

# THE ADVISOR

News from the Hagerstown Community College Advancement Office

Fall 2021

## College Phased Reopening Going Well

Hagerstown Community College is a little quieter this year than in past years. With just one-third as many students on campus during the college's phased reopening, the College is focused on delivering the same quality education as it always has, though in a socially-distanced format.

As the College phased in its reopening plan during the summer, the decision was made to offer traditional instruction for those classes where there was a performance component, a lab, or for GED, developmental education, and English Language Learners. Non-credit classes are being offered in a traditional format. All other classes are being offered online. Most faculty are teaching remotely and come to campus for meetings or other requirements. The result? On a normal day, the College has about 500 students on campus at peak times. Compare that with prior years when over 3,000 might be on campus.

"It is a big difference, but it is part of our plan to balance safety with meeting our academic mission," said President Jim Klauber.



Students who do come to campus find their classes very different. Class sizes are socially distant, much smaller, and everyone wears a mask. Every day, students, faculty, staff, and visitors must log into the GoEvo app on their phones or at kiosks at building entrances, to perform a COVID-19 self-check. Those who are not cleared for campus are instructed to go home, seek medical attention, or get a COVID-19 test.

"It is a new world, but we hope a temporary one," said Klauber. "We want to get back to the days of a full and vibrant campus, but I am afraid that will not occur anytime too soon."

Plans are already being made for spring to mirror fall term.

"I hope summer and fall terms in 2021 will bring back the active HCC we know and love."

## Mark your calendars for HCC's 75th Anniversary!

Hagerstown Junior College first opened its doors on September 16, 1946, and became the first community college in the state of Maryland. Plans are underway for the celebration of HCC's 75th anniversary in 2021/2022. If you have

HJC/HCC memorabilia or old photos from your time at the college and would like to share them with the anniversary committee, please contact Lisa Stewart in the HCC Alumni Office at [lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:lstewart@hagerstowncc.edu) or 240-500-2346.



## 2020 High School Grads Receive Gift from HCC

The year 2020 saw high schools across the nation shutter their classes and move to remote operations. For the high school class of 2020, proms, spring sports, and graduation ceremonies were all canceled. Social media was full of stories of high school graduates and their lost year.

In an effort to recognize these students, HCC unveiled its Grad Gift Campaign in May. The Grad Gift provided 2020 high school graduate two free online classes in the summer term.

“We wanted to recognize these students, especially during this trying time,” said Dr. Jim Klauber. “For those whose lives were disrupted at the very beginning, perhaps this gift would help them find direction in their career or educational path forward.”

By the first day of summer term, HCC

had over 321 applicants who applied for the Grad Gift program. Students who missed the deadline for application were encouraged to pursue financial aid options for fall.

For students like Jaylyn Etter, from Smithsburg, the Grad Gift campaign was a bright spot in a difficult senior year.

“It was a great program, specifically for students who were not able to afford \$800 on two college classes,” she said. “I was able to get a feel for summer classes and get a head start before the fall semester. I am very grateful I was given the opportunity to be a part of the Grad Gift Program.”

Dr. Klauber echoes Jaylyn’s sentiments. “We are happy that out of something as difficult as this pandemic, something good arose.”

## Emergency Assistance for Students

Thanks to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Emergency Security (CARES) Act, students received some extra help during the spring and summer semesters. HCC’s Office of Grants Development was able to quickly devise a plan to administer the \$1.1 million in grant funds awarded to HCC, and provide emergency financial aid to eligible students.

Staff from the HCC Foundation, Financial Aid Office, and Academic Affairs reviewed the financial aid applications provided by students to determine who had the greatest financial need. The amount of the award varied depending on the number of credits each student was taking during the semester.

The HCC Foundation also performed a fundraising drive to assist students in critical need. The Office of College Advancement worked in tandem with College Student Services to see that student needs were met. By this writing, more than \$600,000 has been distributed, and the College will issue out the remaining grants over the fall 2020 and spring 2021 terms.

