

THE ADVISOR

News from the Hagerstown Community College Advancement Office

Spring 2024

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION



Greetings HCC Family!

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and anticipating the groundhog's prediction of an early spring! While we have faced many changes at HCC this year, we are ever focused on our core mission: providing high quality educational programs with a focus on workforce development in our community.

In this issue of The Advisor, you will read about one of our stellar English professors. Her caring style has saved many students who self-proclaim with exasperation, "I cannot write!" You will also read about all we are doing in the community in our Workforce Solutions and Continuing Education division. We just scratch the surface here!

Finally, one area that I would like to see grow at HCC is our student participation in Phi Theta Kappa. PTK is the international honor society for two-year college students, and it provides phenomenal success, scholarship opportunities, and personal growth for its members.

This issue will give you a glimpse of some of the things going on at HCC. I would encourage you to come out to campus, and see for yourself why "HCC is the place to be!"

Yours truly,

Dr. Jim Klauber



"The HCC Foundation Scholarships help lighten these students' loads so they can engage in the heavier thinking necessary to lead this next generation."

– Amanda Miller, HCC English Professor

IN THIS ISSUE:

Workforce Solutions & Continuing Education Program Highlight, Title III Program Overview, Faculty Spotlight, and more!

Would you like to make a difference in our community? Donate towards your preferred scholarship fund today at hagerstowncc.edu/giving.

What do you want to see in our newsletters? Email us at collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu to let us know!

Faculty Spotlight: Amanda Miller



As an English professor for 18 years, Amanda Miller is committed to Hagerstown Community College and sees value in all that the institution does for the community. During her time at HCC, she has served as the faculty advisor for HCC's Hedge Apple literary magazine, as well as the faculty advisor for the HCC English Club.

Professor Miller directly experiences the life-changing impact that an education at HCC has for students. She explains the following:

"Although HCC students come to the College in different situations and at different ages, they all have one thing in common: they are looking to pave the way to a brighter future for themselves and those they love. When they are here at HCC, they often juggle full-

time jobs, families, difficult classes, and other responsibilities. Very few of them would classify themselves as full-time students with no other roles.

When asked this last year to write about one problem community college students encounter, so many of my students wrote about financial stress. So often, they must decide whether to study for exams or to work the extra shift to pay their bills. They want to invest in their future, but they know they can't do it at the expense of their present. Students can't focus on studying when they lack basic necessities.

The HCC Foundation scholarship helps lighten these students' loads so they can engage in the heavier thinking necessary to lead this next generation. Community college students are our future: they have often overcome incredible obstacles, and when they leave HCC, they are equipped with the skills and empathy necessary to establish supportive communities and encourage others to thrive, too."

Professor Miller holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Roanoke College, a Master of Arts in Publication Design from the University of Baltimore, and a Master of Arts in Fiction Writing from Johns Hopkins University. She did

not intend to teach, even throughout her bachelor's degree and her first master's degree.

In her early thirties, a friend of her mom's reached out to her, desperate to find an adjunct to teach a newly scheduled English class. She was terrified, but she was expecting her first child and needed the money, so she accepted.

"That was eighteen years ago, and I've loved teaching ever since. When I interviewed for the full-time position at HCC, I knew I had found not only a career, but a life here," says Professor Miller.

Having grown up in Hagerstown and as a current resident, she enjoys the role HCC plays in the community and she stays in touch with many of her students, some of whom now live far away and others who have returned to the community of Washington County like she did. She can see the ways in which their time at HCC still benefits them.

She has had several jobs in writing and has written several children's books, including the book "The Fishing Lesson" that goes along with the statue of the mama and baby bears in the Hagerstown City Park lake. She has had poetry and fiction published in numerous journals as well.



Professor Miller, middle-right, alongside other HCC employees and Andrew Forsthoefer, author of "Walking to Listen"



Professor Miller, middle, and her 2022 World Literature class. The students created Don Quixote costumes and competed in jousting and poetry contests.

Washington County Career Expo



The Washington County Career Expo had over 600 attendees and 140 participating organizations. Many success stories have been reported about job seekers who found jobs, made connections, and learned about educational or professional opportunities.

132 HCC students attended the event!

Save the date: The next Washington County Career Expo will be held on April 17, 2024!

HCC Dental Clinic – Free Dental Cleanings for Veterans



In November, HCC's Dental Hygiene Clinic offered free dental cleanings for Veterans – saving Veterans in our community over \$1,000!

Services offered at the Clinic included:

- Medical/dental history assessment

- Blood pressure screening
- Oral cancer screening
- Preventative oral hygiene treatment
- Dental cleanings, x-rays, exams and more!

Stay tuned for the next free cleaning day at the Dental Clinic!

