



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

**Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.**

## **2021 SPRING SEMESTER MESSAGE**

Welcome to Hostos Community College!

As the Spring 2021 semester gets underway, we find ourselves in a changed world. Last year presented us all with unexpected and often distressing challenges that affected – and continue to affect – practically every aspect of our lives. We have suffered. Many of us have lost loved ones in this wretched pandemic. No one has been unscathed.

And yet, while acknowledging the sorrow and loss we feel, I remain hopeful. I find great comfort in something that the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote: “Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.”

Those stars are shining! I consider how quickly and effectively the College’s faculty, staff, and students made the switch to distance learning. I am awed by the bravery and selflessness shown by front-line medical workers (many of whom are Hostos grads) in the borough we call home and in the greater NYC region. I am deeply impressed by the speed with which coronavirus vaccines have been formulated. I am heartened by the prospect of a newer and brighter era in the nation’s political life.

I rejoice in another source of hope: You.

The pandemic has not stopped your determination to bring new meaning and opportunity to your life. Education is the means to move forward, to engage in your own growth and that of your family and dear ones. Your education will have a positive impact on the communities that support you. Degree or certificate in hand, you in turn will contribute in important ways to their continued progress.

The College, with its bridge across the Grand Concourse, has provided a path to a brighter future for over five decades and served as a source of life-transforming education. Online or in the classroom, the Spring 2021 semester finds us continuing on that path. We remain firmly committed to providing the highest quality education while assuring your health and safety in the process.

Hostos Community College takes pride in its history and in its namesake: Don Eugenio María de Hostos, the Puerto Rican philosopher, educator, man of letters and fighter for the independence of Puerto Rico. The College arose from the vision and activism of many Puerto Rican, Latino, and other supporters who believed the South Bronx deserved its own community college. We take pride in the quality of teaching and learning at the College, and in our work with community agencies to promote educational, labor, economic and community development initiatives. To that end, we offer programs designed to promote engagement both on campus and in our communities.

The Hostos catalogue presents a rich offering of career and academic programs, including allied health, arts, digital design and animation, education, engineering, liberal arts and sciences, theater arts, and many other disciplines. Our talented and highly accomplished faculty, staff and administrators support the dreams and goals for those who are just beginning their college careers as well as those who are continuing their studies. We are here to help you dream big – and to realize those dreams.

It is a joy for me to offer these words of welcome and encouragement as you begin the semester.

May your star shine brightly!

*Mil gracias y bendiciones,*

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
Interim President

I am happy to share the link to [\*El Semanario Hostosiano/The Hostos Weekly\*](#).

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