



A MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRESIDENT

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

My Dear Colleagues and Students,

I am pleased to announce the appointment of four members of the Hostos family to serve in new roles. I am grateful for the dedicated professionals who have agreed to take on additional responsibilities during these unprecedented times. Their years of service and engagement with our community and commitment to the College's mission are commendable. Please join me in welcoming them as part of my leadership team and in wishing them a successful continuation of their service in their new roles.

**Acting Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs
Charles I. Drago DH.Ed R.T (R,CT)**



Presently, Dr. Drago is the Chair of the Allied Health Sciences Department. In addition to being the Chair of his department, a position he has held for the past 7 years, Dr. Drago has also served as the Coordinator of the Allied Health Sciences – Radiologic Technology Unit for the past 12 years. Under his tenure as Coordinator, the Rad Tech Unit has had one of the highest passing rates (99 %) for the New York State board licensure exam for x-ray technologists. Dr. Drago is also the current President of the Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology in the State of New York (AERTSNY) and the President-elect of the Association of Educators in Radiological Sciences (AEIRS), which represents the United States and parts of Europe. During his 20 years at Hostos Community College, Dr. Drago has ably and dutifully served on many College committees and mentored countless faculty and students.

As Acting Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Drago will take on the responsibilities handled by the current Provost, Dr. Christine Mangino, who is resigning from Hostos to serve as President at Queensborough Community College, effective August 17, 2020.

**Acting Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs
Dr. Olen Dias**



Dr. Dias' professional life has been greatly influenced and shaped by the City University of New York. As an alumna of Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, she appreciates the diversity and understands the importance of higher education for all and believes in providing equal opportunity for the diverse minority communities of this great city with the best education possible. Presently, Dr. Dias is a Full Tenured Professor in the College's Mathematics Department. She has been employed as a full-time faculty member at Hostos since February 2004.

Dr. Dias has excelled in various administrative roles, including Deputy Chair of the Math Department, one of the College's largest academic departments, from 2013 to 2016. More recently, during this past Spring 2020 semester, she was selected as an Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) Fellow. As an OAA Fellow, Dr. Dias was instrumental in helping to expand two successful College initiatives: "Succeed@Hostos," which is an early alert system designed to increase retention, and "eLumen/Blackboard Integration," an assessment tool for improving learning outcomes. During the Spring 2020 semester, Dr. Dias also worked collaboratively with the College's Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development to develop and strengthen numerous articulations with College credit-bearing programs. Dr. Dias has a passion for ensuring access to higher education as a right for all students and to continue promoting the mission of the college.

**Director of Assessment
Dr. Anders Jasson (AJ) Stachelek**



Dr. Stachelek most recently worked as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Stachelek obtained his doctorate in Mathematics Education at Teachers College, Columbia University in 2014. With his experience of over fifteen years of teaching advanced math and science across a variety of settings, ranging from public high school to community colleges, he has gained a deep understanding of the importance of connecting to students and encouraging their mathematical self-confidence, regardless of level.

Recently, he has been serving as the Deputy Chair of the Mathematics Department, Co-Chair of Middle States Working Group 5, and as Co-PI on a grant funded by The Teagle Foundation, titled the Project for Relevant and Improved Mathematics Education (PRIME). Since the main focus of PRIME was to implement corequisite courses to align and streamline mathematics curricula for students placed below college level mathematics, this grant broadened his viewpoint beyond the classroom and the institution. This work was only the tip of the proverbial iceberg in terms of investigating a broader need for systemic changes, but it was a starting point for Dr. Stachelek. In his new position as the Director of Assessment, he looks forward to diving deeper into analyzing educational systems through the lens of assessment.

Assistant to the President and Director of the President's Office
Diana Kreymer



Ms. Kreymer will be assuming her new role in addition to her current duties as Director of Events Management. She will manage the President's correspondence and assist with scheduling her appointments. Ms. Kreymer has served in various positions at the College since 2009. She is an accomplished higher education professional with a strong background in events, relationship building, project management, technology utilization and customer service. Ms. Kreymer has planned and implemented campus-wide special events, such as: Commencement, the College's 50th Anniversary, The

BIG Event, Middle States team visits, State of the College addresses, conferences, retreats, town halls, panels and forums. She serves on a number of College committees and is responsible for the supervision of the President's Office staff and the Conference Center.

Ms. Kreymer will serve as a member of the President's Cabinet.

She received her bachelor's degree from Monmouth University, majoring in International Business and Spanish. She earned a master's in Public Administration from Baruch College. Ms. Kreymer is a current member of the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors-International (ACCED-I) and the North American Association of Commencement Officers (NAACO). She holds a certificate in the Certified Meeting Professional program (CMP). Outside of her professional positions, Ms. Kreymer serves her community in various volunteer activities.

Additionally, I am delighted to welcome to the President's Cabinet colleagues who have served the College well.

Ana I. García Reyes

Associate Dean of Community Relations



Associate Dean Ana García Reyes started her career as a counselor at Aspira of New York, Inc. She then served as Director of the Student Support Services/TRIO Program at the City College of the City University of New York (CUNY). Under her management, the program provided key services to its participants, resulting in a significantly improved retention rate among the population it served from 1991 to 1996. During her tenure, significant expansion plans were implemented in space, personnel and budget increase. Students' enrollment, retention and graduation also increased significantly.

Associate Dean García Reyes has been affiliated with Eugenio María de Hostos Community College since March 1996. She started as the Special Assistant to the President/Chief of Staff. In March 1998, she assumed additional duties and responsibilities under the title of Special Assistant to the President for Community as well as Director of Professional Development Program and Coordinator of International Study Abroad. As an identified experienced administrator, the College President increased the scope of responsibilities of the Associate Dean for Community Relations in 2020 and also appointed her to serve as a member of the President's Cabinet. [Please click link for a full biography.](#)

Soldanela Rivera López

Director of Presidential and Strategic Initiatives



Since 2009 Soldanela has served Hostos in various capacities—Adjunct Professor of Public Speaking, Director of Communications and College Relations, 50th Anniversary Project Manager, and presently serves as Director of Presidential Strategic Initiatives. Prior to Hostos, Soldanela spent over 10 years as a communications executive and producer spanning the fields of dance, film, television, music, theater working with emerging, established, and world-renowned figures. Soldanela produces Notes From A Native Daughter, an audio blog about arts, culture, and society with figures from the Pan-American experience, she self-published “View For Death” and was named a *Mujer Destacada* by El Diario La Prensa in 2018;

Sol was recently selected a 2020 National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures Leadership Fellow.

Soldanela earned a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College with a concentration in dance and an M.A. from Teachers College, Columbia University in Arts Administration.

I look forward to our engaged and generous collaboration with all of you. Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
Interim President

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