



## A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

As we prepare to commemorate the anniversary of our nation's independence, let us take time to reflect on this day's significance and to remember those who fought for our liberty. We note with pride the patriots who pledged their lives and their sacred honor in defense of this nation and democracy who are part of the Hostos family. Let us work to create a world in which peace and justice – not war – shape our shared destiny. It is something to work toward, something to hope for. The poet Emma Lazarus has written so beautifully about this in her poem titled “The New Colossus.”

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she  
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”*

Each day, we’re reminded there’s nothing guaranteed about our democracy, nothing guaranteed about our way of life. We have to fight for it, defend it, earn it. I urge you to register and to exercise proudly your honor and privilege to vote for leaders who represent your interests and share your beliefs.

I evoke now some words from one of my favorite speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., “Civil Right No. 1: The Right to Vote”

*“Voting is the foundation stone for political action. With it the Negro can eventually vote out of office public officials who bar the doorway to decent housing, public safety and decent integrated education. It is now obvious that the basic elements so vital to Negro advancement can only be achieved by seeking redress from government at local, state, and federal levels. To do this the vote is essential.*

*When the full power of the ballot is available to my people, it will not be exercised merely to advance our cause alone. We have learned in the course of our*

*freedom struggle that the needs of twenty million Negroes are not truly separable from those of the nearly two hundred million whites and Negroes in America, all of whom will benefit from a color-blind land of opportunity that provides for the nourishment of each man's body, mind and spirit. Our vote would place in Congress true representatives of the people who would legislate for the Medicare, housing, schools and jobs required by all men of any color."*

*In New York Magazine (14 March 1965): 26-27 in A Testament of Hope, The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King Jr., edited by James M. Washington.*

My dear colleagues and students, if you have not done so, I urge you to register and to have friends and family register to vote. More than ever, taking personal responsibility to ensure that you and yours will cast a ballot has become imperative. For it is about power, the power to contribute to the shaping and the fabric of life in this beautiful country. As Dr. King taught us, we all must be heard and must be counted.

Happy Independence Day!

*Mil gracias y bendiciones,*

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President

For more information about voting, visit the following websites:

The New York City Board of Elections  
<https://www.vote.nyc>

The City University of New York (CUNY)  
<https://www.cuny.edu/vote>

**Office of the President**  
**Eugenio María de Hostos Community College**  
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