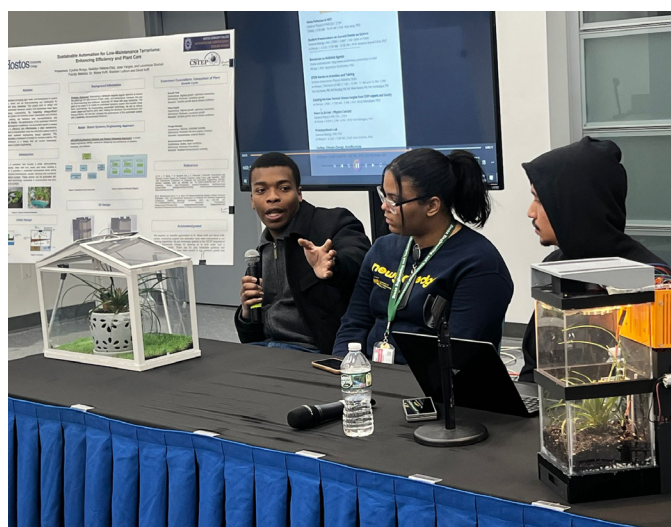
To support long-term student success, the department is also finalizing articulation agreements with bachelor’s programs in Cybersecurity and Computer Science, including a partnership with John Jay College for full credit transfer, and a collaboration with Dr. Jacqueline DiSanto and the Education Department on a new Math Education curriculum for future teachers. These efforts reflect a strategic expansion aimed at preparing students for both immediate careers and continued academic achievement.

STEM LEADERSHIP

Student Innovation in Action

Another Science Week highlight was a presentation by CSTEP (Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program) students, who unveiled their self-sustaining terrarium prototype, which aims to combat food insecurity by encouraging individuals to grow their fruits and vegetables with minimal effort from the user. The project not only showcases Hostos students' ingenuity but also highlights the College's commitment to tackling real-world challenges.

Another panel, focused on research and engineering by CUNY Research Scholars Program (CRSP) and Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) students, provided valuable insights for aspiring STEM students. Panelists emphasized the importance of perseverance and passion in scientific inquiry, sharing personal anecdotes and advice.



One standout takeaway was that while research can be challenging, it is also deeply rewarding for those who are passionate about their work. In the “STEM Conversation - Internship Experiences” students Sor Bello Meléndez, José A. Keppis, and John Santana shared their experiences during their summer research at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) in Maryland, and Caltech, California. Another student panelist, Kobe Jacobs, shared how well Hostos prepared him to face the new challenges at The Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York.

The 2024 Science Week Open House at Hostos was more than just a celebration of science — it was a testimony to Hostos' commitment to STEM studies as a vehicle for socio-economic mobility.



FROM IMMIGRANT ROOTS TO IMPACT INVESTING: BENNY LORENZO'S PATH TO GIVING BACK



Benny Lorenzo, Managing Partner at Aspira Capital Management, along with his partner, Peter Wright, donated \$1 million in October for an endowed scholarship for STEM students at Hostos, the largest in the College's history.

For Mr. Lorenzo, this grant was not simply an act of drive-by philanthropy, but a commitment to helping the next generation of young STEM stars emerge, benefiting the underserved communities they represent as well as the national economy.

Mr. Lorenzo's capital investment firm takes its social impact focus seriously, boasting a 30+ year history of generating above-market returns in technology-oriented equity markets as well as in its more recent focus on early-stage investment in underrepresented founders. He seeks investors who share his desire to uplift minority and female entrepreneurs and give back a percentage of realized profits (10%) to educational institutions in historically underserved communities.

Mr. Lorenzo, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, moved to New York City at the age of 10 without knowing any English. "I benefited from a hard-working mother who brought me to the States, a nun in middle school who took me under her wing, an ivy league education, and a Wall Street career where I was often the only person of color. All these experiences have taught me many lessons that I hope to impart on the next generation."

One of the key lessons was the critical role education plays in achieving one's personal best. "My mother worked at a factory here, and she always put an emphasis on education. She said to me 'Benny, you have to be world class. You have to be the best in the world. Not here in NYC, not in Washington Heights, but in the world. You can do it.' I said okay mama."

But when it came to education, Mr. Lorenzo's mother led by example, pursuing her own college degree as she worked to support her family, much like many Hostos student parents.

"I know this story particularly well because my mother graduated from Bergen Community College at age 59. And when she graduated, she felt like a different person. She felt more confident, like she was worthy, and it changed her life. So for me that was a learning experience that I never forgot."

Mr. Lorenzo and Mr. Wright aspire that this scholarship will galvanize a cultural ethos of "paying it forward" among Hostos graduates, and to rally the financiers of Wall Street to focus more on the upside potential of investing in education in underserved communities such as the South Bronx. "I hope this scholarship will inspire more Latinos/Latinas and others to give generously to Hostos and thereby uplift the community over time. I wish for it to inspire greater philanthropy among all who value social justice and want to help close the opportunity gap in our society."

HOSTOS STUDENTS BREAK BARRIERS AND RAISE STANDARDS EVERY DAY, EARNING NATIONAL RECOGNITION, REDEFINING SUCCESS, AND INSPIRING THEIR PEERS WITH BOLD AMBITION AND DETERMINATION.



WE ARE A COLLEGE INSPIRED BY

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

CELEBRATING RESILIENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND EXCELLENCE

Hostos Community College students strive for greatness every day, earning national accolades and breaking barriers across disciplines. Their achievements reflect not only the strength of their character and the depth of their determination, but also the excellence of our programs and the resilience of our community. Whether in classrooms or on national stages, they represent Hostos with pride, purpose, and power, carrying forward a legacy of accomplishment that uplifts families and communities for generations to come.

THIRD STUDENT SYMPOSIUM SHOWCASES RESEARCH AND MENTORSHIP

In April 2025, the College hosted its Third Annual Student Symposium, a full-day celebration of student research, creativity, and mentorship. Featuring over 120 presenters — up from 40 in its inaugural year — the Symposium provided students with the opportunity to present original work in a professional setting, thereby strengthening their communication and career-readiness skills.

The day included a keynote by Dr. Kendall Queen, a Robotics Software Engineer, who encouraged students to “be the model of greatness and success” for future generations. Students presented across disciplines, including STEM, literature, psychology, and health. An interactive STEM poster session brought energy to the gym as attendees discussed research on topics such as Alzheimer’s, AI bias, and spider taxonomy.

Supported by the Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s Gift: President’s Initiatives and Academic Affairs, the Symposium served as a celebration of student success, mentorship, and academic excellence.

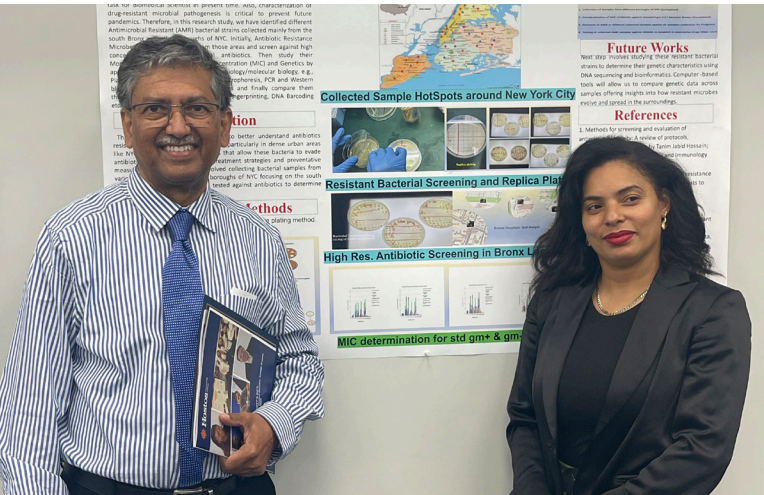
Hostos Research Center Mini-Conference

The Hostos Research Center (HRC) Scholars Program Mini-Conference in May highlighted the significance of mentorship, research collaboration, and experiential learning for first-generation and underrepresented students. Established to support high-achieving Hostos students, the program is led by Professors Yoel Rodríguez and Antonios Varelas, along with Research Programs Director Sofía Oviedo. It allows participants to engage in academic research early, presenting original projects alongside faculty and CUNY Graduate Center mentors. The conference featured presentations on research topics such as noise pollution in subway stations and algorithmic discrimination. The day-long event also featured a panel discussion among faculty mentors and graduate fellows on the mutual benefits of mentoring and the importance of making research more accessible within the university system.

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Hostos students excel as scholars, athletes, leaders, and innovators, proving that determination and support create limitless possibilities.



Hostos Student Researchers Garner External Awards

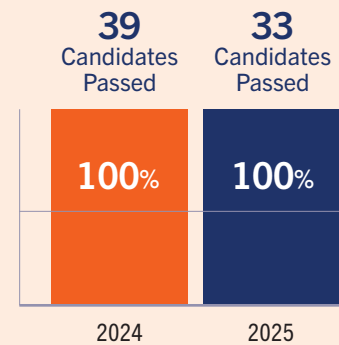
Our students earned well-deserved recognition for their top-notch research and scholarship. Natural Sciences graduate Christlynn Rodríguez earned the Best Poster Award at the 2025 CUNY Undergraduate Research Celebration for her work on a resistant bacterial strain in NYC. Her project, mentored by Professor Debasish Roy, was first presented at the Hostos Student Symposium and later at the Hostos Research Center Mini-Conference.

