

The S·D·E·M Gazette



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT + ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT • Issue #14



From the desk of VP Yates

Welcome to the Fall 2022 term and the start of a new academic year! With an array of welcoming events over the past few weeks, I am delighted to see the Hostos campus back in full swing and that the SDEM staff are at the forefront, ready to help lead our students to success! The energy and excitement you all bring to our campus are inspiring and will propel us forward stronger than ever. I am grateful for your contributions and extraordinary dedication to our students. Let's work together to offer superior student-centric services this 2023 academic year! In this issue, you will find the likes of what's new with Transfer Services, highlights from a few of our elite scholars, to information on the expansion of NYS TAP.

You have my very best wishes.

La Toro Yates, Ph.D.

HELLO THERE! WE ARE TRANSFER SERVICES

Community Colleges are far more than bridges in higher education. We exist as portals in and out of material realities. Access to higher education and mobility from poverty are foundational principles for CUNY. We see this here every day at Hostos; our deep-rooted commitment to the South Bronx community speaks volumes. Hostos' commitment to social justice and equity shapes the way we value our role as an engine of advancement with the understanding that socio-economic mobility is a pillar of success. I believe that Transfer Services plays a role in a student's socio-mobility climb to success in connecting the graduate to plethora of 4-year college(s) opportunities.

While we are still in our transitional phase, Transfer Services will be part of the fabric, the connective tissue that weaves recruitment, admissions, advisement, retention together so students don't fall through the cracks. This starts on day one. Transfer services will operate as the guiding light that inspires and supports students through their inevitable challenges –redirecting them back to their goal: graduation and transferring.

To say that this is the “new” Transfer Services office would erase the foundational work this office has championed for decades. Thank you, Mercedes, Theresa and Marsha, as well as all of the college assistants and work study's, for building this platform of excellence. I am empowered by this opportunity for both the programmatic and theoretical growth of this office and humbled to introduce the next chapter of Transfer Services at Hostos Community College. I start with introducing our new Transfer Services website— which while it is in its infancy will soon teleport the user into a virtual interactive space that reflects the stories of black, brown and Latino immigrant excellence. This excellence that was nourished and supported at Hostos, continued at CUNYs, SUNYs, HBCUs and PWIs. These stories will be told through the voice of students. Videos, media, photographs will reflect both where the students were as well as where they are –the focus being on the enormity of where they can ultimately be. Their stories, their voice—that is our legacy.

Ready

Set

Go!

On Thursday, September 8, Hostos Community College celebrated the start of the fall semester with a Welcome Back BBQ held at Evelina Antonetty Park. The festivity brought together students, faculty, staff, and members of the extended Hostos family, fostering connection and putting “community” in “Community College.” It was a beautiful day filled with laughter, community support, and reunions. A perfect kick-off for the new semester. And in case you missed it: [check out the recap in our IG page.](#)

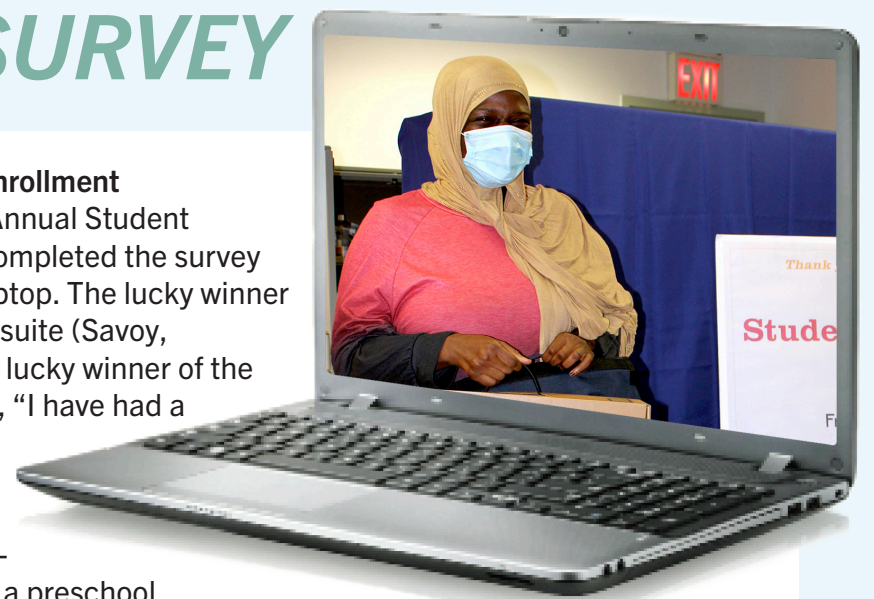


STUDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

During the Spring 2022 semester, the Student Development and Enrollment Management Division at Hostos Community College conducted its Annual Student Satisfaction Survey. Spring enrolled degree-seeking students who completed the survey were automatically entered into a raffle, having a chance to win a laptop. The lucky winner was announced Wednesday, July 27, in the Vice President of SDEM suite (Savoy, B-Building). We are happy to congratulate Ms. Isatou Kebbeh as the lucky winner of the brand new ASUS laptop. When meeting with Ms. Kebbeh she stated, “I have had a great experience here at Hostos community college. I love how the teachers and staffs treat the students. They have respect for everyone and they really help students in the best way possible. I would recommend anyone to come here for college.” Ms. Kebbeh, is pursuing her degree in Early Childhood Education. Her hope is to become a preschool teacher.

