



## A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

April 22 is a particularly important day at Hostos: On this date in 1968, Hostos Community College officially came into being.

56 years have elapsed since then, but Hostos remains as vibrant and vital as ever. This is due, I believe, to the many ways we have created, found, or adapted to make our founders' dream of affordable, high-quality secondary education in the Bronx a reality. Our longevity is also a tribute to the South Bronx, which has given us so much over the years and continues to nourish and support the College. A third reason Hostos has endured is the most important of them all and is our reason for being: the hopes and desires of students who want to transform their lives through education. It is our joy to assist them in every way possible as they discover and master the roles they wish to play in the world beyond our doors.

The teachers, activists, and community leaders who founded Hostos were part of a larger movement for equity, representation, and access that inspired so many in the tumultuous '60s. The quest for Civil Rights, Women's Liberation, the war on poverty – all of these and other sweeping demands for change animated the era.

Given the College's goals, it was only fitting that the institution bear the name of Don Eugenio María de Hostos (1839-1903). Hostos was a trailblazing Puerto Rican educator, writer, and advocate for human rights. One of the most influential Latin American scholars of his day, Hostos also founded educational institutions in Chile and the Dominican Republic, and worked for the independence of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

Our origins were humble, but our dreams were – and still are – immense. Like the Bronx itself, Hostos has weathered hard times and celebrated good times. We look forward to providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to realize their ambitions for many more years to come.

Happy Birthday, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College!

In celebration,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President

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