Behavioral Sciences student Marco Álvarez won first place at the prestigious Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Undergraduate Poster Session in Boston for his project, “Shattered Bonds: A Historical and Sociological Analysis of Child Welfare in the United States.” Guided by Sociology Professor Sarah Hoiland, Álvarez transformed an honors project into an award-winning study exploring systemic inequalities in child welfare.

These achievements reflect the extraordinary caliber of Hostos student research. We are proud to see them lead, win, and redefine what’s possible.

100% PASS RATE FOR DENTAL HYGIENE

Celebrating Two Years of Outstanding Achievement.



Hostos graduates enter their field prepared, confident, and nationally competitive, ensuring top-quality care for our community.

For the second consecutive year, Hostos’ dental hygiene program has achieved an impressive 100% licensing exam pass rate, with 33 candidates passing the Simulated Patient Treatment Clinical Examination (SPTCE) ADEX Licensure Exam in Spring 2025 and 39 passing the year prior.

The SPTCE evaluates candidates on their clinical skills, including detection and removal of calculus, accurate periodontal pocket depth measurements, and tissue management, and it is one component of the ADEX Dental Hygiene Examination.

Additionally, candidates are required to take a Computer-Simulated Clinical Examination (CSCE), designed to assess diagnosis and treatment planning, knowledge and skills.

SGA PRESIDENT DAINMA MARTÍNEZ TESTIFIES AT NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL

Recent graduate Dainma Martínez, whose many achievements include serving as a dynamic President of the Hostos Community College Student Government Association (SGA) and Vice Chair for Community Colleges in CUNY's University Student Senate, delivered powerful testimony before the New York City Council on March 13, calling on leaders to reject \$95.5 million in proposed budget cuts to CUNY community colleges.



Speaking during the Council's Budget and Oversight Hearing for Fiscal Year 2026, Martínez warned that the cuts would severely impact students, especially at institutions like Hostos that serve predominantly Black and Latinx communities.

"These cuts would mean fewer classes, larger class sizes, and the loss of essential services such as academic advising, mental health support, and career counseling," said Martínez, who shared her perspective as a first-generation, disabled BIPOC student. "These programs aren't extras. They're lifelines."

Highlighting the real consequences for students balancing school, work, and family, Martínez urged the Council to view CUNY funding as an investment in the city's future. "We're not asking for charity. We're demanding equity and access," she declared. Her testimony before the NYC Council clearly demonstrated the leadership and advocacy skills she honed as Hostos SGA President.

Fifteen-year-old De'Anni Ruiz is 2025's Youngest Hostos Graduate

At just 15 years old, Hostos-Lincoln Academy grad De'Anni Ruiz made history as the youngest graduate in the Hostos Community College Class of 2025. A proud Puerto Rican from the South Bronx, Ruiz completed her associate degree while most teens her age were still in high school. She did it thanks to her determination, accelerated academic path, and the support of the Hostos Early College Initiative.



Despite joining the program late, Ruiz quickly found her footing, enrolling in six college courses per semester and thriving in the college environment. "What sets Hostos apart is how it empowers young people through access and care," she shared. "It wasn't just about credits, but about people believing in me."

Her favorite courses blended creativity and culture, from Instagram-based humanities projects to acting with Professor Ángel Morales and learning about her borough in the "Bronx Beautiful" course.

Now heading to Lehman College to study Political Science and Criminal Justice, Ruiz has law school and community advocacy in her sights. Her message to others: "You are your biggest supporter. Go after what you want, even if it's scary."

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Students Receive Prestigious Scholarships

Marco Alvarez was awarded the 2025 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. This prestigious and highly competitive award supports high-achieving community college students as they transfer to four-year institutions. Alvarez is one of just nine CUNY students and 90 recipients nationwide selected from 467 semifinalists, making this one of the foundation’s largest cohorts in its 25-year history.



Alvarez, a 37-year-old honor student, was born in Mexico City and raised in the Bronx. After entering foster care at the age of nine and later dropping out of high school, he earned his GED and began his higher education journey. He attended Borough of Manhattan Community College and Bronx Community College before transferring to Hostos, drawn by the College’s strong student support and scholarship programs. He completed an A.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies of Human Behavior in Social Institutions and aspires to launch a nonprofit focused on addressing systemic inequities in underserved communities. “I want to bring more selflessness into the world,” Alvarez said.

In addition to the Cooke Scholarship, Alvarez was named a 2024–2025 Kaplan Leadership Scholar, a distinction reserved for up-and-coming community college students from underserved backgrounds who demonstrate strong leadership potential. The Kaplan Leadership Program offers intensive academic advising, transfer application assistance, leadership development, and financial support. It also connects students with a robust national network of scholars and professionals. Through this program, Alvarez gained the tools and mentorship needed to compete for prestigious scholarships and top transfer opportunities.

We are equally proud of **Minerva Ramírez Senci3n**, also a Kaplan scholar and a high-achieving Business Management graduate, who is breaking ground in the Esports world. Inspired by her mother’s belief in her independence, and a skilled gamer since age 8, Ram3rez combines her passion for gaming with a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She’s challenging the status quo in the industry and working to create a more inclusive environment for all gamers. With a Big Dream of making a lasting impact on the Esports industry, she is poised for greatness.



Stephanie Ara3jo Publishes Book, “Wherever You Go, Bloom”

Alumna and author **Stephanie Oliveira de Ara3jo, ’24**, has flourished since her time at Hostos, where she was inspired to turn her college capstone project into her debut young adult novel, “Wherever You Go Bloom.” The story follows Flora, a young Afro-Brazilian woman with hair made of flowers, on a journey of self-discovery, reflecting Oliveira de Ara3jo’s own experiences growing up in Brazil and moving to the U.S. During a book presentation at the College in October, she expressed her gratitude for the support she received from her professors, mentors, and peers at Hostos, which helped her overcome self-doubt and achieve her goals.



During her time at the College, she also became a recipient of the American Heart Association’s Hispanic-Serving Institution Scholarship and one of eight Hostos students selected for the VF Foundation X Fashion Scholarship Fund Community College Scholarship in 2024. These transformative opportunities unlocked new possibilities, fueling her passion to learn and grow — or rather, bloom.

MARÍA AND ANDREA GUILLEN-VASQUEZ: HOSTOS ALUMNI BREAKING BARRIERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The 2+2+2 program transforms Hostos students into Columbia graduates — opening doors to research, equity, and leadership in public health.

Hostos alumni and sisters María and Andrea Guillen-Vasquez have graduated from Columbia University with their bachelor's degree! The Venezuelan-born duo were part of the inaugural cohort of the NextGen Public Health Scholars 2+2+2 program, alongside Hawa Abraham, who is set to graduate in Winter 2025.

The unique partnership between Hostos Community College and Columbia University offers aspiring public health professionals and epidemiologists full tuition coverage, a living stipend.

Before this opportunity, the sisters faced significant challenges when they had to leave medical school in Venezuela at the height of the pandemic due to social and political unrest. Undeterred, they enrolled at Hostos in 2021 and actively participated in initiatives like Families United in Education (FUiE) program and the American Heart Association's 2022 Hispanic-Serving Institution Scholars program

Their dedication extended to research on pressing issues of public health. In addition to collaboratively publishing two papers in Venezuela and Ecuador on COVID-19 complications, Andrea co-authored a paper on cardiovascular issues related to COVID-19 in "Nature Cardiovascular Research," while María collaborated on a research poster presented at the AHA Scientific Sessions conference. Their journey is a powerful testament to resilience, determination, and the transformative power of education.



New Public Health Leaders in the Making

This year, Hostos proudly announced that students Deneisha Noble and Anjanet Thomas were selected to continue the momentum established by the Guillen-Vasquez sisters. Noble, a Registered Nurse and kidney transplant recipient from Jamaica, is committed to addressing healthcare disparities in the Bronx and her home country. Thomas, a mother of three who overcame personal challenges to return to school, plans to focus on maternal health and inclusive wellness.

Both women represent the same spirit of perseverance and leadership that defines Hostos students. Their work underscores how our community college is shaping public health advocates prepared to tackle inequities at both local and global levels.



Deneisha Noble



Anjanet Thomas

HOSTOS CHAMPIONS



BY THE NUMBERS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

64–60

**NJCAA Regional
Championship Victory**

**8 Consecutive
CUNY Championships**

**No. 4
National Ranking**



Daja White



Sandra Asamoah



Jozai Vázquez

THE HOSTOS CAIMANS once again displayed the habitual excellence of an exceptional athletic program. In a season marked by historic wins and unforgettable moments, both the women's and men's basketball teams embodied the spirit of Hostos, characterized by grit, teamwork, and academic resilience.

The No. 4 nationally ranked Women's Basketball Team clinched the 2025 NJCAA Region 15/Northeast District Championship in a nail-biting 64–60 victory over Monroe-Bronx. The win marks their first regional title since 2020, and secured their return to

the NJCAA National Tournament in Rochester, Minnesota. It also adds to their legacy as the most dominant CUNY basketball team in history, winning an unprecedented eighth consecutive University-wide championship.

Led by MVP Daja White, along with Sandra Asamoah and Jozai Vázquez, the team's depth and determination shone all season. But their victory was about more than just basketball; it was about balancing classes, jobs, and family responsibilities while pushing themselves to succeed.

HAND-IN-HAND: A MOTHER'S TRIUMPH ON AND OFF THE COURT

Mother and student-athlete Chyna Bryant found her dream team at Hostos Community College, where she discovered a supportive “village” both on and off the court. After facing setbacks with her former team following the birth of her daughter, Aviana, in 2022, Bryant decided to transfer. At Hostos, she received the encouragement she needed to excel academically and athletically.