Workforce Solutions & Continuing Education: Commercial Vehicle Transportation Specialist

You've probably seen one of the many HCC trucks out on the road. As part of our Commercial Vehicle Transportation Specialist programs, HCC's instructors and students hit the road to learn how to master these 18 wheelers and other commercial vehicles. Our latest addition, courtesy of a grant from the Senator George Edwards Fund, is a Kenworth Tractor. The truck even doubles as a moving billboard for the college!

Starting salaries for drivers can exceed \$70,000 and there is huge need in the industry for new drivers. HCC's Class A Specialists have a 98 percent pass rate through the state CDL testing facilities, as well as a job placement rate in excess of 95 percent!



HCC Foundation Board Member Spotlight: Randy Scott

How did you become affiliated with HCC?

So many of my employees have had positive experiences at HCC. Both my daughters have taken classes at HCC and appreciated the top-notch local opportunity. Some of my first on-campus interactions came while providing meals for United Way Day of Caring and attending the kickoff event held at HCC.

What do you like most about being an HCC Foundation Board member?

I'm excited about building a better community through my business and personal investment of time and resources. The foundation gives me a tangible way to both invest and engage in making our community better through education.

What project or program at HCC are you most passionate about?

The scholarship program is amazing and I am always happy to see young people having access to some financial assistance when taking on the challenge of higher education.

What impact do you hope HCC will have on the future of the community?

I believe HCC is already changing the future for our community. The amazing programs that are being offered and delivered with excellence would make many other communities quite jealous of what has been done here! Dr. Klauber is great at not only seeing the future but having a very clear understanding of what the next steps are to overcome any potential obstacles along the way. We are blessed to have HCC in our community!



HCC College Advancement Staff visit the new Sharpsburg Pike location with the Greater Hagerstown Committee

Four Questions with Title III Program Director Natalia Kennedy

The proposed Guided Pathways Approach to Student Success Title III project is focused on improving student retention and success. The project plan intentionally engages students, faculty, staff, and the community by developing a strategic orientation, first-year experience, and an early alert system to identify students at risk of dropping out. Implementation strategies are organized according to increasing student engagement and retention, and improved teaching and learning. Title III, created through the Higher Education Act of 1965, provides federal assistance to strengthen and improve the academic quality of institutions of higher education, with an emphasis on assisting low-income students.

What is the goal of the Title III Grant?

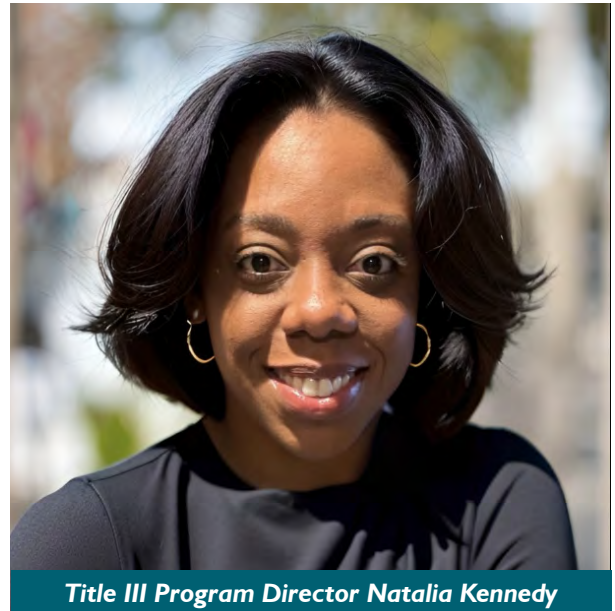
The goal of this project is to assist HCC in creating a data management system that will boost career pathways for students, enhance online learning for students, and support professors and staff in their professional development. Increased goal attainment, persistence, and completion among HCC students will result from the Title III award, which will boost institutional retention.

How do you think Title III will transform HCC?

In my opinion, this funding will make HCC more resilient and, as a result, better equipped to assist their students. The award improves the administration, financial stability, and caliber of education at an institution. In order to guarantee the success of HCC students—particularly those who are first-time, first-generation, low-income, disabled, or non-traditionally aged part-time students—it will also offer outstanding, transformative support.

So far, what are some of the changes on campus that have come about as a result of Title III?

We have had more faculty and staff involved in events such as New Student Orientation and our HCC Career Fair. We are also in the beginning stages of implementing our student retention component called ConexED.



Title III Program Director Natalia Kennedy

What are you looking forward to for Title III in the next year?

We want to see an increase in student retention as we carry out our activities and grow our Title III grant. As our First Year Experience courses expand, we also want to accomplish our objective of completing our Quality Matters certifications. We remain dedicated to increasing the number of new students who attend orientation while collaborating with faculty and staff.



