



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, 2019*

Good evening, Chairperson Mercer Rigby, Vice Chairperson Jones and Councilmembers. I am Dr. Kate Hetherington, a Columbia resident and president of Howard Community College. HCC trustees, faculty and staff have joined me tonight, and I ask them to stand and be recognized for their tremendous commitment to our students and community.

Earlier this spring, I sat before County Executive Ball to request an 8.5 percent increase in the college's operating budget, which reflected the realities of what it takes to educate students and support the outstanding faculty and staff who are so critical to student success. Prior to making this request, HCC departments had already reduced costs or reallocated funds to ensure that we asked only for what we needed because we understand the county's fiscal constraints.

The County Executive's budget proposed a 2.5 percent increase for HCC. To accommodate this reduction to our request of 8.5 percent, the college made difficult decisions to maintain its top priority: supporting and retaining employees, while continuing to provide the best possible value for students.

Howard Community College requests operating budget support because HCC cannot slow its efforts to help students, whether it is students who strive to pull their families out of poverty, the honors students who need an affordable education, or the adult learners who want to get ahead in their careers. Howard Community College is committed to living its mission of providing pathways to success.

I urge you to support the County Executive's proposed budget. 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 I look forward to your support.



HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION

I, KATHLEEN HETHERINGTON, have been duly authorized by
(name of individual)

Howard Community College Board of Trustees to deliver testimony to the
(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)

County Council regarding Capital & Operating Budget for HCC to express the organization's
(bill or resolution number)

support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.

(Please circle one.)

Printed Name: KATHLEEN HETHERINGTON

Signature: Kathleen Hetherington

Date: 4/24/19

Organization: Howard Community College

Organization Address: 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway
Columbia, MD 21044

Number of Members: 7

Name of Chair/President: Kevin Doyle, Chair

This form can be submitted electronically via email to councilmail@howardcountymd.gov no later than 5pm the day of the Public Hearing or delivered in person the night of the Public Hearing before testifying.



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Testimony from Kevin Doyle

*Chair, Howard Community College Board of Trustees
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 24, 2019*

Good evening, Chairperson Mercer Rigby, Vice Chairperson Jones and councilmembers. I am Kevin Doyle, an Ellicott City resident and chair of Howard Community College's board of trustees. Thank you for this opportunity to speak tonight.

The Howard County Council's past support of the college's capital budget is greatly appreciated. The college opened a LEED Gold-certified Science, Engineering, and Technology Building in 2017 and will hold a ribbon cutting for the renovated Howard Hall and the Academic Commons this summer.

The board recognizes the council has competing capital budget priorities for fiscal year 2020 budget, but please understand that serving nearly 30,000 students annually strains HCC's infrastructure. For that reason, the board asks for your support for the following capital budget recommendations made by the County Executive:

- **\$1.4 million for the start of planning and design for a new Mathematics and Athletics Complex.** The Hickory Ridge Building,

which houses the mathematics division, was built as an office building in 1982 and does not adequately support our academic and programmatic needs. Although the college has been diligent in maintaining the Athletic Center, the cost of renovation now exceeds the cost of a new facility. A new combined Mathematics and Athletics Complex will serve as a central hub for student learning and engagement, while helping meet local and state workforce demands.

- **\$2 million for systemic renovations** that will go toward much-needed upgrades to critical infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and facilities improvements.

Investing in HCC's operations and facilities pays dividends for the county government, taxpayers, and students.

- For every \$1 allocated to HCC, the county government will see a 4.6 percent return on investment.
- Students earning a degree at HCC will increase their annual earnings by more than \$425,000 over the course of their working life.

These increases lead to a vibrant workforce and a stronger Howard County economy. Your investment in HCC will ensure that HCC continues to provide affordable and accessible higher education to Howard County families.

Thank you, and I look forward to your support for fiscal year 2020.



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Testimony of Brenda Rosas

*Student, Howard Community College
Howard County Council Budget Hearing
April 24, 2019*

Good evening, my name is Brenda Rosas. I am a Columbia resident and student at Howard Community College.

As I was preparing to graduate from Wilde Lake High School, I didn't know my next steps and didn't have many resources for college. My parents, who were not born in the United States, never attended high school or college, so they could not guide me on my college search.

My counselor recommended Howard Community College and its Silas Craft Collegians program. He knew it would provide the help that I needed. The Silas Craft program is for students just like me, students who need additional support to succeed in college. Through the program, I have made close friends, found tutoring support, received academic guidance, and so much more. It's truly is the best decision I have made.

When I started college, my father had many questions and needed to know that I would be in a supportive environment. Staff from the college's Ambiciones program, designed specifically for Hispanic/Latino students, sat down with my father and answered all his questions, providing the information he needed to know. Staff also were there when I had a bad day and struggled with college.

Outside of the classroom, I have been a member of the Howard Community College Dragons cross country and track team. Over the past three years. Athletics has helped get me out of my comfort zone

by taking me to competitions outside of Maryland, a state I had not left since moving here. My parents were nervous, but my coaches cared and taught me to be on my own!

I am proud that I will be graduating with my associate degree in May and become the first college graduate in my family. Next, I plan to transfer to a four-year university and earn my bachelor's degree.

Please continue to support Howard Community College and its budget. With your funding, you will help more students like me pursue the American Dream of a college education.

Thank you so much.

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