The coaching staff’s commitment to her success enabled Bryant to create a flexible schedule, allowing her to balance her role as a devoted mother with her passion



for basketball. Meanwhile, Aviana thrived at the Hostos Children’s Center. Bryant reflected, “Hostos has been everything I could have wanted and more.”

In the spring of 2025, the women’s basketball squad — the Lady Caimans — celebrated the significant milestone of becoming the only team ever to win eight consecutive CUNY Community College Women’s Basketball Championships. Although they didn’t capture the national title at the NJCAA DIII National Tournament, they finished #4, and Bryant achieved an incredible milestone of her own: receiving her associate degree in May. Proudly walking across the stage at commencement hand-in-hand with Aviana, Bryant exemplified strength, resilience, and the power of following one’s dreams. Her journey inspires all to embrace challenges and triumph through unwavering determination and the support of a loving community.

Caimans’ Historic Triumphs Lure WNBA Legend to Visit Hostos

To celebrate these achievements and inspire future success, WNBA legend and Olympic gold medalist Sheryl Swoopes visited Hostos on March 27, joined by Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson. Swoopes, the first player ever signed to the WNBA, delivered a heartfelt pep talk to the women’s team, sharing her own experiences as a former community college athlete, student, and mother. “Know your ‘why.’ Stay patient. Stay focused,” she told the players. “Even if it doesn’t happen on your timeline, if you’re good enough, they will find you.”



Student-athletes like Chyna Bryant described the visit as life-changing. “She reminded me why I keep going,” she said.



The event ended with laughter, dancing, and a surprise proclamation from Borough President Gibson declaring March 27 as “Sheryl Swoopes Day” in the Bronx, cementing a season already full of legacy moments.

THE MEN’S BASKETBALL team also had a powerful season, showcasing extraordinary growth and perseverance. Despite falling short in the Region 15 semifinals, their hard-fought battle against Monroe-Bronx (100–82) was a testament to their determination and heart.



HOSTOS IS PROUD TO BE A COMMUNITY OF
MANY CULTURES, VOICES, AND TRADITIONS,
WHERE DIVERSITY IS HONORED AS STRENGTH
AND CELEBRATED AS CENTRAL TO OUR MISSION.



**BLACK AT HOSTOS:
TOWN HALL SERIES
SUSTAINING BLACK AND
LATINO STUDIES
IN A CLIMATE OF
BANNED BOOKS AND
CENSORSHIP**

- Presented by Dr. Brenda M. Greene
- Professor of English
- Founder and Executive Director, Emeritus
- Center for Black Literature, CUNY

Dr. Brenda Greene
Founder and Executive Director Emeritus of
the Center for Black Literature at Hostos
Community College

Hostos
Community College

**BLACK
HOSTOS**
Hall Series
Community
College

WE ARE A COLLEGE THAT CELEBRATES

DIVERSITY

EMBRACING HERITAGE AND CHAMPIONING INCLUSION

Hostos Community College proudly leads in fostering diversity and inclusion, creating a vibrant campus culture that reflects and celebrates the rich backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences of our students, faculty, and staff. This diversity is our greatest strength and a defining part of our Strategic Plan. From heritage months and literary milestones to interfaith dialogues and LGBTQIA+ celebrations, we embrace the voices and traditions that shape us. At Hostos, diversity is not symbolic, it is the living heartbeat of our college community.

This year, we marked the fifth annual installment of our dynamic Black at Hostos Town Hall series, a dialogue-driving initiative led by President Daisy Cocco De Filippis to foster conversations on race, equity, and inclusion. The Spring 2025 program addressed a series of timely topics, commencing in February with a discussion on affirmative action and the current climate in higher education, moderated by Dr. Althea Sterling, VP of Student Development and Enrollment Management, and featuring Chief Diversity Officer, Philip Oliveri, in conversation with Mavis Hall, former University Director in the Office of Special Programs at CUNY Central and former Chief Diversity Officer at Queensborough Community College. The second presentation featured a conversation with Dr. Brenda Greene, Professor of English and Founder and Executive Director Emeritus of the Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College, on the vital role Black and Latino Studies play in higher education today, contextualized within the widespread rollbacks of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and ongoing bans on books that reflect diverse experiences. The series capped off with an insightful discussion moderated by Professor Kristopher Burrell, Associate Professor of History, in conversation with Cynthia Catz, Managing Attorney at HIAS, and Denise Herrera '18, Hostos alumna and Immigration Social Worker at The Bronx Defenders, examining the current climate surrounding immigration in America and the future implications of the current administration. What distinguishes this series is not only the quality of the invited speakers but also the active participation of our students, faculty, and staff, who ask incisive questions and share lived experiences that enrich each dialogue. Over the past five years, Black at Hostos has become a cornerstone of our institutional commitment to social justice, providing a consistent and visible platform for addressing complex issues that shape our communities. The conversations sparked in these forums extend far beyond the walls of the lecture hall, inspiring classroom discussions, collaborative projects, and advocacy initiatives. This continuity underscores Hostos' role as a convener of difficult but necessary dialogue, and as a place where the pursuit of equity is not a side conversation but a central mission.

HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Hostos recognizes and values the rich histories, diverse voices, and accomplishments of all communities, promoting a campus rooted in equity and belonging for all.

A Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), Hostos was established to meet the educational needs of Puerto Rican, Latinx and other communities in the South Bronx. We honor Hispanic/Latinx heritage with dynamic celebrations that highlight cultural contributions and deepen understanding among our community. During **Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month 2024**, Hostos held our annual Distinguished Latino Leader Awards, honoring elected officials and community leaders for their impactful contributions. We also celebrated our Allied Health student scholars, who received scholarships for their achievements during the ceremony.



Collaborating with the Neighborhood Association for Inter-Cultural Affairs (NAICA), Hostos' Health & Wellness Center facilitated a panel discussing Latinx heritage and community empowerment, featuring local leaders and led by Fabián Wander, Director of Health and Wellness. The celebrations continued in November during Puerto Rican Heritage Month, which included a ceremony honoring distinguished Puerto Rican leaders and a special presentation of Tere Martínez's play "Chain Reaction," commemorating the legacy of Dr. Antonia Pantoja on her 102nd birthday. In February, we marked Dominican Heritage Month and Dominican Independence Day, with a symposium celebrating the Dominican community's impact in New York and beyond through engaging discussions.



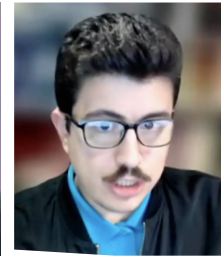
HOSTOS CHAMPIONS HALL OF FAME UNVEILED

In November 2024, the College honored stalwart champions whose contributions helped define and sustain Hostos as a beacon of hope and opportunity in the community.

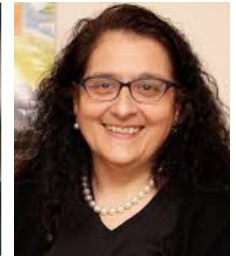
In a moving ceremony filled with loving remembrances, President Cocco De Filippis unveiled the Hostos Champions Hall of Fame — bronze plaques adorning the soaring atrium of the A-Building — honoring 10 individuals whose legacies are forever intertwined with the College: José E. Serrano, Evelina Antonetty, Elba Cabrera, Bill Aguado, Magda Vasilov, Jerry Meyer, Wally Edgcombe, Isabel Li, Antonio Martorell, and Angelo Romano.



Charles Drago



Stephen J. Cerulli



Donna Chirico

In October 2024, we also celebrated Italian Heritage Month with a virtual event that highlighted the contributions of Italian-Americans and the importance of preserving their heritage in academia, featuring scholars such as Charles Drago, Chair of Allied Health, and Stephen J. Cerulli, History Lecturer at Hostos, and Donna Chirico, Professor at York College and President of the Calandra Italian-American Institute.



In honor of Women's History Month, the College hosted a special recognition ceremony that celebrated 14 extraordinary students who have overcome significant challenges during their academic journeys. Tears of joy and inspiration flowed as their nominators shared heartfelt praise, showcasing the honorees' remarkable resilience in the face of adversity. Each honoree received a certificate, a \$500 stipend, and a book, symbolizing their dedication and hard work. Additionally, Hostos' Family Empowerment Program (FEP) held a Women's Herstory event honoring influential women, recognizing their contributions to empowering the community and the Women's and Gender Studies program, in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Unit held an enlightening discussion on Black and Latina feminism led by Ileana Jimenez, Ph.D.

Each honoree was celebrated not only for their tireless advocacy and service, but also for their role in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at Hostos and beyond. New York State Senator José M. Serrano reflected on his father's deep connection to Hostos. "Beyond all of that is the emotional connection that this school has for our family, how much we see it as a beacon in our lives and community. Hostos is a place for education, arts, culture, and the celebration of diversity. That, I think, is the special magic of Hostos Community College and what it meant to my father in his 46 years of public office."

The inaugural 10 Hostos Champions will eventually be joined by others whose support proved invaluable to the College and the community it serves.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In April, Hostos hosted its **Third Annual Multi-Faith Symposium and Luncheon**, uniting students, faculty, and staff in a powerful celebration of inclusivity that emphasized the importance of honoring diverse beliefs through meaningful dialogue. The event featured esteemed faith leaders Rabbi Saadia Pewzner, Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman, Reverend Doyeon Park, and Father James Sheehan, who shared insights on social justice rooted in their faith traditions. Participants engaged in small group discussions, fostering respectful and constructive dialogue. The event concluded with reflective sharing that deepened community bonds, embodying Hostos’s unwavering commitment to diversity, respect, and unity.



