



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You Can Get There From Here.

10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044-3197
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MD Relay 711
www.howardcc.edu

Testimony from Dr. Kathleen Hetherington

President, Howard Community College
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 24, 2017

Council Chair Weinstein and Councilmembers, I am Dr. Kate Hetherington, president of Howard Community College (HCC), and a resident of Columbia.

I am proud to be here tonight to speak for the faculty, staff, and 30,000 students at Howard Community College. Many of our dedicated faculty and staff are here tonight, so I would like them to stand and be recognized for their contributions to the college.

Thank you.

Whether Howard County residents want to start, advance, or change careers, Howard Community College provides pathways to success, and I'm proud to say that our efforts are working. After seven years of data collection, we found that our number of graduating students jumped a record 92 percent – the largest percentage among Maryland's 16 community colleges! I look forward

to celebrating what I hope will be another record number of graduates at commencement in May.

Providing pathways to success also means that we serve the needs of local employers, which is evident in the results of a recent economic impact study.

- In the last academic year, HCC, our students, and alumni added \$337.8 million to the Howard County economy. This is the equivalent to supporting nearly 5,400 jobs!

These measures of success would not possible without your commitment Howard Community College and building the workforce of the future. As you look to the next fiscal year, the college asks for your approval of the budget recommendation by Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman.

The recommendation calls for a 5.35 percent operating budget increase over last year for the opening of the science, engineering, and technology building, plus also provide funding for staffing and the retention of employees.

Specifically, HCC's request calls for four new positions, of which two staff members and one faculty member will be dedicated to the new building.

Adding full-time faculty helps the college maintain excellence in the classroom, plus these faculty develop courses, contribute to important college-wide initiatives, and improve the college's full-time/part-time faculty ratio, which remains below the state recommended ratio of 50/50.

In the budget, HCC is proposing a tuition increase of \$2 per credit hour. The college is always mindful of the cost of college for students, but must also consider the funding necessary to meet the instructional and service demands from students.

As a Great College to Work For eight years in a row, it is essential that the college retain budgeted employees through regular merit increases. HCC does not give step or cost of living adjustments. Therefore, the college is proposing a 2.25 percent merit increase for budgeted employees.

HCC's budget also calls for an increase in pay of \$25 per credit hour for adjunct faculty. This would mark the fifth adjunct faculty salary increase in a row, raising the rate to \$770 per credit hour, which is still below the rate of HCC's partner institution at the Laurel College Center, Prince George's Community College.

On behalf of our students and all those in Howard County who depend on us to provide quality education, please support the County Executive's budget recommendation for a 5.35 percent increase in operating funding. An investment in Howard Community College is an investment in the current and future workforce of Howard County.

Thank you for your time tonight and for your past support, and I look forward to even stronger support in fiscal year 2018.



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Testimony from Sarah Ahmed

Student, Howard Community College
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 24, 2017

My name is Sarah Ahmed, and I am a resident of Laurel and a student at Howard Community College.

I am moved to the United States when I was nine years old. My parents chose to move here. to provide their children with a better future, and it is clear that they have succeeded. I am the first in my family to go through the education system here and, on May 25, I will be the first in my family to graduate from college. Not only will I be graduating from Howard Community College, I am proud to share that I will be the commencement speaker. It is such an honor to represent my family and the college I have come to know as my second home.

When I was a senior in high school, I was unable to afford what I thought was my dream school, so I enrolled at HCC, where I discovered so many wonderful opportunities, such as:

- Rouse Scholars, an honors program with supportive faculty and staff, inspiring classmates, and a mentorship opportunity with Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
- HCC study abroad in Ireland, which made me realize there is a great big world out there

- And service learning trips and experiences, where I gave back to my community and beyond.

Looking back, I now know that HCC was the smartest decision I ever made in my life. HCC's incredible faculty and staff with helping me discover who I am and what my passions are. After graduation, I plan to transfer to Boston University or the University of Maryland, with the goal of earning a bachelor's degree and serving in the Peace Corps.

Please support HCC's operating budget and help even more students, just like me, learn how to "get there from here."

Thank you.



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Testimony from Mamie Perkins

Chair, Howard Community College Board of Trustees
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 24, 2017

Good evening, Chair Weinstein and members of the Council. I appreciate this opportunity to speak tonight on behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Howard Community College. I am Mamie Perkins, a Marriottsville resident, and chair of the college's board of trustees.

I want to begin by expressing the board's appreciation for the support you have shown over the years. Thank you.

As you work on the development of the fiscal year 2018 capital budget, please remember that your investment in the college today leads to a thriving and well-educated workforce of the future.

- A recent study found that students earning a degree at HCC will increase their annual earnings by more than \$13,000 compared to someone with only a high school diploma or GED.
- Significant wage increases as a result of education leads to a stronger Howard County economy.

For these reasons, the college must have your support in operational and capital funding to educate and train students for high-demand careers. The board asks for your support on the following recommendations by the County Executive:

- **\$11.4 million for the first phase renovation of the N and ST buildings**, which will transform science labs into social science/teacher education classrooms, and add more teaching labs for the hospitality and culinary management programs, and a centralized hub for honors programs.
- **\$2.2 million for much-needed systemic renovation funding** for upgrading vital systems on campus, enhancing facilities, and improving campus signage.

With your investment in our facilities, Howard Community College will continue to provide the best and most affordable higher education option and continue to build a stronger Howard County workforce for future.

Thank you for your support and your time this evening.