



President's Biography

Dr. Kathleen Hetherington

Dr. Kathleen Hetherington, president of Howard Community College (HCC), has dedicated her career to advancing the mission of community colleges. With more than 35 years of community college leadership experience, Dr. Hetherington is the fourth president of Howard Community College and the first to be a community college graduate.

Dr. Hetherington has served as president of HCC since 2007, leading an institution nationally recognized for its strong academic programs and innovative approaches to instruction. Under her leadership, Howard Community College has grown to 30,000 credit and noncredit students. Supporting this enrollment growth has resulted in more than \$242 million in college facilities construction and improvements, including a health sciences building and a science, engineering, and technology building that opened in 2017.

With her student-centered approach to leadership, she has revamped the college strategic planning process, added academic programs in high-demand fields, and focused on increasing degree completion and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. This year, HCC celebrated the largest graduating class in the college's 46-year history, with 1,208 graduates.

Well-respected by her peers in higher education, the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) named Dr. Hetherington as its recipient of the 2014 Chief Executive Officer Award, which recognizes the outstanding contributions and leadership of a community college president. Dr. Hetherington received this award after her selection as the ACCT Northeast Region CEO. This honor resulted in the Maryland State Senate presenting Dr. Hetherington with an official proclamation at one of its 2015 meetings.

During her tenure as president, Howard Community College has achieved recognition as a Great College to Work For from The Chronicle of Higher Education for eight consecutive years. HCC is the only community college in Maryland—and one of only three community colleges in the nation—to have achieved this record status.

Dr. Hetherington maintains strong ties to the community and strives to enhance the college's partnerships with area businesses, organizations, and nonprofits. She champions the needs of students and the broader college community before elected officials at the county, state, and federal levels. In addition, she works proactively with her colleagues across Maryland by serving on the executive committee of the Maryland Council of Community College Presidents and the state's community college advocacy organization, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges.

Dr. Hetherington serves on numerous local, state, and national boards, commissions, and committees. Nationally, Dr. Hetherington serves on the American Association of Community Colleges board of directors, and on its public policy and government relations committee and the advocacy advisory group. Dr. Hetherington represents Maryland's community colleges as a commissioner on the Education Commission of the States. Statewide, she serves on the Greater Baltimore Committee board and on its education and workforce committee. Dr. Hetherington also serves on the Economic Alliance of Baltimore board of directors. Locally, Dr. Hetherington serves on the Howard County Chamber of Commerce board.

Prior to her presidency, Dr. Hetherington served HCC as the executive vice president, capital campaign manager, and vice president of student services. Before joining HCC, she held progressively responsible positions at the Community College of Philadelphia, including dean of student systems. She was an adjunct professor at Delaware County Community College in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Hetherington holds an Ed.D. from Widener University, a M.S. from Villanova University, a B.S.S. from Pennsylvania State University, and an A.A.S. from the Community College of Philadelphia.