

The S·D·E·M Gazette



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT • ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT • Fall 2020



A note to staff from the Interim VP AN APPRECIATION

It is our mission to help every student feel welcomed, connected, and part of our Hostos family, more so than ever in this virtual setting. Our goal this year has been to continue to provide a safe and healthy campus for all members of our community and an excellent learning environment for our students.

Thank you for the work you have done on behalf of our students. Below you will find some updates on the work we have done this past semester.

Best wishes to you and your families. We look forward to a successful 2021 working together!

Best Wishes, **Esther Rodríguez-Chardavoyne**
Senior Vice President of Administration and Finance
Interim Vice President for Student Development & Enrollment Management

OPEN

MENTAL WELLNESS EVERYDAY

The Carlos L. González Counseling Center, as a partner with students, faculty, staff and administration, united to support the success of our students and colleagues during this time of seemingly never-ending transitions. Our counselors have seized the opportunity to become an integral part of the Hostos team, incorporating innovative use of social media to engage students and campus based programs.

The counseling team of Lizette Colon, Allison Lee, and Michael Martinez has been completed by the addition of Tovah Thompson and Leo Coodin. Together they have developed an Instagram presence entitled, “Mental Wellness Everyday” offering positive messages to our subscribers as a reframing of life during a pandemic, as well as filmed introductions by the entire staff.

Virtual semester offerings:

- “Tips and Tricks for parents,” a primer in child development and how to embrace distance learning
- Handling Anxiety, more than about tests
- Music Happy Hour Hangouts
- Candid Conversation Series
- Theme based Safe space discussions

As the college works to adhere by the public health recommendations, it can be challenging to navigate your student’s response to this outbreak. Feelings of fear, anxiety, and uncertainty may come up- that’s normal. It will be important to encourage your student to learn how to sit with the uncertainty we currently face and cope with their emotional responses. We are here to help. Have questions? Want more information? Invite us to meet your staff for a brief overview of our services, how to access them and how we can collaborate.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Office: (718) 518-4461
Email: Info.counseling@hostos.cuny.edu
IG: Hostoscounseling

One Stop Thanksgiving Turkey and Chicken Distribution

Health and Wellness’ One Stop program held its annual Thanksgiving food giveaway on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Staff and students came together to ensure that student families received the essentials to celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. “During these difficult times, I am grateful that I have the opportunity to help others,” said Madeline Cruz, Coordinator of the Hostos One-Stop Program.

Interim President Daisy Cocco De Filippis attended the food drive to support the efforts and greet students. Much appreciation to the staff and student volunteers.

Stavros Niarchos Grant opportunity for students

Hostos Community College has received a \$100,000 grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to respond to the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19. Hostos Community College will be able to assist students who have been adversely impacted providing an emergency relief of up to \$500 to help cover expenses such as: housing costs, medical expenses, utility bills, childcare, Groceries and other basic essentials.

Award Criteria: Students are required to submit a personal statement, detail their financial need and provide documentation of their emergency need(s), such as a final utility bill, eviction notice, medical bill, etc.

NYC Department of Sanitation Donates 1,000 Boxes of Food to Hostos



Catholic Charities has been working with the NYC Department of Sanitation to provide perishables and nonperishables for their food distribution initiative. Thanks to Ms. Idelsa Mendez' partnership and persistence with Catholic Charities, 1,000 boxes of nonperishable food were secured for the Hostos Food Pantry for enrolled students facing food insecurity. The boxes contain rice, beans, pasta, tuna, and cereal. The Hostos food pantry will distribute milk, fruits, and vegetables to students and their families.

"The pandemic has had a significant impact on our students, and many are currently experiencing food insecurity for the very first time," Fabian Wander, Director of Hostos' Student Health Services, said. "Thanks to the very generous donation,

the Hostos Community College Food Pantry is able to serve students and their families by providing them with food on a daily basis."

SDEM Welcomes You! Look who joined our SDEM family!

Office of the Vice President

Leslie King
Interim Dean of Student Development
Chevonne Cunningham
PTS3 Coordinator

Counseling Services

Tovah Thompson
Counselor
Leo Coodin
Counselor

Financial Aid Office

Martin Tsang
COA
Gloria Rodriguez
Financial Aid Specialist

SSCU

Rhonda Lloyd
Mark Blounte
Dajanee Cochran
Orlando Roche
Dominique Winstead

Enjoying their never-ending weekends are...

Nathaniel Cruz
Over 30 years of service to Hostos Community College, served as our Vice President the last 8 years.

Elvis Lockward
Over 30 years of service to Hostos Community College, retired in July from his position as Testing Director.

Happy Retirement!

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And the Lucky SDEM Survey Winner Is...

STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

During the Spring 2020 semester, the Student Development and Enrollment Management Division conducted its Annual Student Satisfaction survey. The lucky winner was announced Wednesday, June 3rd. We were happy to congratulate Ms. Boujia as the lucky winner of a brand new laptop. Ms. Boujia tells us: “I am a first-generation college student! Currently, I am pursuing an Associates in Dental Hygiene, and I hope in the near future to continue my studies within the Dental field and become a Dental Hygienist. Hostos has provided me with an immense opportunity to grow both as a student and future professional—I couldn’t be more grateful to have such a community of driven and supportive staff and students around me, looking forward to more growth and elevation here at Hostos!”