“We realize that many students will have continued needs in the near future as the economy regains full strength,” said Dr. Christine Ohl-Gigliotti. We have the

resources to continue to support these students into 2021, when hopefully this pandemic will subside.”



For students like Emmanuel, the emergency fund came at just the right time. After his mother was in a car accident earlier this year and his father’s business was impacted by COVID-19, Emmanuel needed extra financial support to help him complete his classes. “We had been praying everyday about what to do. I didn’t know if I was going to have to drop out. HCC helped me keep my priority on education, and has given me so much opportunity.”

## HCC’s Volunteer Corps Goes Virtual

Between June 2019 and June 2020, HCC’s volunteer corps provided over 6,300 hours of service to the campus community. In March, when HCC moved to virtual operations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the College temporarily suspended volunteer activities with the exception of committee and governance activities. While volunteers are eager to get back on campus, some have stayed active using ZOOM or other online platforms. Instead of face-to-face tutoring and library support, the College is using Zoom to facilitate one-on-one tutoring. While synchronizing student needs with volunteer availability is a challenge, the College is committed to making sure students get the same level of support as always.





## CBES Construction Underway

The Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Studies (CBES) construction project is a renovation of the former Technical Innovation Center. HCC hosted the official groundbreaking ceremony on October 2, 2020. Expected to open in 2021, the new CBES will house HCC programs in business, entrepreneurship, and accounting. There will also be two new ad-

vanced manufacturing labs, designed to foster growth in our technical and workforce training.

Naming opportunities are still available for spaces and offices in CBES. For more information on the CBES project, contact Dr. Ashley Whaley, executive director of the HCC Foundation, at 240-500-2213 or by email at [anwhaley@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:anwhaley@hagerstowncc.edu).

## Updates

**CHILDCARE** - Changes in college operations have affected students young and old at HCC. In April, the College made the difficult decision to close the Children's Learning Center, which has provided preschool instruction for many Washington County children over the years. Longstanding budgetary issues, coupled with the difficulty of providing services during the pandemic, made the closure necessary.

As Maryland transitions to Phase III in the fight against COVID-19, there may be new life at the Children's Learning Center. President Jim Klauber announced that the College would soon issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to area child care providers.

"We want to find a community partner who has the same dedication to children as we did in the CLC. Our hope is that we can find an entity to help us resume operations by mid-2021," Klauber said. "Our budgetary issues will not go away for several years. If we can find a suitable vendor, then we can offer the same services without the fiscal liability."

**GRANTS** - The Grants Development Office continues to work across the College to pursue grant funds in support of the mission, vision and strategic plan: always prioritizing the needs of the students. Below are significant grants that were recently received:

- The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$1,179,157 through the CARES Act Institutional Grant for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, and \$115,250 through the Strengthening Institution Program to support the Grad Gift 2020 program.
- The Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund awarded \$322,334 for Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education.
- The Community Foundation of Washington County awarded a \$2500 matching grant for the HCC Foundation's Student Emergency Assistance Fund.
- A third round of funding from the Department of Education for the

TRIO Student Support Services program was received. The five-year, \$1.3 million-dollar grant funds provides support for low-income students, first-generation students, and students with disabilities.

**ATHLETICS** - In August, the NJCAA (the governing body for community college athletics) recommended moving all fall and winter sport competitions (with the exception of cross country) to the spring term, to minimize COVID-19 risks for students and coaches. As a result, HCC's ARCC remains quiet, but coaches and trainers have been busy with pre-season practices, modified training plans, and helping students plan for the unexpected. The focus has been on keeping student athletes safe and positive about their journey through HCC and Hawk Athletics.

But there was a bright spot for athletes this summer. The HCC Foundation continued with its annual awarding of athletic scholarships, providing assistance to 77 student athletes, and helping them complete their educational goals.



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