
Deeanne Alexander Operating Budget Testimony - Howard Community College

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Deeanne Alexander Operating Budget Testimony 4.27.26.pdf;

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Good morning,

Attached, please find the testimony of Deeanne Alexander in support of Howard Community College as presented at the April 27, 2026 Operating Budget Hearing.

Thank you,

Adam

Adam Leatherman

Director of Community Relations

Howard Community College

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Testimony of Deanne Alexander

Howard Community College Student

April 27, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

County Council Operating Budget Hearing

Good evening, my name is Deanne Alexander, and I sit before you as a current student and employee at Howard Community College.

Allow me a moment to give insight into what life looked like before HCC. From the age of 1 through 5 I went through 13 different foster homes where I endured what no child should ever be subjected to. I was adopted at the age of 5 by my parents who understood that I came with severe trauma, and I would often ask when I would be going to my next, until I realized they were my forever home.

Between 6th grade and 12th, I attended a “therapeutic boarding school” where my parents’ true intentions were to support a variety of emotional problems that I was facing. Unbeknownst to my parents I was in constant fight or flight, and I was just trying to make it out of that school alive. I graduated with a 2.6; but when I look back, some of the most important things were taken away such as self-purpose, opportunity, and a chance at a decent education.

5 kids later, a single mom, a near death experience in 2023 while giving birth, severe postpartum and therapy; statistics were broken when HCC said welcome in 2025; I was ready to reclaim what was taken away from me years ago and turn that trauma into strength and empowerment; I began walking the halls, quad, and classes with peers just like me, juggling kids, school, work, and life all while getting the quality education I deserved.

Now, I am going into my 3rd semester with areas of study in general studies, human services and criminal justice. I have had the privilege of advocating at student advocacy day in Annapolis, made the dean’s list, was invited into HCC Parent Scholars Program where they assist with removing obstacles and providing opportunities, and was recently extended an invite to The Fredrick K. Schoenbrodt Honors Program with a current GPA of 3.8. Earlier this year I was even offered a job Side by Side with our amazing recruitment team where I am currently the manager for our HCC student ambassador program, and this couldn’t be more rewarding or fitting to who I am.

I am proud to be a Howard County resident of Glenwood and truly honored to be an HCC Dragon where barriers are lifted, opportunities are given and dreams do come true no matter what walk of life or demographic. All these endless opportunities would not be possible for single parents like me or anyone else without the continued support of those who serve on the Howard County Council, the budgeting committee, and the proposed FY 27 operating budgets. You all contribute to making Students dreams come true.

Thank you for your time and as always GO Dragons.