

THE ADVISOR

News from the Hagerstown Community College Advancement Office

Fall 2025

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION



Greetings, friends of HCC!

Fall semester is winding down as our students look ahead to final exams and we begin preparing for the spring term. It's also a great time to reflect on what an ex-

citing semester we have had. We're exceptionally grateful to all of our friends and supporters who joined us for the opening of the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center. The Bowman Center is now up and running, with over 160 students enrolled in the Barr Construction Institute. Many more are joining us for daytime classes in areas like truck driving and small engine repair. You can read more about the Bowman Center in this edition of *The Advisor*, along with stories on many of the other great things happening at HCC!

On campus, we're about to begin the long-awaited renovation of the Advanced Technology Center. Older alumni may remember this building as the original gymnasium. That project is expected to start in January.

Aside from construction, we are about to embark on a new strategic plan for the

College followed by one for the HCC Foundation. You will have the opportunity to participate in some external stakeholder meetings, and I hope you will share your insight for the future of our College!

As you read this edition of *The Advisor*, please know how much we appreciate your support. Your commitment to our students is what makes HCC great, and we are truly thankful.

Yours truly,

Dr. Jim Klauber



"It's an exhilarating experience to be amongst a group that is focused all in the same direction — and that's quality education."

*- Jim Farley, longtime supporter of HCC,
in his speech at the 2025 Donor Recognition Reception*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Bowman Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Donor Recognition Reception, Radiography Impact Tour, Alumni Golf Tournament, Alumni Spotlight, and more!

Ready to make a difference in our students' lives? 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!

HCC Celebrates Grand Opening of D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center



HCC leaders, supporters, and community partners officially opened the D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center with a celebratory ribbon cutting, September 25, 2025.

The D.M. Bowman Family Workforce Training Center was buzzing with excitement on September 25 as Hagerstown Community College welcomed donors, alumni, elected officials, students, and community partners to its official ribbon cutting ceremony.

Once home to a Gold's Gym, the 41,000-square-foot facility has been transformed into a state-of-the-art hub for high-demand workforce training programs including commercial truck driving, forklift operation, and registered apprenticeships through the Barr Construction Institute. Previously offered at separate locations, these pro-



Michael and Mary Ellen South stand beside a newly dedicated training truck named in honor of Michael R. South, unveiled during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

grams are now housed under one roof in a modern space built for hands-on learning and career readiness.

The \$14 million project was made possible through \$5.8 million in federal funding from the Economic Development Administration, \$2.5 million in support from Washington County, and HCC's own institutional reserves. A transformative \$1 million scholarship gift from the Jone L. Bowman Family Foundation will provide critical tuition support for students pursuing workforce training.

Before the ribbon cutting, HCC President Dr. Klauber emphasized how the new facility will expand access to lucrative careers for Washington County residents. Linda Bowman Ebersole, foundation manager for the Jone L. Bowman Family Foundation, spoke about her father Don Bowman's strong belief in building a skilled regional workforce and his lifelong commitment to education and training.

The program also featured an inspiring testimonial from Jordan Thompson, a former Marine and 2024 HCC graduate. After military service, starting a family, and working in the electrical field, Jordan used his GI Bill benefits to

enroll in the Barr Construction Institute's (BCI) electrical program and later earned his associate degree at HCC. He now teaches at BCI, works as an engineering technician, and credits his success to HCC's workforce training and mentor Kathy Gress.

Additional remarks were offered by Paula Lampton, Chair of the HCC Board of Trustees; Bill McIntire, Mayor of Hagerstown; and Jeff Cline, Vice President of the Washington County Board of Commissioners. Don Bowman accepted a certificate of recognition from the Washington County Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the College.

After the ceremony, attendees toured the building's modern labs and classrooms, observed equipment demonstrations, and saw firsthand how students are training on full-size trucks and heavy equipment. The day closed with celebration and pride as guests reflected on how the center will transform lives, strengthen local industries, and open new doors for generations to come



Members of the HCC Alumni Association gather beneath the newly installed Alumni Association Conference Center sign, celebrating the first official naming in the Bowman Training Center.