BUILDING A LITERARY LEGACY

We are also creating a literary legacy rooted in equity, community, and the celebration of diverse voices and inclusive expression. This past year marked two powerful milestones that reaffirmed literature as a force for connection and change.

On April 22, during our 57th anniversary, we launched “Peace & Poetry: An Anthology,” a collection shaped by the collective voice of our students, faculty, staff, and guest poets. Guided by President Cocco De Filippis, the event served as a testament to the healing power of poetry and its role in fostering mutual understanding during turbulent times. The anthology demonstrates how creativity can honor many perspectives, ensuring that no voice is left unheard.



Just months earlier, on November 7, we commemorated 20 years of “Hostos Review / Revista Hostosiana,” the flagship journal of the Latin American Writers Institute, edited by Inmaculada Lara Bonilla, Humanities Professor. A platform for Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx writers, the Review stands as a beacon for multilingual literary excellence. Panels, readings, and tributes during the celebration reflected on its far-reaching impact and its commitment to elevating diverse literary traditions. Participants included guest editors Nora Glickman, Mariana Zinni, and William Orchard, all from Queens College; Hostos Chief Librarian Madeline Ford; and contributors Judith Santopietro, Hostos English Professor Charles Rice-González, Ana Portnoy Brimmer, Omar Chauvié, and Kristen Millares Young.

Together, these events highlight the College’s ongoing efforts to foster a space for literary expression and intellectual exploration, and the inclusion of many voices in shaping our cultural record.



NEW WOMEN'S CENTER PROVIDES EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT

In December 2024, Hostos opened our new Women's Center in the Savoy Building, marking the 11th women's center in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. The center serves as a hub for resources like counseling, crisis intervention, and peer support groups, all designed to empower women and raise awareness of gender-based issues. Under the leadership of Lillian Morales, director, the center welcomes all students and fosters a culture of equity and inclusivity.



Since its launch, the center has hosted six successful events attended by over 125 participants, including workshops and presentations. Moving forward, the center plans to survey female-identifying students to better address their needs, enhance resource availability, and introduce a Lactation Room in Fall 2025. The Women's Center aims to be a transformative space for community building and empowerment at Hostos.



Antony Wong



Shreya Sunderram



Russell Leong

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, Dr. Eric Radezky, Director of Governmental and External Affairs, moderated an event titled "The Power of the Word." This gathering brought together members of the Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AAARI) to discuss the latest edition of the CUNY FORUM, which explores multidisciplinary perspectives on the AAPI experience across various regions. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy selected readings from the volume, highlighting the rich diversity of narratives within the AAPI community. The event featured insightful contributions from speakers including Antony Wong, Russell Leong, and Shreya Sunderram.

Hostos celebrated LGBTQIA+ pride, visibility, and joy with a series of affirming events that brought our community together. On April 1, students, faculty, and staff gathered to celebrate International Transgender Day of Visibility, honoring trans resilience through music, conversation, pronoun pins, and resources. More than a commemoration, the event became a student-centered affirmation of safety, love, and the importance of being seen. On Valentine's Day, the inaugural "Celebrate Love: Pride + Valentine's Prom" transformed the cafeteria into a vibrant rainbow oasis, where students, alumni, and staff danced freely, connected with valuable health services resources, and celebrated love in all its forms. The celebrations continued with the Lavender Graduation Reception on May 19, where Hostos honored the achievements of its LGBTQIA+ graduates in a ceremony.



HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

HONORS & AWARDS

Faculty, Staff and Administrators' Awards and Achievements

Our faculty and staff are leaders in their fields, earning recognition for innovation, research, and service, and they proudly share their expertise with the world. Through publications, presentations, public engagement, and their work in student services and community impact, they advance scholarship, represent the excellence and spirit of our community, and inspire the next generation of teachers, learners, and administrators.

We celebrate their remarkable achievements.



In 2025, City & State New York, a leading media organization focused on New York's local and state politics and policy, recognized three exceptional leaders from Hostos. Among

them, President **Daisy Cocco De Filippis** was honored as one of the 2025 Bronx Power 100, which highlighted her outstanding leadership and significant impact on the community. President Cocco De Filippis shared this recognition with notable figures such as U.S. members of Congress Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ritchie Torres, and Adriano Espaillat, as well as NY Senator José M. Serrano, Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson, New York Yankees President Randy Levine, and other prominent Bronx leaders.

Additionally, in May, **Dr. Eric Radezky**, the Director of Governmental and External Affairs, was named one of the Trailblazers in Higher Education for his strategic advocacy work.



Then, in June, **Dr. Evelyn Fernández-Ketcham**, Vice President of Continuing Education and Workforce Development, was honored as a Nonprofit Trailblazer for her transformative community impact.



Denise Cummings-Clay, Education Professor, presented her innovative assignment, "The Children's Media Review," at the BronxEdTech

Showcase. Her talk highlighted creative ways for students to critically engage with children's media.

Biology Professor **Vyacheslav Dushenkov** has produced a series of studies on plant-derived compounds, particularly



polyphenols. His research ranges from analyzing their content to evaluating the efficacy of specific plant extracts.



PROFESSOR CADET ADVANCES RESEARCH-DRIVEN CARE AND INCLUSIVE NURSING EDUCATION

Nursing Professor Myriam Cadet has been actively publishing about critical care, offering updated insights on sepsis and septic shock management. Her articles provide nurses with the latest evidence-based practices to improve patient outcomes. She has also contributed to the discourse on breast cancer screening guidelines.

Cadet has integrated diversity, equity, and inclusion into nursing education through a quality improvement project. Her publication shows how embedding these principles can transform classroom learning and

professional preparation. Her work demonstrates how inclusive approaches in healthcare education directly prepare nurses to better serve diverse patient populations. She has also examined osteomyelitis, offering practical considerations for nursing practice. By addressing this challenging condition, her work supports nurses in recognizing and managing complex cases.

PROFESSOR HOILAND'S NEW BOOK ILLUMINATES THE POWER AND POLITICS OF AN ALL-WOMEN'S MOTORCYCLE CLUB

Sociology Professor Sarah Hoiland marked a significant milestone with the release of her book, "Righteous Sisterhood: The Politics and Power of an All-Women's Motorcycle Club." This compelling ethnographic study invites readers on a journey into the little-known world of the Righteous Sisterhood Motorcycle Club (RSMC), an all-women's group that challenges mainstream notions of motorcycle culture.

Drawing from her doctoral research, Hoiland examines the intricate experiences and interpersonal dynamics that define this unique sisterhood. Over the course of five years, Hoiland interviewed members and gained unprecedented access to their annual ceremonies, initiation rituals, social processes, and gatherings. Using political theory, Hoiland explores how the women construct their identities within a traditionally male-dominated subculture, highlighting themes of empowerment, community, and reclaiming space. "The impetus for writing was that there was nothing about women in this [MC] world at all," Hoiland explains. "And the only people who'd written about women and motorcycle clubs were men, and they weren't talking to women; it was based on what men were saying about women."



Dean of Community Relations **Ana García Reyes** was honored as well as a "Mujer Destacada" by El Diario in April 2024. She was

recognized among 24 deserving Latina trailblazers.



Nursing Professor **Teresa Gray** has been presenting widely on Black maternal health. She has spoken about the challenges faced by Black

women in childbirth, shared strategies at Hostos, and discussed student training for doula care with community groups.



Carlos Guevara has participated in national conversations about educational innovation as a panelist for the EDUCAUSE Horizon Report. He has

also co-authored the introduction of the COTE Framework, which provides new directions for online teaching and learning.



EdCast, a web and television program produced and hosted by **Dr. Linda Hirsch**, English professor, won a Telly Award for its episode

titled "Is That Me? The Need for Diverse Voices in Children's Books," bringing the program's total number of Telly Awards to an impressive 11.



Physical Sciences Professor **Biao Jiang** contributed to advancing STEM education with a two-generation model. His IEEE FIE

Conference presentation emphasized innovative approaches to engaging both students and families in STEM learning.



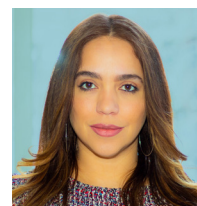
Hostos Academic Learning Center Director **Lissette Jourdain**, alongside Ana Marjanovic and others, has been pioneering AI-enhanced

STEM tutoring. Their presentations at the CUNY IT Conference and BronxEdTech Showcase highlighted how AI can transform student support in science and technology.



Dental Hygiene Professor **Isis Marsh** has been advancing knowledge in dental hygiene with research on fluoride and its benefits. She has also

collaborated on studies related to dental implant management and quality assurance in dentistry.



Dedicated Development Officer and Hostos alumna **Idelsa Mendez** was recognized in February at the "Duarte Honors: Reconociendo Los

Nuestros" for her contributions to her field and community.



Physical Sciences Professor **Nelson Nuñez Rodríguez** has published research on the intersections of university, culture, and human

development. This case study sheds light on the role of education in shaping communities.

HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

HONORS & AWARDS

Faculty, Staff and Administrators' Awards and Achievements



Research Programs Director **Sofia Oviedo** and Physical Sciences, Natural Sciences Chairperson

Yoel Rodríguez, and other colleagues, have shared strategies for leveraging internal funding to support institutional growth. In a Hawaii conference presentation, they highlighted ways to maximize resources for innovation in higher education.



