



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

2023 Aspen Prize - Hostos Named as Top Ten Finalist

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College has been selected as one of [10 finalists](#) for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The \$1 Million prize is awarded every two years and is the nation's signature recognition for America's community colleges.

Hostos was informed in late April that it had been selected as one of 25 semi-finalists for the Prize. Hostos was one of 150 community colleges across the country invited to compete for the 2023 prize based on performance in student outcomes and improvement over time.

"This is absolutely splendid news," said Hostos President Daisy Cocco De Filippis. "To see the College's achievements recognized on the national stage is a source of pride that everyone at Hostos shares – and is, indeed, responsible for. It is the combined efforts of faculty, students, and staff that has placed us among the top ten finalists."

The Aspen Prize is awarded every two years, and this is the second time Hostos has made it to the top ten for the national prize. Nearly a decade ago, the college competed in a pool of more than 1,000 institutions to be recognized amongst the top ten finalists.

Based in Washington, District of Columbia, the Aspen Institute aims to advance higher education practices and leadership that significantly improve student learning, completion, and employment after college – especially for the growing population of students of color and low-income students on American campuses.

The Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding achievement in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equity for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. By focusing on student success and lifting up models that work, the Aspen Prize aims to celebrate excellence, advance a focus on equitable student success, and stimulate replication of effective culture and practice.

“This is a great honor for Hostos and the other finalists,” said President Cocco De Filippis. “In our different ways, we all pursue the same goal: providing our students and their communities with the very best education possible. Three cheers for all the finalists!”

The Aspen Prize selection process began in October 2021, when the Aspen Institute worked with an expert data panel to craft a formula to assess student outcomes at nearly 1,000 community colleges in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Based on those data, we invited 150 top community colleges to apply, and received 109 applications. A selection committee of 16 higher education experts reviewed applications, including extensive data and narratives on student success strategies.

The Aspen Institute will announce the winner in the spring of 2023.

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