



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

**In Memoriam:
Cándido de León (1934-2021),
Second President of Hostos**

To the Hostos community:



One of the College's founding fathers has left us: former President Cándido de León, who passed away on September 30 at the age of 87.

In 1968 de León authored "A Proposal for the Establishment of Community College Number Eight," which was submitted to the Board of higher Education and led to the creation of this institution. He served as the second President from 1971 through 1977. He was the first college president of Puerto Rican descent in the United States, according to the New York Times.

Former President de León led the fight for the College's survival when budget cuts during NYC's 1975 financial crisis threatened to close its doors. As the CUNY Digital History Archive states, Hostos "was slated to merge with Bronx Community College in order to dramatically cut spending...Determined to preserve Hostos for the South Bronx as a place for students to pursue a bilingual higher education, students, faculty, staff, and community groups joined forces to keep Hostos open for the community."

Former President de León's passionate commitment to Hostos and its ideals – quality, accessibility, diversity – was a source of inspiration in those troubled times, and remains an inspiration to this day.

He will be sorely missed.

In sorrow,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

The Hostos 50 – Oral History Collective features a two-part interview with Former President de León, which can be found here:

Part I

<https://soundcloud.com/user-659383919/candido-de-leon-part-1-hostos-president-1972-1977>

Part II: <https://soundcloud.com/user-659383919/candido-de-leon-part-2-hostos-president-1971-1977>

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