Lisanette Rosario, Director of Career Services, was honored by the The New York League of Puerto Rican Women at their 16th Annual

Scholarship Gala in recognition of her unwavering dedication to empowering our students through career advisement.



Online Learning Coordinator **Eric Ritholz** and Professor and Chairperson of the Education Department, Jacqueline DiSanto,

presented on defining the Artificial Teaching Assistant. Their BronxEdTech Showcase talk explored how AI can reshape teaching and learning practices.



Dr. Shiang-Kwei Wang, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, was recognized as a 2025 AAPI Power Player by PoliticsNY and amNY, an honor

that highlights officials, business executives, and community leaders who are shaping the future of the city and the state.



Biology Professor **Julie Trachman** showcased her creative use of AI-based assignments in a microbiology course. Her BronxEdTech presentation

reflected the innovative integration of technology into science education.



In October 2024, **Fabián Sergio Wander**, Director of Health and Wellness at Hostos, was honored as one of 20 influential Hispanic/

Latino leaders at the 2024 EL Awards, presented by El Diario, the longest-running Spanish-language newspaper in the United States, for his unwavering commitment to promoting health and wellness at the College.



PROFESSOR MANUKYAN IS AWARDED \$10,000 RESEARCH FOUNDATION GRANT

Professor Anna Manukyan, from the Natural Sciences Department, was awarded a \$10,000 CUNY Research in the Classroom grant from the Research Foundation. Her project, titled “Building Career-Ready Skills in Undergraduate Chemistry: A Research-Integrated Approach,” aims to transform General Chemistry II, a laboratory course, into a research-driven learning environment integrating authentic discovery-based research into the undergraduate curriculum. The project will replace standalone experiments with a unified approach to research. Students will use a combination of virtual reality, experimentation, computation, and data analysis to investigate the leukemia virus. Students will develop teamwork, communication, and research skills, and improve

their own perceptions of scientific research and real-world scientific challenges. By combining authentic research with skills development, this initiative equips students with scientific writing, problem-solving, and data interpretation expertise. Ultimately, the project seeks to inspire a new generation of scientists by connecting classroom learning with meaningful contributions to real-world biomedical research.

PROFESSOR SCOTT INDUCTED INTO CENTURIES-OLD MUSEUM IN ITALY

Our beloved Art Professor Ian Charles Scott exhibited his work at the prestigious 8th International Watercolor Biennial, held at the historic 700-year-old Fabriano Paper and Watermark Museum in Italy, a UNESCO Creative City. After the exhibition, Professor Scott's work was selected to remain showcased as part of the museum's permanent collection alongside legendary artists such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, and Dürer.

His featured watercolor, "Sinclair and Girnigoe Resurgam," is a deeply personal reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic, capturing the isolation and fear of the time through a haunting image of a lone figure in a diving suit journeying toward an ominous castle. A colorful bird offers hope, symbolizing renewal and resilience. "It felt like we were all trying to breathe in a world that suddenly became dangerous," Scott said.

Originally from a small town in Scotland, Professor Scott has been a fixture at Hostos for over two decades, mentoring students through the transformative power of art. His journey has taken him across Europe and North America, capturing real-life stories from New Orleans to San Francisco, from indigenous communities in Canada to the Bronx. Despite his international acclaim, Scott remains deeply connected to his students. "At Hostos, I tell my students they don't have to know everything. They just have to show up and be themselves," he said.

Scott's inclusion in Fabriano affirms both his artistic brilliance and his enduring impact as a teacher and humanist. We're proud to celebrate this extraordinary milestone in his career.



Dental Hygiene Professor **Catherine Monchik** has been exploring issues in dental care such as Sjögren's syndrome and implant technologies.

Her work, often in collaboration with Professor Marsh, highlights emerging trends that improve patient care in dental practice. She has also expanded inter-CUNY collaboration with Professor Khrystyna Vyprynyuk (City Tech). They have worked on emphasizing the diagnostic role of probes in periodontal health. Their publication contributes to the development of best practices in dental hygiene.



Physical Sciences Professor **Debasish Roy** has published extensively on cancer biology, covering topics from genes linked to the

immune system to breast cancer therapies using PARP inhibitors. His contributions include journal articles and a book chapter in the Oxford Textbook of Cancer Biology.



After leading a phenomenal 2024-2025 season for their respective teams, Coach **Marquee Poole**, head men's basketball coach and assistant

athletic director, was honored as CUNYAC Community College

Men's Coach of the Year, and **Dwight Shaw**, head women's basketball coach, received both Regional and District Coach of the



Year awards by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Their skills as coaches and mentors are evident in the basketball program's sustained success year after year, and the Caimans' record-breaking eight CUNYAC Championship winning streak.



Lauren Wolf, Mathematics Professor, has examined bias in artificial intelligence through her scholarship. At the BronxEdTech Showcase, she presented findings on implicit bias and its

impact within AI systems.



Professor **Yoel Rodríguez** and colleagues have delivered multiple presentations on the HEAT and SPARC models at national conferences. Their

talks shared lessons learned and demonstrated the broader impact of these initiatives. He also expanded his collaboration networks and worked with colleagues internationally to develop advanced immunosorbent techniques. Their research introduces novel methods in analytical chemistry with broad implications for diagnostics.

**HOSTOS ANCHORS THE SOUTH BRONX WITH EDUCATION,
EQUITY, AND SERVICE, FORGING PARTNERSHIPS
THAT EMPOWER FAMILIES, STRENGTHEN
INDUSTRIES, AND UPLIFT COMMUNITIES.**



WE ARE A COLLEGE ROOTED IN

COMMUNITY

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS THAT DRIVE JUSTICE, GROWTH, AND IMPACT

Hostos is a mission-driven keystone in the community, anchoring progress through education, equity, and opportunity. Pursuing our Strategic Plan’s charge to champion social justice in the South Bronx, we partner with local leaders, families, and organizations to build a stronger, more just future. From workforce summits and hiring halls to housing conferences and cultural celebrations, Hostos stands as a trusted pillar of support, transformation, and renewal for all who call the Bronx home.

INDUSTRY SUMMITS IN EDUCATION, COMMUNITY HEALTH, AND RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY

At Hostos, we are passionate about educating and empowering industry leaders of tomorrow and driving transformative change. To date, we’ve proudly hosted six Industry Summits, including two in fiscal year 2024–25. These summits forge meaningful collaborations between academia and diverse industries, enriching curricula and creating pathways to fulfilling careers for our students, thus addressing another strategic plan goal of balancing intellectual growth and workforce preparedness.

Our Education Summit in November highlighted the urgent and pressing need for certified teachers in New York City. With over 3,000 vacancies, particularly in early childhood education, this shortage represents a significant challenge to the stability and quality of our education system. At Hostos, we are dedicated to addressing this crisis by shaping and preparing the next generation of impactful educators who will uplift communities in the Bronx and beyond.

In the spring, we turned our focus to community health, convening experts to confront the growing demand for trained public health professionals and highlight their crucial impact on our communities. With employment for community health workers projected to grow by 13% from 2023 to 2033, this summit helped facilitate discussions on ways to strengthen partnerships and pipelines within this vital sector.

Held bi-annually, the series has also highlighted careers in nursing, cybersecurity, business management, and radiologic technology.

Alumni Relations Organizes Housing Conference

In April, Hostos’ Alumni Relations and SONYMA hosted a free housing conference for the CUNY and Bronx community. Attendees learned about rent stabilization, tenant protections, and first-time homeownership, including income requirements, counseling resources, and buyer readiness. The event served students, faculty, staff, and neighbors with practical, empowering information to support secure and informed housing decisions.

HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

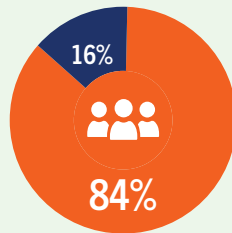
COMMUNITY IMPACT

Hostos partners with leaders and organizations to advance equity, expand opportunity, and strengthen the South Bronx and beyond.

CEWD PROVIDES NO-COST PROGRAMS

\$1,518,433 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS RAISED SINCE 2023

694 students have enrolled in **Continuing Education and Workforce Development's No-Cost Programs** over the past three years.



The vast majority, **581**, of these students, or **84%**, joined **medical and health training programs**.

In response to the pandemic's impact on the communities we serve, the Continuing Education and Workforce Development (CEWD) division increased its efforts to provide students with scholarships and no-cost programming help students advance academically, achieve careers, and improve socioeconomic outcomes.

Since Fiscal Year (FY) 2023, 694 students have enrolled in CEWD's no-cost programming. Over the past three fiscal years, CEWD has raised \$1,518,433 to enable our students to enroll in an occupational training or basic education program at no cost to them. The vast majority of those students (581 or 84%) enrolled in one of our medical and health training programs, such as Community Health Worker, Certified Billing and Coding Specialist, and Patient Care Technician.

CEWD's 10-Year Partnership with Phipps and Montefiore

CEWD proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of its partnership with Phipps Neighborhoods and Montefiore Medical Center. Since 2014, this free 10-week program has helped 900 young adults, ages 18 to 24, launch healthcare careers through classroom learning, internships, and career readiness support.

Launched when Bronx unemployment stood at 11.2%, the program contributed to a decline to 6.8%, showing the impact of coordinated, community-driven workforce development. Participants gain CPR and first aid certification, stipends, and credentials as Certified Medical Assistants, Medical Administrative Assistants, or Patient Care Technicians.