Donor Recognition Reception Brings Donors and Students Together



“There will be moments in school or your career where you can’t see the rest of the staircase... in those moments, you need to be relentless and believe in yourself.” - Charlie Burgos, Student Speaker



“I wanted to be the girl who beat cancer with a smile on my face—and I did just that.” - Taylor Barnes, Student Speaker

On the morning of November 7, more than 400 donors, students, student scholarship recipients, and guests gathered in the ARCC for the HCC Foundation’s annual Donor Recognition Reception.

As attendees filled their plates with catered brunch and found their seats, conversation cards sparked discussion at their tables. Dr. Jim Klauber opened the program by setting aside his prepared remarks, inspired instead by a card at his table that asked, *What are you grateful for today?* His response: meeting the first-ever recipients of the Klauber Family Scholarship, mentoring a student through the Sioda Scholarship Program, and serving as HCC’s president during such an exciting time of growth.

Longtime supporter Jim Farley then took to the mic to share what inspires him and his wife Linda to give. Having once received tuition assistance himself, he spoke to the lasting value of that support. “So many students wouldn’t be able to pursue their education without financial support,” he said. “And that’s what makes donors so important.”

Two student speakers then offered

powerful reflections on how scholarships have shaped their journeys.

Charlie Burgos, recipient of the Mildred E. Knott Memorial Scholarship and Ed Godlove Scholarship, spoke about his academic and mental health challenges, including 11 hospitalizations. He described how scholarships helped him reimagine what’s possible: “Sometimes all a person needs is for someone to believe in them.”

Taylor Barnes, recipient of the Norman

and Kitty Foltz Scholarship, reflected on returning to college after surviving stage four Hodgkin’s lymphoma. Inspired by the care she received during treatment, Taylor is now pursuing a degree in radiation therapy. “Thank you for being the light at the end of a tunnel,” she said to HCC donors.

After the program, students and donors took photos together to celebrate the occasion. It was a memorable day of connection and gratitude at HCC.



Scholarship donor Rick Lowman poses with Foundation scholarship recipient Lee Prather Armstrong and her grandmother Peggy after the reception. “I did not receive the Rick Lowman ’69 and Melanie Files scholarship, we just ended up talking and shared a lot in common!” said Lee.

An Inside Look at Radiography



First-year student Litz Martinez demonstrates how to carefully position patients under the X-ray machine to get a clear image.



Student speaker Ashley O'Connell chats with guests during the lab tour, offering insight into how radiography students interpret X-ray images in real clinical settings.



Dr. Carl Galligan, HCC's Dean of Students from 1971 to 2003, dons a lead apron with second-year student Nanci Chahal during an imaging demonstration.

Just days before Halloween, the HCC Foundation welcomed guests to the Career Programs Building for the Radiography Impact Tour, an evening designed to give supporters an inside look at one of the college's most competitive and in-demand healthcare programs. Among the community members in attendance were HCC Board of Trustees Chair Paula Lampton and County Commissioners President John Barr.

Attendees were welcomed by program coordinator Megan Dayhoff, and second-year radiography student Ashley O'Connell took the podium to share her perspective as both a scholarship recipient and a future healthcare professional.

"The radiography program here at HCC has given me the opportunity to have the career I've wanted for my whole adult life," Ashley said. "The staff that run the program have set me up for success, and our clinical rotations have given me an opportunity to get my name out there at hospitals and facilities that I may work for in the future. I can't wait!"

Ashley also expressed her appreciation for the support that made her education possible. "Donor support is so impactful, and I am so grateful for the scholarship opportunities that they provide students like me," she added.

After the program, radiography students led small-group tours through the



Associate Professor Michelle McDaniel and first-year student Zoe McCusker showcase HCC's new Anatomage Table, a life-size 3D anatomy tool that allows students to virtually explore and perform procedures on real human cadaver images in lifelike detail.

program's labs and classrooms. Visitors explored X-ray machines, asked questions, and watched students demonstrate the imaging techniques they've learned. They even got to try on the radiation protection gear students wear during clinical simulations.

"I was very impressed with the equipment and the lab," commented Alumni Association board member Kim Nally. "I enjoyed speaking with the students. It is good to know that we are in very capable hands when it comes to our radiologic studies!"

As the tour wrapped up, one thing was clear: HCC students are ready to lead the future of healthcare in our community.