Thank you to all 1,844 students who participated and shared their experiences here at Hostos. Thank you to all the staff who helped and informed the students that their input is important to our success in programming. The next Student Satisfaction survey will be conducted in the Spring 2021 semester.

Staff Profile

PUBLISHED WRITER, SUCCESS COACH, AND FRIEND MS. KERRYANNE BELL.

Hostos alumna and Student Success Coach Kerryanne “Kay” Bell fell in love with writing in the sixth grade when her teacher introduced the class to haiku, an unrhymed form of Japanese poetry. “I immediately fell in love with the idea that words can form images and convey a multitude of feelings for both the poet and reader,” she shared.

Bell, earned her associate degree in Early Childhood Education from Hostos and went on to pursue her passion for writing at The City College of New York, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in English and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. While at City College, she served as a poetry mentor and began pouring her heart into what would become her latest published work, a book titled “Diary of an Intercessor.” The book is a collection of poems written for her MFA thesis project; the product of much self-reflection, personal growth and ongoing exploration of her “complicated” relationship with God. “Each poem is its own story, bears its own weight, is pulled from my journey of self-discovery, resilience and spirituality,” Bell explained.

Bell has also had her work published in “Brown Molasses Sunday: An Anthology of Black Women Writers,” “The Lily Poetry Review,” “Moko: Caribbean Arts and Letters,” and “The Write Launch.”

Published by Finishing Line Press, “Diary of an Intercessor” is will be released in January 2021.



SDEM Unsung Hero

Success in the eyes of others is measured solely by what they see, oblivious to the inner workings, the efforts or the glue, that produces that success. Here’s to the unsung heroes of SDEM.

Lillian Morales has worked tirelessly over 10 years for the academic success of our students, and fair representation of the SDEM staff. Selflessly. She focuses on the bigger picture that we’ve all come to know as our mantra: “retention and graduation.” The mantra is our reality because Lillian ensures that students’ questions are answered, and that staff concerns are acknowledged and addressed. Lillian ensures that the divisions are informed of new policies and that her personal staff are nurtured and properly cross trained to become future leaders of the college community. She leads by example and is always willing to sacrifice time and effort for the good of others.

A leader and a coach, Lillian encourages innovation and creativity from her staff and colleagues, and creates an environment grounded in integrity, trust, and respect. Let’s take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate her sacrifice and recognize Lillian; as in this remote environment we have all called or looked to her for guidance. I’ve personally have come to her with a work related question and left with a life lesson; appreciating always her firm but loving demeanor and advice. As the kids now say, “it’s the honesty for me.”

Lillian Morales to many, is an undisputed champion of our cause, humility, commitment, dedication, courage, and leadership. She is the unsung hero of 2020.

Who is your unsung hero? Write about them and send it to us now for our next Gazette issue.

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For Your Information

Single Stop is now One Stop

One Stop, offers supportive services to ensure that students have a successful college experience and are able to complete their degree. The food pantry is one of the many services provided and one of the most sought. To benefit from this service, students should set up an appointment with Ms. Madeline Cruz at (718) 518-4141 or email mcruz@hostos.cuny.edu. The Food Pantry is available Monday through Friday.

Caiman Direct (SDEM virtual hub) coming soon on zoom!

Caiman Direct is a centralized support center for students trying to navigate the many facets of campus life during these unprecedented times. The goal is to provide effective and efficient streamlined services at one convenient location improving their experience at Hostos Community College allowing students to focus on their academic success.

Distance Learning Toolkit 1.0

ARC and CUNY's LD Project have developed an accessibility-smart distance learning document, useful for students in need of accommodation or not! [Download it here.](#)

Student Services Page

During this period of distance learning, SDEM is here to provide students with the support services needed. The following services are listed on our student service page for students to receive direct services remotely. [Click here for a list of services.](#)

SDEM EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

STUDENT AND STAFF COLLABORATIONS

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Domestic Violence Forum, including a panel discussion highlighting the work of organizations dedicated to the field of domestic violence and elder abuse. Moderated by Fabián Wander in conjunction with the Center for Bronx Nonprofits.

SGA/OAA: Presidential Debate Watch Party (three parts), featuring student, faculty, and staff panelists discussing issues that are most important to them during this most recent presidential election cycle.

SGA/OAA: Black Lives Matters Forum, addressing systemic inequality issues at the city, state, and national level in education, employment, healthcare, housing, and politics, while calling for greater transparency, accountability, and change. Affirming black humanity, contributions to society, and resilience.

IN ADDITION:

COUNSELING: Care For You events; Candid Conversations talk series

FEP: Toy Drive; Winter Festival

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Calendar of Activities including Breathing, Meditation, Coloring, Drawing; End of Semester Stress Reduction Activities; Stress & Older Persons Workshop; Free Mammogram Screenings; Free flu shots to all ages; Bingo

ONE STOP: Food Pantry

SSCU: Orientation and Welcome events

SLA: Friday Ambassador Workshop On Scholarships

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES: Flu prevention during the COVID pandemic and "Flu Etiquette"; Naloxone Workshop; Influenza Prevention workshop

TRANSFER SERVICES: Virtual Table Visits and Transfer Talks

VETERANS OFFICE: Veterans Day Tribute

Stay tuned for our next issue in the Spring!