Expanding Access to Foundational Skills at No Cost

- CEWD offers free English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and General Education Development (GED) courses, sponsored by CUNY-funded Adult Learning Center (ALC).
- The CUNY Fatherhood Academy (CFA) supports fathers ages 18–30 with dedicated GED preparation.

Delivering Measurable Impact Through No-Cost Learning

- Since Fiscal Year 2023, 772 CEWD students have enrolled in ALC no-cost ESOL courses.
- 401 CEWD students have advanced their education through ALC's no-cost GED courses.

SINCE 2014, 900 BRONX YOUNG ADULTS (18–24) LAUNCHED HEALTHCARE CAREERS

Credentials Earned:

CPR and First Aid Certification, Certified Medical Assistant, Medical Administrative Assistant, and Patient Care Technician.

Program Features:

Free 10-week training, internships and stipends.

Program Impact:

Contributed to Bronx unemployment decline from 11.2% to 6.8%.

REMEMBERING DR. ANTONIA PANTOJA'S LEGACY

Hostos proudly revived “Chain Reaction,” a powerful play honoring the life and legacy of Puerto Rican activist and educator Dr. Antonia Pantoja. Written by Tere Martínez and directed by Professor Ángel Morales, the production premiered at the Hostos Repertory Theater, more than a decade after its 2011 debut.

The revival featured Hostos students Wilbert Morales, Lisset Domínguez, Lady Trejo, and Ronnie Burgos, who performed alongside professional actors and embodied Hostos’s dedication to educational theater. Following the show, audience members engaged in a dialogue and Q&A session with the cast, director, and playwright, reflecting on Pantoja’s vision.



Martínez emphasized Dr. Pantoja’s belief in education as a means of liberation, highlighting her tireless efforts in advocating for bilingual education, equal opportunity, and community empowerment. The revival highlighted her enduring message: that transformative education uplifts not just individuals, but entire communities. This production was made possible by the CUNY Chancellor’s Office, Hostos President’s Office, Academic Affairs, the Student Government Association, and the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture.

Mott Haven Community Partnership

The Family Empowerment Program (FEP), under Hostos’ Health and Wellness Center, collaborates closely with Mott Haven Community Partnerships to organize impactful community events aimed at supporting pregnant and parenting students and educating community partners on the services provided at Hostos. In 2024 and 2025, FEP hosted several notable events. Held in March, the Women’s Herstory event celebrated local women’s contributions to the community. The baby shower, held in June, was conceived in response to an increase of pregnant students on campus who needed resources and was brought to fruition in collaboration with Einstein School of Medicine Health Start Program and Mott Haven Community Partnerships. Open to the community and all CUNY students, the event attracted over 350 pregnant families and featured workshops on topics such as prenatal care, maternal health, and resources for



fatherhood. This event also engaged 47 community partners to educate attendees about available services.

Held the same month, the Pride, Caribbean Heritage & Men’s Health Month event united community agencies to address service delivery barriers and promote health awareness among men. Attendees proudly donned their national colors and discussed important issues, such as prostate cancer screening and immigration concerns. Through these collaborations, FEP and Mott Haven effectively enhance resources and support for students and families.



HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

A cherished South Bronx resource, the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture (HCAC) has been an integral part of the community for over 40 years. Recognized nationally for its diverse programming, HCAC offers a vibrant array of plays, concerts, cultural events, and festivals that reflect community richness and celebrate global artistry. Each year features dozens of performances encompassing hip hop, Latin jazz, salsa, classical music, theater, and dance, supporting its mission to provide accessible programming to the beloved South Bronx community.

OCTOBER

“Día de Muertos” by Calpulli Mexican Dance Company

In this spectacular production, featuring new dances and an expanded storyline, the critically acclaimed Calpulli Mexican Dance Company presented a breathtaking love story that transcends the boundaries of life and death. The performances featured a captivating blend of folkloric and classical music, vibrant dances, dazzling costumes, and stunning sets.



NOVEMBER

Fabiola Méndez “Flora Campesina”

Fabiola Méndez performed songs from her newest project, “Flora Campesina,” a contemporary twist on traditional Puerto Rican folkloric genres, such as danza, seis, bomba, pasillo, and guaracha. She celebrated the contributions of jíbaro music, expressing Puerto Rican identity, struggle, freedom, and honoring nature.



Cuba y Puerto Rico Son: Humberto Ramírez’s 40th Anniversary & A Tribute to La Lupe

This dual-headlining concert celebrated iconic music from Puerto Rico and Cuba — all live in one night! The concert kicked off with a performance from acclaimed trumpeter Humberto Ramírez, joined by vocalist Michelle “La Brava,” his band, and the Mambo Legends Orchestra. The evening continued with “A Tribute to La Lupe,” performed by the Mambo Legends Orchestra, along with a 25-piece string section from the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and powerhouse vocals by Michelle “La Brava” and Lena Burke.



DECEMBER

Kwanzaa Celebration

The annual event celebrated the seven guiding principles, or Nguzo Saba, of Kwanzaa — Umoja, Kujichagulia, Ujima, Ujamaa, Nia, Kuumba, and Imani — and featured a special performance of music and dance by the African dance collective Arts In Blue.



Spanish Harlem Orchestra’s “Salsa Navidad”

The three-time Grammy-winning Spanish Harlem Orchestra (SHO) brought their energetic, hard-hitting rhythms and musical precision to Hostos Center with “Salsa Navidad,” a special concert of holiday classics in “salsa-dura-style!”

FEBRUARY

Roots & Rebirth: Dominican Women in Art

This exhibition brought together the work of Dominican women artists deeply connected to their history and traditions, offering a fresh vision and perspective on their culture. Displayed in the Hostos Art Gallery, the works highlighted creative processes rooted in cultural heritage while embracing contemporary art practices, reflecting the evolving identity of Dominican women, both on the island and in the diaspora.



This is ¡Ecuador!

The Repertory Theater, in collaboration with the Ecuadorian American Cultural Center, presented a journey through the fascinating evolution of Ecuadorian cultures, from the pre-Hispanic era to the dynamic blend of indigenous, European, and African influences that define the country's unique heritage.



Bachatarengue Dominicano

The Hostos Center proudly presented an evening of Bachata and Merengue celebrating Dominican Heritage Month, featuring artists Monchy Capricho, Richie Cepeda, Leonardo Paniagua, Jerry Zyno, and more!





JUNE

Hostos First Annual Student Art Exhibition

The Hostos Art Center hosted the inaugural Hostos Student Art Exhibition, which showcased works from student artists in the College's Visual Arts, Digital Arts, Game, and Music Design programs.



Albita: 100 Years of Son Cubano

Headlined by Grammy- and Emmy Award-winning Cuban superstar Albita, this dynamic concert honoring the iconic Cuban musical genre, son, also featured acclaimed salsa musicians Willie and Nelson from Los Hermanos Moreno and Nodal Y Los Soneros de Oriente — plus, it opened with Tony Rosa's Rumba All-Stars.



Second Annual Juneteenth Celebration

The Hostos Center celebrated Juneteenth with a performance featuring the acclaimed Forces of Nature dance company, along with guest musicians, youth dancers, poetry, and spoken word performances.

HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

HIGHLIGHTS



18th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Classic

In September 2024, the 18th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing Classic was held at the Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses. Despite some rain, it was a day of friendly competition and camaraderie, bringing together sponsors such as Madd Equities, Montefiore Einstein, Schindler, BronxCare Health System, among other corporate and individual donors, to raise over \$130,000 for scholarships.



DOMINICAN PRESIDENT ADDRESSES THE DIASPORA AT HOSTOS



New York City's Dominican diaspora thronged to Hostos Community College in September 2024 to hear the President of the Dominican Republic speak about the accomplishments of his first term and his plans to press forward with sweeping reforms. Having come to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, President Luis Abinader took the opportunity to address his largest constituency outside of his homeland, appearing at three schools, culminating with his address at the Main Theatre in the Hostos Center for Arts and Culture.

President Abinader touted the accomplishments of his administration's first four years and promised constitutional reforms to protect democratic stability in the country, build new railways and hospitals, and to double the economy in the next four years. "The Dominican Republic is a country with a great present, and an even better future!" And with a nod to the people in attendance at the College, he said how proud he was of the Dominican community in the U.S. "We have so many young people who are prepared, so many Dominicans in the United States who will help us to lift up the country."

For her part, President Cocco De Filippis was proud to have hosted President Abinader's address to New York's Dominican community at Hostos. "As a proud Dominican-born American, I am delighted that President Abinader recognized our commitment to the prosperity of Dominicans in our community. Our Dominican students are a part of the wonderfully diverse tapestry of national, ethnic, and religious backgrounds that makes Hostos such a welcoming place for all who strive for better futures, such as that described by President Abinader tonight."



HOSTOS ANNUAL REPORT 2024–2025

HIGHLIGHTS

2025 Annual Scholarship Benefit



The Hostos Community College Foundation’s Annual Scholarship Benefit returned to the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle.

Emceed by alumna Génesis Suero '20, a bilingual entertainment reporter with Telemundo and rising star in real estate, the event

honored Benny Lorenzo, who in partnership with the Wright Foundation had recently endowed a scholarship for STEM students,

as well as former Hostos Foundation Board member Cira Ángeles, and Julissa Reynoso, whose mother graduated from Hostos. A partner at





Winston & Strawn, former chief of staff to First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, and U.S. ambassador to Spain, Andorra, and Uruguay, Julissa represents the generational power of a Hostos education. “As an ambassador, I was representing the best of America...

its commitment to diversity, to democracy, to liberty, and to the pursuit of justice — and that is Hostos,” she said. Julissa closed with a powerful reflection: “God bless the America that gave me, Benny, Ciria, and all the extraordinary people of Hostos opportunity. That

is the America we should continue to build up.” By the end of the evening, the event had raised over \$365,000, ensuring that future generations of Hostos students will be able to pursue their American dream.



