



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

On Thursday, June 29, the Supreme Court of The United States declared that race-conscious admissions at Harvard University and the University of North Carolina are unlawful.

This blow to Affirmative Action on the part of an increasingly conservative Supreme Court has generated vast disapproval, and I add my voice to the many who deplore and condemn this ruling and the harmful effect it will have on access to higher education for our nation's Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American students.

Chalkbeat, a non-profit news organization focusing on educational issues, states: "The ruling severely restricts colleges' ability to use Affirmative Action to create more racially diverse campuses, and will likely curtail broader efforts to fight for racial equity in higher education."

Affirmative Action is succinctly described by Cornell University's Law School as "as a set of procedures designed to eliminate unlawful discrimination among applicants, remedy the results of such prior discrimination, and prevent such discrimination in the future."

Affirmative Action has its roots in the social justice and civil rights movements of the 1960s, and over the decades has provided hope and opportunity for millions of minority students. Students like Former First Lady Michelle Obama, who said of Affirmative Action, "There's no doubt that it helped offer new ladders of opportunity for those who, throughout our history, have too often been denied a chance to show how fast they can climb."

Hostos Community College is also a product of the demand for equity, diversity and access that animated the 1960s. For 55 years – and counting! – we have proudly served those who have traditionally been denied the chance to climb "the ladder of opportunity" on the basis of color, religion, gender, or economic status.

In the wake of this hugely distressing Supreme Court decision, Hostos reaffirms its commitment to the principles of our founders, and to the aspirations and goals of our students. I refuse to despair. I firmly believe that Love and Justice will rout the forces of Hatred and Fear, the very forces that led to this wrong-headed, hurtful, and divisive legal decision.

In solidarity,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

Office of the President
Eugenio María de Hostos Community College
475 Grand Concourse, A-Building, Room 341, Bronx, NY 10451
718-518-4300 | PRESIDENTSOFFICE@hostos.cuny.edu

