

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, CUNY
Stated Meeting of the College, September 21, 2022

Dear Members of the Hostos Family,

It is good to be with you all, sharing my first Stated Meeting of the College gathering in person in a few years. It is particularly memorable because this academic year marks the 55th Hostos Community College Anniversary. Thank you Diana Kreymer, our moderator, and the wonderful team of speakers this afternoon. This presentation is intended to feature a rich array of diverse voices, underscoring the generous team efforts taking place at our College. As it was established the past two years, we will continue to schedule four All College gatherings this year, one at the beginning and the end of each academic semester. This practice is also in keeping with our Hostos Weekly, in its fifth edition now, designed to have frequent sharing of information with the college community to hear from multiple voices.

Here at Hostos Community College we are all working hard to support the dreams and achievements of our students, appreciating the great potential of Hostos students. This past May we celebrated in two in person commencements the achievements of over one thousand who completed their associate degree or certificate. A remarkable and noteworthy achievement, considering the challenges our students faced the past two years. Some shared with me that they had achieved their degree in two years because of the opportunities provided by our online offerings. This semester we are fortunate to have our first in person Stated Meeting of the College since 2019. Surveys conducted by OAA and OIERA show that students' preference is an in-person experience, yet they persisted online when necessary. Bravi!

Hostos Community College is committed to live its mission in generous and talented ways. Let me just affirm the six pillars of our HCC Mission Statement:

- Provide access to higher education
- Serve as a community resource
- Celebrate diversity and multiculturalism
- Facilitate socio-economic mobility
- Develop linguistic, mathematical, technological and critical thinking proficiencies
- Foster intellectual growth and lifelong learning

These pillars are supporting the work taking place in preparation of our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Thank you all who have accepted to participate actively in the preparation of the plan, about ninety of us are participating, and the many who have agreed to participate in the Aspen Institute Top Ten Finalist visit and preparation in the upcoming team evaluation participation on campus scheduled on October 25-26.

To that end we will hear very thorough presentations this afternoon from colleagues about the work taking place to support students and faculty in significant ways, from the SGA President, College Senate President, and different leaders who will discuss the wonderful initiatives offered by the Ms. Mackenzie Scott President's Initiatives, the hiring of new faculty and how our enrollment and fiscal stability are being managed, planning for winter and spring class schedules ongoing at this time, and many other informational items. October we will also hold the first meeting of the HCC Community Advisory Council's Industry Summit which will take place at Albert Einstein Hospital, sponsored by Montefiore Hospital. We will present and discuss opportunities for our Nursing program at a morning meeting which will include members of the college community and a number of leaders among health care providers. This event will also be attended by colleagues in community, industry, educational, business and other sectors.

Additionally, the 2022-2023 Priorities and activities are being finalized by each division leader in consultation with colleagues in their respective areas. Dean Audant and OIERA colleagues are being consulted on the assessment piece. Updates on this work will be presented at each All College meeting this academic year.

- Ensuring a continued re-opening that is safe, and puts at the forefront the health of the college community, and at the same time that it is also focused on quality instruction and academic and student support;
- Putting intentionality at the forefront when it comes to students' recruitment, enrollment, onboarding, assessment of prior learning for credit and continued programming-from orientation to advisement by strengthening student advisement for all-incoming, transfer, and target populations, identified in need of additional support; accelerating application to registration process; clearly communicating graduate requirements and deadlines; promoting a culture of "College Going" with First Year Experiences.
- Growing of stackable credentials for our workforce programs with non-credit and credit certificates; partnering with community advisory councils for the disciplines to assist us in linking programs to jobs and increasing educational opportunities tied to employment.
- Regularizing assessment-particularly academic program reviews and other means of assessing how effectively our degree programs and support services help students learn and achieve career and transfer success; mapping out all component elements that contribute to student transfer with special emphasis on touchpoints and assessment of students' progress; using environmental scanning information to assist us in determining what programs need to be revised or created.
- Creating support to encourage faculty and staff members to conduct research and enhance a culture of grants writing at the College by means of the engagement of the Committee on Sponsored programs and grants, and the soon to be opened this fall- Hostos Research Center.

There is a lot to be done as we aspire for continued success for our students and ourselves. Let us also find time to enjoy family and friends and, perhaps, a hobby or two. Finally, I end my brief remarks with a quote you have heard me bring up often from Pablo Neruda's Nobel Laureate speech: "All paths lead to the same goal; to convey to others what we are...but in this dance or in this song there are fulfilled the most ancient rites of our conscience in the awareness of being human and of believing in a common destiny."

I believe that our common destiny is that of a community of purpose; an academic community that partners with multiple stakeholders and works closely together in harmony and in concert, to ensure that Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College will live up to the promise made in our mission to embrace diversity and opportunity as the birth right of all.

Thank you for your support. *¡Mil gracias y bendiciones!*

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