Phi Theta Kappa – Honor Society

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is an internationally recognized honor society for community college students. Since 1929, it has been the official honor society for two-year colleges, recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges, and has over 1,300 chapters across 11 nations. Founded in 1918, PTK was established to give recognition to community college students with excellent scholarship and character and has maintained fidelity to its founders' commitment to provide enrichment in four hallmarks: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship.



2023 Phi Theta Kappa Students

Calling All HCC/HJC Alumni!

Do you have an achievement that you would like to share?

HCC would like to share exciting life events and achievements of our alumni in newsletters and annual reports. These events could include marriages, educational achievements, new jobs/promotions, and more!

Please submit your: full name, year of graduation, specific details regarding your life event/achievement, and photo(s)



HCC Alumni
Hannah and
Jordan Coulter
met at HCC in
2015 and got
married years
later!



Click here to submit an online form, or respond to this email, no later than March 15.

Questions? Contact 240-500-2348



“HCC was the key to my success.

Just a few years ago, I was barely making it and I was struggling to make it each month on government assistance. HCC was the key and made it easy for me to earn my Associate Degree (along with some hard work). I had professors that took time to invest in me, and equipped me to obtain scholarships that then enabled me to continue my education and launch into a career that I now love. I'm an attorney, I can fully support my family on my own, we just bought a house, and we are thriving. I'm still in touch with those professors and I'm grateful to HCC for helping transform my life and my children's lives.”

– Kristin Pryor, HCC Alumni

Celebrating Community Through Campus Traditions

Trunk or Treat:

Spooky season was extra special this year – HCC hosted the first annual Trunk or Treat for HCC faculty, staff and their families!



Amy Sterner, Director of Athletics



Heather Barnhart, Student Activities Coordinator

Donor Recognition:

Endowed scholarship donors and students joined together for an evening of gratitude. This year's ceremony highlighted three scholarship recipients as guest speakers and gave students the opportunity to meet and greet their endowed scholarship donors.



Krista Collison, HCC Student and Lisa Fish, Endowed Scholarship Donor



(left to right, starting with the front row) Row 1: Georgia Pierre, Jim Pierre, Stacey McGee Row 2: Jan Cirincione, Dr. Robert Cirincione, Marianne Schneider, Arthur Schneider Row 3: Mary Ellen South, Mike South, Dave Wagner, Ann Marie Downey

Holiday Luncheon:

Our volunteers, retirees, and friends joined together for festive fun in December for the Annual Holiday Luncheon. This year's luncheon featured classic holiday fare, student performers, and a very special guest, Santa's favorite elf!



(left to right, starting with the back front row)
Row 1: Brenda Barlow, Betty Jo Ganley, Matt Trunk, Tim Doyle
Row 2: Bob Carson, Marv Shubert, Winnie Shubert, Lana Graham, Vernell Doyle, Barbara Carson, Chuck Ernst, Ralph Chapin



Student Performers

Holiday Door Décor Contest (Hawaiian Holiday):

To close out the holiday festivities on campus, faculty and staff across campus competed in the annual door decorating contest. This year's theme was "Hawaiian Holiday," and the Digital Printing & Design Services team took home the trophy!



Nick Cullop, Debbie Robbins, and Michelle Shank from DPDS

Hagerstown Community College 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form Available NOW!



Nominate an outstanding former HJC/HCC athlete to be inducted into the
23rd class of the Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on October 12, 2024

Nomination forms are due June 1, 2024

For nominee requirements and access to the submission form, contact collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16-17, 2024

Flower & Garden Show

April 5, 2024

HCC Foundation's Annual Tribute

April 12, 2024

Spring Dance Recital

April 13, 2024

Spring Open House

April 16, 2024

Donor Nursing Event

April 17, 2024

Washington County Career Expo

April 19, 2024

Earth Day Work Day

April 19-21, 2024

"Zombie Town" Spring Production

April 24

HCC Spring Art Showcase

April 26, 2024

Fever Candlelight Concerts

May 8-18, 2024

Alumni Hawaiian Cruise

June 13, 2024

Thirsty Thursday Concert:
The Plate Scrapers

July 3, 2024

Maryland Symphony Orchestra's
Salute to Independence

July 26, 2024

Red, White & Blue Series:
U.S. Navy Country Concert

August 9, 2024

Red, White & Blue Series:
U.S. Army Blues Concert

September 13, 2024

Alumni Golf Tournament –
31st Annual Alumni &
Friends Golf Tournament

October 12, 2024

Homecoming Weekend

October 12, 2024

STEAM Fest

Questions? Email collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu or Call 240-500-2232