Radiography faculty and students pose with a reproduction of the first medical X-ray, an image of Wilhelm Röntgen's wife's hand taken in 1895. Faculty members from left to right are Jamie Sandeen (Health Science Adjunct Professor), Ashley Fiery (Clinical Coordinator), Michelle McDaniel (Associate Professor), and Megan Dayhoff (Program Coordinator, far right).

HCC Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament Raises Over \$21,000



From left to right: Denise Droneburg, Foundation Board Member Julie Donat, Marianne Walsh, and Patricia Westgate posed for a Foursome team photo as the morning fog began to clear over the golf course.

The 32nd Annual HCC Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament brought together community members, alumni, and supporters for a day of friendly competition and fundraising at Beaver Creek Country Club in Hagerstown on Friday, September 12.

This year, the tournament joined forces with HCC's Barr Construction Institute to unite two longstanding events under one banner.

HCC alumnus Tom Pacello, Class of 1967, broke the record of farthest way traveled for the tournament, coming all the way from Germantown, Tennessee. It was his first time back to the Robinwood campus since graduating. "I had a great time supporting my alma mater and seeing all the wonderful changes to campus," Tom said.

Golfers enjoyed unlimited beverages courtesy of Ewing Oil Company, sandwiches from Chick-fil-A and Jersey Mike's, and a post-tournament dinner of strip steak, grilled chicken, and locally sourced corn, sponsored by Sun Management, Inc.

Thanks to strong community support and a dedicated planning committee, the tournament raised \$21,847 for the college, bringing the Alumni Association's tournament net profit total to over \$335,000 since its inception.

Alumnus Mike Kipe served as tournament chair, leading a planning commit-

tee that included Jerred Brown, Craig Fentress, Kathy Gress, Rich Keller, Beverly Kipe, Steve Lohr, Karen Luther, Jack Miller, Tyler Nedimyer, and Lisa Stewart.

All proceeds from the event benefit Hagerstown Community College and its students. It was a beautiful day on the course to support HCC!



HCC alumnus Tom Pacello (right), Class of 1967, traveled from Tennessee to participate in the tournament. He is pictured with HCC Foundation Executive Director Dr. Ashley Whaley (left) and HCC President Dr. Jim Klauber (center).

\$197K Grant Expands Dental & Lab Training in Rural MD



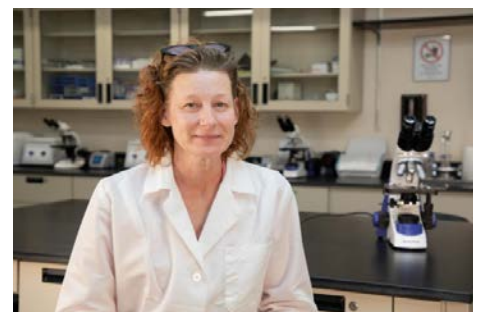
HCC dental hygiene students gain hands-on clinical experience in the college's on-campus dental lab, preparing them to provide essential oral healthcare to the community.

HCC is proud to celebrate a transformational \$197,045 award from the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund, an investment that will open doors for students and expand vital dental care for our community.

This award will support the expansion of HCC's on-campus dental clinic, set to open in spring 2026, and equip the college's Medical Laboratory Technician program with high-quality equipment. These upgrades will prepare more than 120 future healthcare professionals and provide essential dental services to 900 residents across Western Maryland.

This project reflects a powerful collaboration between HCC and local partners who share a commitment to creating opportunity and improving quality of life in rural communities.

To learn more about the Rural Maryland Council, visit rural.maryland.gov.



Shawnda Coon, HCC's Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program coordinator and instructor, launched the new MLT program in Fall 2025.



Alumni & Friends Set Sail to New England and Canada



At the fishing village in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia: Judy Kofeet (Class of 1980, 1946 Society member), Lisa Stewart (Class of 1979), and Ester Sudec



HJC Class of 1968 alumnus and 1946 Society member David Wagner poses in front of the iconic lighthouse at Peggy's Cove in Halifax, Nova Scotia.



HCC alumni and friends pose for a group photo during the Fall 2025 cruise wearing their matching shirts to commemorate the trip.