THANK YOU

On behalf of our students and the Division of Institutional Advancement, we extend heartfelt thanks to the corporate and individual donors who joined the Hostos Community College Foundation’s annual fundraising events. Encouraged by the tangible results of previous donations and the success stories of scholarship recipients, you answered the call and turned out in force at the Golf Outing and the Gala, which together raised half a million dollars for scholarships. Your generosity continues to uplift Hostos students and sustain their momentum toward success.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS

THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO HOSTOS STUDENTS, THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Alumni Fund for Student Transfer Scholarship

Anna Milagros Rivera Memorial Scholarship

Anthony St. John Memorial Scholarship

The Aspira Capital Management and Wright Foundation Endowed Scholarship for Students Pursuing Degrees in STEM

Beth Abraham Nursing Scholarship

Beyond Borders

Bridge Tuition Support Assistance (BTSA) Fund

The Bronx Element Leadership and Social Justice Scholarship

Bronx Rising Initiative Scholarship

Carlos González and Edward González Jr. Allied Health Scholarship

Carmine Family Scholarship

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Emergency Fund

Cecil Pitman Dental Hygiene Scholarship

Centerlight Health Systems Nursing Scholarship

The Circle of 100 Emergency Fund

The Cocco De Filippis Family Scholarship Endowment

Dolores M. Fernández Scholarship

The Dr. Nasry Michelen Memorial Endowment Scholarship

The Dylan Isaac Ravenfox Memorial Scholarship

The Feiner Family Scholarship and Special Needs Fund

The Frances M. Webb Endowed Scholarship for Student-Parents

The Gerald Meyer Community Service Transfer Scholarship

The Honorable Hector L. Diaz Scholarship

The Hostos Community College Foundation Scholarship

Howard Bayne Scholarship

The John Anthony Chardavoyne Scholarship Endowment

The Josephine Aguado Scholarship

The Joseph Alicea Veterans Fund

The Madruga Family Scholarship

The Manuel Gonzalo Coballes Scholarship Fund for Allied Health Students

The Mildred Hernton Endowed Award in Biology

Natural Sciences Award

The Obinali Scholarship for Business and Entrepreneurship

The Paula L. Zajan Early Childhood Education Scholarship

The Pedro Pérez-Cabezas Memorial Scholarship

The Professor Cynthia G. Jones Beloved Community Scholarship

The Professor Isabel Li Endowed Memorial Scholarship

The Professor Magda Vasillov Scholarship

Ramon J. Jiménez Memorial Scholarship of Social Policy and Practice

The Randi Potack, Judith Z. Potack, and Dorothy Hausberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship

The Richard A. Propper Memorial Scholarship

Sammy Seals Scholarship

Shirley Hinds Scholarship

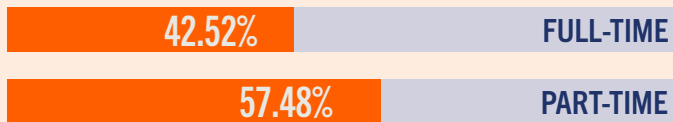
Southpole Foundation Scholarship

The Wallace Edgecombe Scholarship

STUDENT PROFILE: FALL 2024

STUDENTS MATRICULATED IN CREDIT-BEARING COURSES TOWARD A COLLEGE DEGREE.

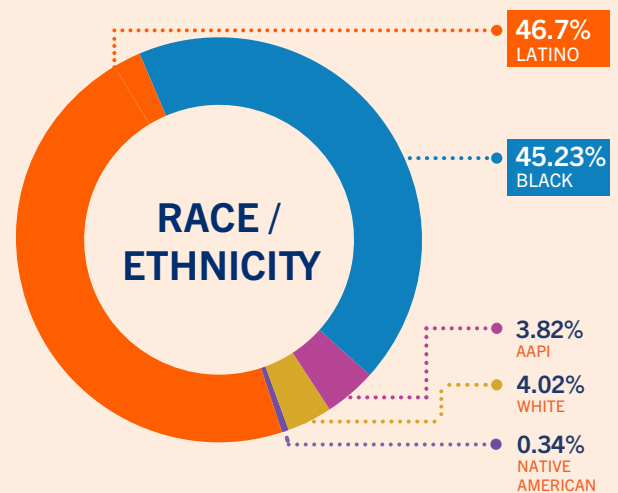
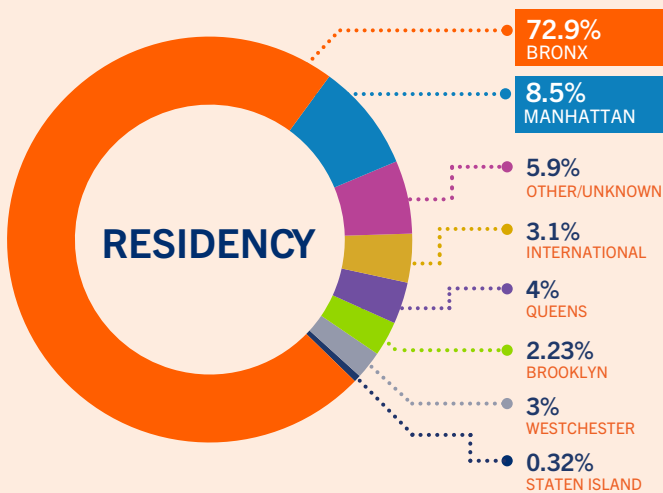
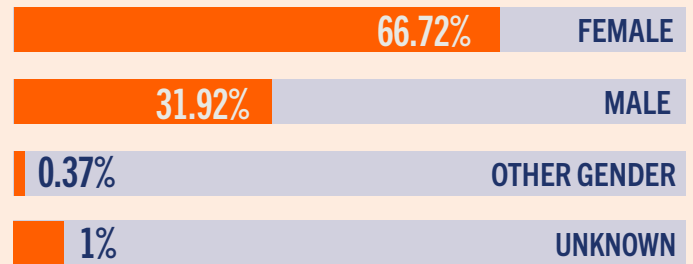
ENROLLMENT 5,477



FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT



GENDER



ECONOMIC STATUS

84%

of students have an annual household income of less than \$30,000

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

80%

of students receive financial aid

FIRST GENERATION

55%

of students are the first generation in their family to attend college

TOP RESIDENCE

72.9%

of our students reside in the Bronx

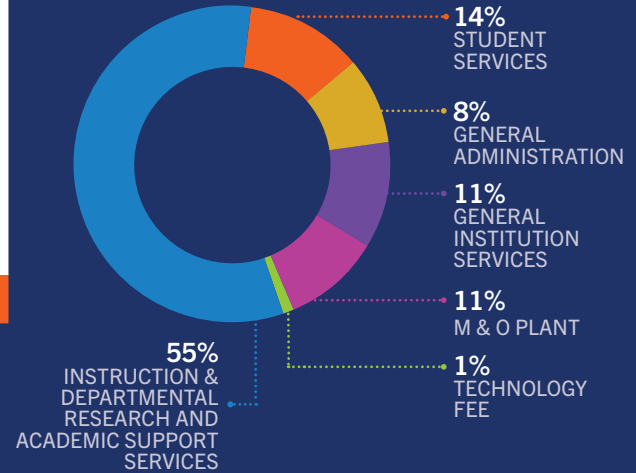
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW, FISCAL YEAR 2024–2025

EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PURPOSE

Instruction & Departmental Research and Academic Support Services	62,158,102	55%
Student Services	15,886,550	14%
General Administration	8,590,329	8%
General Institution Services	12,145,644	11%
M & O Plant	11,910,374	11%
Technology Fee	1,001,576	1%
Total Allocation	\$111,692,576	100%

Projected Year-End Expenditures

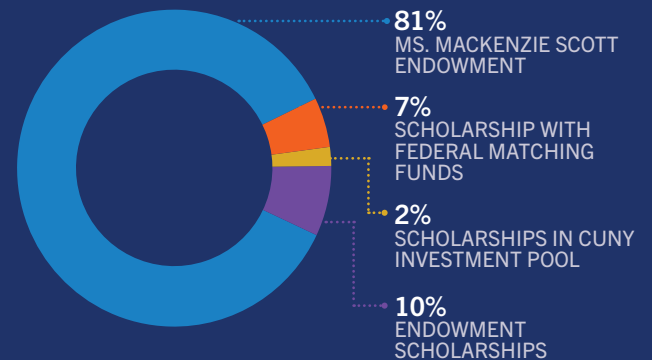
EXPENDITURES BY MAJOR PURPOSE



COMPONENTS OF ENDOWMENT SUPPORT

Ms. MacKenzie Scott Endowment	13,454,950	81%
Scholarship with Federal Matching Funds	1,154,935	7%
Scholarships in CUNY Investment Pool	383,477	2%
Endowment Scholarships	1,610,028	10%
Total Endowment	\$16,603,390	100%

COMPONENTS OF ENDOWMENT SUPPORT



GRANTS FY2024–2025

Hostos faculty and staff demonstrate dedication and expertise, consistently achieving significant milestones in securing grants from government agencies, foundations, and corporations. Their exceptional efforts have sustained and elevated the institution’s commitment to cutting-edge research and innovation. As we enter the 2024–2025 fiscal year, achievements continue to unfold, with a spectrum of active and new grants skillfully administered through the CUNY Research Foundation and other organizations. This steadfast pursuit of funding underscores their relentless drive for knowledge and fortifies Hostos as a hub of intellectual exploration and academic excellence. These grants highlight the institution’s capacity to drive impactful research initiatives, fostering an environment where groundbreaking ideas flourish and advance knowledge across disciplines.

