



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO AN INSPIRATION

January 11 marks the 185th anniversary of the birth of a towering figure: Eugenio María de Hostos.

In William Shakespeare's classic play *Julius Caesar*, Marc Antony notes: "The evil that men do lives after them; / The good is oft interrèd with their bones." With all due respect to the Bard of Stratford-on-Avon, I believe that more good than evil survives in this world – and Eugenio María de Hostos is a shining example of how visionary ideas and actions live on and continue transforming lives for the better.

Born in Puerto Rico, Hostos (1839-1903) is a crucial figure in the development of educational theory and social justice in the Americas. In the course of his 64 years on this planet, he championed Puerto Rico's self-determination, women's rights, and education for all. He was also a distinguished lawyer, author and sociologist.

Hostos' ideas were – and remain – so powerful that, more than 50 years ago, a dedicated group of men and women chose to name a new institution of higher learning in the South Bronx after him.

We proudly bear his name. It announces our bedrock commitment to the principles that guided Hostos throughout a legendary life: the power of education; the inherent dignity of all beings; the need for self-determination on the personal, local, and national level; the recognition of our shared humanity.

On the occasion of the 185th birthday of this trailblazing Puerto Rican educator, writer, and humanist, we reaffirm our dedication to the man and his example. We will always draw inspiration from his ideas and rely on his moral compass as a defender of equal rights. Like Hostos, we passionately believe that education is not something reserved for the rich, the privileged, the few. It is something for anyone who chooses to seek it.

Much has changed since Hostos first opened its doors, but the College's fidelity to access, diversity, equity, and social justice has never faltered or faded. It never will.

Happy birthday, Eugenio María de Hostos!

Mil gracias y bendiciones,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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