



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

**Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.**

To the college community,

May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. There is much to celebrate, much to be proud of, much to savor and appreciate.

Such appreciation is in short supply in certain quarters. Recent events have demonstrated an ever-increasing amount of bias, hate, and violence directed at Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities. Asians, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders have suffered verbal and physical attacks; they have been blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic; these and other reprehensible actions and ideas are the product of ignorance and xenophobia.

As a citizen and as an educator, I strongly condemn these deplorable actions. Anti-Asian hatred has no room in our hearts or in our classrooms. Hostos will continue to welcome, cherish, and embrace individuals from every background. Diversity makes for a better and stronger community. An assault on any group is an assault on us all – and on everything Hostos represents. The College will always point out racism and prejudice wherever it appears – and work to combat them to the utmost of our abilities.

I wish all of our friends in Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities a happy, joyful, and safe Heritage Month.

As always, if you or someone you know has experienced a racist attack, please contact the Hostos Public Safety Department <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Administrative-Offices/Public-Safety-Department>.

You may also share concerns by submitting complaints to the Office of Compliance and Diversity at <https://www.hostos.cuny.edu/Administrative-Offices/Office-of-Compliance-and-Diversity/Online-Complaint-Form>.

It is essential that we all feel safe in the Hostos Community.

Sincerely,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
Interim President

A POEM TO CELEBRATE A VENERABLE HISTORY  
Attributed to Ch'ü Yüan (c. 350-315 B.C.) From Ch'u Tz'u (Elegies of Ch'u)  
From THE HEAVEN QUESTIONS

In the beginning of old,  
    all is yet formless, no up or down,  
Light is still dim,  
    dark is a blur the only image is a whir.  
When bright gets brighter,  
    and dark gets darker, the yin couples with the yang,  
Then is the round pattern manifold.  
    What an achievement that was!  
Around turn the cords on the pivot of Heaven.  
    Eight pillars are the buttresses;  
Spread out are the nine fields of Heaven  
    with their many angles and edges.  
The heavens mesh with the twelve Earth branches,  
    the sun and moon bond, and the stars line up.  
One leaves from Bright Valley and rest at Shroud Shore  
    on its journey from bright to dark,  
While the orb of Night flourishes after death  
    and harbors a rabbit in its gut.  
Nu Qi got nine sons without a husband.  
    Old Qiang is there, and the benevolent nimbus.  
Dark as its closes, bright when it opens,  
    before the Horn rises the great light is hidden.

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