Project Title	Funding Agency	Amount
Hostos Oasis for Parent's Education (HOPE)	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$449,044.00
Increasing the Access and Success of Scholars in Mathematics and Computer Science at a Hispanic Serving Institution	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$299,820.00
Strengthening Physics Achievements	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$75,666.00
The Hostos Technical Education in Cybersecurity (H-TEC) Program	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$236,744.00
¿Quiénes son? Assessing Language Skills, Belonging, and Identity of Bilingual Students: Towards a Bilingual Education STEM Transfer Pipeline	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$27,046.00
Hostos Engineering Academic Talent Scholarship (HEAT 2)	NSF/Education & Human Resources	\$190,139.00
Community Health Worker Training Program	DHHS/Health Resources and Services Administration	\$1,000,000.00
Parents and Children Together at Hostos (PACT at Hostos)	U.S. Department of Education	\$426,537.79
Comunidad y Igualdad: An Integrated First Year Experience and Beyond	U.S. Department of Education	\$573,216.00
Building Transfer Pathways and Pipeline: A Partnership between Hostos CC, Columbia University, City College and Queens College	U.S. Department of Education	\$376,632.00
Student mentorship and Research	USED/Office of Postsecondary Education	\$1,000,000.00
Work Incentive Planning and Assistance (WIPA)	Social Security Admin	\$272,900.00
	Subtotal Private Grants	\$5,027,744.79

These figures represent funds made available during FY 2024–2025 only. Please note that some grants extend over several years, and the total amounts awarded are not reflected here.

GRANTS FY2024–2025

Project Title	Funding Agency	Amount
Library	NYS ED Office of Cultural Education	\$7,805.60
Liberty Partnerships Program	NYS Education Dept.	\$522,864.00
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title II & Welfare Education Program Funding	NYS Education Dept.	\$98,040.00
Vocational Educational Program (PERKINS)	NYS Education Dept.	\$1,178,487.00
STEP/Proyecto Access	NYS Education Dept.	\$580,500.00
CSTEP	NYS Education Dept.	\$284,187.00
Workforce Investment Act	NYS Education Dept.	\$176,203.00
CUNY Career Launch - Hostos C.C. Explorer	DYCD/NYC Dept. of Youth and Community	\$13,618.44
ACS - New Paths Program Hostos	NYCACS/NYS Administration for Children Services	\$11,673.00
NYC/HRA/CUNY EDGE Program/Hostos	NYC Human Resources Administration	\$476,799.25
	Subtotal Private Grants	\$3,350,177.29
A Canada in the South: Maroons in American Literature	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,000.00
Scratch	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,499.70
Re-Writing The Book of Myths Embodied Narrative in Cheryl Strayed's Wild	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,499.70
Realism Postmodernism and Trump Era Politics in Phillip Roth's 'American Pastoral'	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,499.70
Metamodernist Women Writers: Ecological Mourning	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,497.20
The Urban Domestic: Homosocial Domesticity in the Literature and Culture of 19th and 20th Century New York City	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,499.70
The Myth of the "Good Woman": Forced Motherhood in Victorian Sensation Fiction	PSC-CUNY 55	\$3,499.70
"The Skin of a White Man for Parchment: Anti-Slavery, Violence, and the (Re) Writing of Rights in Post-Revolutionary Haiti	PSC-CUNY 55	\$6,000.00
Exploring Enhanced Gene Modulation: Computational Insights into Chirality-Enhanced PNA Analogs with Improved Cell Update	PSC-CUNY 55	\$5,998.31
Colonial Myths and Romantic Poets in the Caribbean	PSC-CUNY 55	\$5,971.50
Plotting British Women of the Long Eighteenth Century: Prehistories of White Feminism (1700 - 1815)	PSC-CUNY 55	\$6,000.00
Solar Printing in the Digital Age	PSC-CUNY 55	\$6,000.00
	Subtotal Private Grants	\$53,965.51

GRANTS FY2024–2025

Project Title	Funding Agency	Amount
Injury Science and Prevention	EDINST/Columbia University	\$81,000.00
Bronx Einstein Training	Albert Einstein	\$34,759.00
Center for Botanicals & Chronic Diseases	Rutgers University	\$23,026.00
Cyber Skills for All	America Association of Community Colleges	\$20,000.00
College Completion Innovation Fund	PFOUND/ The Jeffrey H. and Shari L. Aronson Family Foundation	\$59,527.21
NYC Accelerated Workforce Recovery HUB	NPORG/New York Community Trust AKA Community Funds, Inc.	\$219,800.00
College Completion Innovation Fund	PFOUND/Booth Ferris Foundation	\$13,409.21
College Completion Innovation Fund YR 2	PFOUND/Booth Ferris Foundation	\$63,420.49
STEM Research Academy	PCORP/Con Edison	\$60,146.06
College Completion Innovation Fund	NPORG/ECMC Foundation	\$49,028.16
Graduate NYC	PFOUND/Gray Foundation	\$76,556.20
CUNY ASAP: Equity in Education	Morgan Stanley Foundation	\$6,046.00
Computational Thinking for Educators	PUBFND/Robin Hood Foundation	\$34,538.52
Computing Integrated Teacher Education	NPORG/Gotham Gives INC.	\$20,383.77
Enhancing Dual Enrollment Access & Policy	PFOUND/Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	\$2,200.00
Research in the Classroom 2025	CUNY	\$10,000.00
The Dead Cannot Reply: Suicide in Nineteen ...	Book Completion Award	\$7,500.00
Unruly Thought: U.S. Latina Decolonial Literature and the Phenomenology Writing	Book Completion Award	\$7,500.00
CUNY Research Scholars Program	Start Up Funds	\$4,193
Smart Scholars	NYS Ed	\$825,000.00
Subtotal Private Grants		\$1,618,033.62
Total FY 2024–2025		\$10,349921.21

DONORS

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

LEADERS' CIRCLE \$50,000 AND ABOVE

Gerald Meyer †

PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE \$10,000-\$49,999

Stuart and Randi P. Feiner
Dolly Martinez
Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Carolyn McLaughlin

SPONSORS' CIRCLE \$5,000-\$9,999

Colette Atkins
Cynthia G. Jones
Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne
The Sánchez-Kinghorn Family
Heather von Zuben

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SUPPORT STUDENT PERSISTENCE AT HOSTOS

At Hostos Community College, every student’s potential deserves the chance to flourish. The Hostos Community College Foundation invites you, our family, friends, and supporters to help empower more of our talented and determined students to earn their degrees and transform their futures.

Your generosity fuels 35 internal scholarship funds, emergency aid, and essential programs that make college possible for hundreds of students each year. From supporting student parents and providing nutrition assistance to funding tutoring, mentoring, and hands-on learning experiences, these initiatives go far beyond financial relief. They give students the confidence to persist, knowing that their community believes in them, stands behind them, and is invested in their success.

THE FINANCIAL REALITY STUDENTS FACE

While nearly all Hostos students receive some form of financial aid, the maximum they can receive from state and federal sources totals less than \$13,000. This falls short of what’s truly needed to attend college, especially for students with additional responsibilities such as childcare.

2024–2025 TOTAL COST OF ATTENDING COLLEGE:

Living away from home:

- Without childcare: \$35,183
- With childcare: \$41,273

Living with parents:

- Without childcare: \$20,843
- With childcare: \$26,943

This gap between aid and actual cost puts many students at risk of stopping out before earning their degrees.

HOW THE FOUNDATION RESPONDS

The Hostos Community College Foundation actively raises funds to close that gap and help students stay on track. It manages:

- 35 internal scholarship funds
- Emergency scholarships
- Programs focused on student parents, nutrition support, mentoring, tutoring, and experiential learning

These initiatives meet both academic and basic needs, strengthening students’ ability to persist and succeed.

HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Gifts from individuals, families, and organizations directly support our students’ success.

- Contributions of any amount help sustain existing scholarships
- A gift of \$5,000 or more can establish a named scholarship with specific awarding criteria, funded for 1–3 years or renewed with additional donations
- A gift of \$50,000 or more can create a permanent endowed scholarship, supporting generations to come or indefinitely

FLEXIBLE WAYS TO GIVE

In addition to cash or checks, you can support Hostos through:

- Marketable securities
- Gifts from IRAs or Donor-Advised Funds
- Charitable gift annuities, which provide you with fixed payments for life (or a period of years) benefiting students in the future.

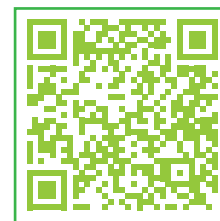
HONOR YOUR LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

The Eugenio María de Hostos Society recognizes those who include the College in their estate plans. This includes donors who name Hostos as a full, partial, or contingent beneficiary of a will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy. Planned giving not only helps secure Hostos’s future, it can also offer meaningful financial benefits to you or your family today.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

We would love to help you match your giving priorities with student needs. For more information about charitable giving, please visit GivetoHostos.com, contact Idelsa Mendez at imendez@hostos.cuny.edu, or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



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