



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

HAPPY DOMINICAN HERITAGE MONTH!

Dominican Heritage Month is underway, and Hostos is proud to join in celebrating the culture, history, and notable achievements of Dominican-Americans in New York City – and throughout the world.

NYC has a particularly strong connection to the Dominican Republic: hailing from Santo Domingo, Juan Rodríguez arrived in Manhattan in 1613 and is considered the city's first immigrant. According to the Mayor's Office, approximately half of the Dominican diaspora in the U.S. call NYC their home.

Hostos also has a powerful relationship with the Dominican Republic. Eugenio María de Hostos, from whom the College draws its name and inspiration, is buried in the *Panteón Nacional de la Patria* in the colonial district of Santo Domingo. Many of the College's students are of Dominican heritage. You might say that the DR is in our DNA – and Hostos is delighted to herald the varied contributions of Dominicans to the success of this nation.

Award-winning authors Junot Díaz and Julia Alvarez, U. S. Representative Adriano Espaillat, and artist Olivia Peguero are only a few of the prominent figures who were born in the Dominican Republic or whose lives and work were indelibly shaped by their experiences on this loveliest of islands.

The Dominican Republic holds a special place in my heart – I was born in Santo Domingo and spent a good portion of my childhood there.

Dominican Heritage Month will conclude on February 27. I hope you'll be part of the festivities. There is much to marvel at and appreciate.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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