The HCC Alumni Association recently returned from its 2025 Fall Alumni & Friends Cruise, a nine-day voyage from Baltimore to New England and Canada aboard Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas*.

Alumni, retired faculty, and friends explored picturesque coastal cities including Boston, Saint John, Sydney, and Halifax, taking in crisp fall colors, sampling local seafood, and reconnecting with fellow Hawks. One day, the group donned matching HCC T-shirts to commemorate the adventure and show their school pride while sightseeing together.

"The Alumni and Friends cruise was the highlight of my fall," said Judy Kofeet, Alumni Association and Foundation board member, retired HCC faculty, and 1946 Society member. "Our weather was perfect, and we even caught some beautiful fall color. I loved traveling with so many friends. We played cards at sea, met up for evening shows, and shared stories over dinner about our excursions and the fun we had."

Cruise proceeds benefited the HCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, continuing the tradition of alumni giving back to support future generations of students.

To learn more about the Alumni Association or how to get involved, visit www.hagerstowncc.edu/advance-ment/hcc-alumni-association.



Gathered before dinner on the cruise!
Front row (left to right): Bonnie Beachley (Class of 1992), Karen Kidwell, Robin Spickler
Second row: Cecil Beachley, Carolyn Mentzer, Jill Miller
Back row: Donald Reid, Linda Reid (Class of 2000), Joan Wetzel, Peggy Zeigler

JOIN US FOR THE SPRING 2026 ALUMNI & FRIENDS CRUISE!

April 29 – May 8, 2026 • Royal Caribbean's Oasis of the Seas •
Roundtrip from Cape Liberty, NJ

*Everyone is welcome, and proceeds benefit the HCC Alumni Association
Scholarship Fund through the HCC Foundation, Inc.*



Alumni Spotlight: Kristen Pike Drives Innovation in Cancer Research



Kristen Pike has turned a lifelong love of science into a career that's making a global impact. A 1990 Biology graduate of Hagerstown Junior College, she serves as an Associate Scientist II at the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, where she has worked for over 30 years.

Kristen recently co-authored the manuscript "Circulating plasma EBV DNA: a potential tool to facilitate diagnosis of pediatric Burkitt lymphoma in sub-Saharan Africa," published in a 2025 edition of *Blood Global Hematology*. The study ex-

plores how Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) DNA levels in plasma may help enable earlier, more accessible diagnoses for pediatric Burkitt lymphoma in areas with limited lab infrastructure.

With a lifelong passion for science and service, Kristen continues to help drive breakthroughs in cancer diagnostics and global health. Her work showcases just one example of how HCC alumni are making an impact on the world!



GOT AN ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT TO SHARE?

Let us know by scanning the QR code!

End of Year Giving: Join their Journey



"Receiving my scholarship lifted the pressure off my family and inspired me to work harder than ever, even as I battled health issues. Thank you for helping me on my journey."

— Roshni Baig,
HCC Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Each year, hundreds of students rely on scholarships funded by community donors to cover tuition, textbooks, and essential living expenses.

This fall, the HCC Foundation launched its end-of-year giving campaign to celebrate the journeys that begin, continue, and

transform at HCC. From first-generation students and career changers to working parents and veterans, every Hawk has a story shaped by the support they receive.

The HCC Foundation holds more than 315 endowed scholarships that support nearly 600 students each year. With 70% of HCC students eligible for financial aid, your gift today can help even more students pursue their paths to success.

Make your tax-deductible donation by December 31, 2025 to support students as early as Fall 2026!

JOIN THEIR JOURNEY.

When you support the annual fund, your gift helps students keep moving toward graduation, opportunity, and impact. Scan the code to make a gift!





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 4, 2025

HCC Fall Art Show Reception

December 9, 2025

HCC Holiday Luncheon

January 19-23, 2026

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week at HCC

March 14 & 15, 2026

HCC Alumni Flower & Garden Show

March 27, 2026

Washington County Career Expo & Open House

April 10, 2026

HCC Foundation Tribute Dinner
Honoring the HCC Nursing Program
Hosted by Wells and Karen Ridenour

April 29 - May 8, 2026

HCC Alumni & Friends Spring Cruise

May 16, 2026

HCC Commencement Ceremony

Questions? Email collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu or Call 240-500-2348