In addition to potentially winning a laptop, students had the chance to win a \$25 gift card. There were 25 lucky winners! All thanks to the Student Government Association.

The next Student Satisfaction survey will be administered in the Spring 2023 semester; make sure to tell your students or better yet show them the video. They too can be a winner, just tell us how we are doing! [See more here.](#)



SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Hispanic Serving Institution Scholars Program selects three Hostos Students for AHA's 2022 scholarships



Congratulations are in order for Hostos students **Andrea Vasquez**, **Maria Jesus Vasquez Guillen**, and **Elizabeth Soto**, all of whom have been selected to participate in the **American Heart Association's 2022 Hispanic-Serving Institution Scholars Program**. Hostos' scholars are among 30 students who have been selected to participate in the 2022-2023 Hispanic Serving Institution Scholars Program, which begins in September and as part of the program, they will be paired with a mentor either in the healthcare profession. Scholars will also receive a stipend and participate in professional development workshops.

Nursing major **Andrea Vasquez** said she is “thrilled and honored” to be part of the program. “Without a doubt, this is a fantastic opportunity that will help me to gain knowledge and experience in the research field,” she shared. “This also shows that no matter your circumstances, if you put effort and hard work, anything is possible.”

Maria Jesus Vasquez Guillen also sees the program is a major step toward achieving her dreams, particularly her dream of working in medical research. “I am sure that joining the AHA will open many new doors in my personal journey, and by succeeding here, I hope to be an inspiration to others like me,” she said.

Elizabeth Soto is very optimistic about her participation in the program. “This will be very beneficial for CUNY students, who come from minorities and low-income backgrounds. I hold profound regard for human life and am aware of the cultural and linguistic barriers and inequities in health care that affect specific New York City populations. Consequently, I plan to focus my research on Health Disparities.” Soto, is six credits away from completing her degree and intends on enrolling in the College's Radiologic Technology (RadTech) program after graduating in the Spring of 2023.

Congratulations to Ndongo Njie on his acceptance to Princeton University!

Thanks to the **Kaplan Leadership Program**, Hostos Community College graduate Ndongo Njie has been accepted to Princeton University. He is the first Kaplan Leadership Scholar to be accepted to Princeton University. During his time at Hostos he was elected to Phi Theta Kappa, the International College Honors Society, and received the 2021 Environmental Stewardship and Community Service Award and the General Academic Excellence Fund. Njie was one of eleven Kaplan Scholars in this year's cohort. The Hostos Family wishes Ndongo much success in his next chapter!

Student Corner

Elizabeth Soto—breaking barriers.



Elizabeth Soto was born and raised in San Jose de Ocoa, a small town in the Dominican Republic. At an early age, Elizabeth knew her purpose was to help people; she understood that with hard work and determination her dream of becoming a doctor will and must happen.

She began her studies at Hostos; and it was her Anatomy and Physiology courses that reaffirmed her commitment to the medical field. She developed a strong sense of grit, respect, and discipline for the medical field while raising her daughter, working, and attending school. At Hostos she has worked as a Biology tutor and mentor, a research assistant investigating the use of stem cells in dentistry, and now at the Student Service intake and is a productive contributor to the enrollment team efforts.

She feels strongly about the health disparities amongst Latinos and Black-African Americans in her community. She is aware of the cultural and linguistic barriers and inequities in health care and is determined to get a “seat at the table” to advocate for the underrepresented. While not a Doctor just yet, her career and educational choices will lead the way towards her dream.

Scholarships received: Josephine Aguado • Madruga Family Emergency Fund for Financial Need • Madruga Family Emergency Fund For Extenuating Circumstances • The Feiner Family Fund For Extenuating Circumstances • Circle of 100 Emergency Funds • American Heart Association HSI • Glaelle Mathurin Community Foundation Scholarship

Yavor Ivanov—it’s never too late to follow your dreams.

Yavor Ivanov [YAH-vor I-VAH-nawf], was born and raised in Ruse, Bulgaria. He obtained his Bachelor’s in Political Studies in 2010 and his Master’s in Advertisement Management in 2012. As a young adult in Bulgaria, Yavor had aspirations to become a dentist. His local university did not offer any majors in that field, so he chose another path and studied politics and advertisement but never felt truly fulfilled. At the age of 33, a year after becoming a U.S. citizen, Yavor enrolled at Hostos, in the Dental Hygiene program, fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a dentist. Yavor is proof that it is never too late to follow your dreams.

Scholarships received: Madruga Family Emergency Fund For Extenuating Circumstances • Cocco De Filippis Family Scholarship • Circle of 100 Emergency Funds • Academic Achievers Scholarship



How to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona

Hurricane Fiona touched down on the island of Puerto Rico on Sunday, September 18, 2022, with torrential rain and flash flooding collecting more than 30 inches of rain in some areas. The Dominican Republic was also hit with waist-high flooding, damaging aqueducts and leaving over one million residents without running water. It is reported that relief efforts and restoration of services will likely take many days due to the flooding.

If you wish to help, CUNY suggests we support the relief efforts through monetary contributions to the following organizations working on the ground in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Visit cuny.edu/Fiona

Welcome to SDEM!

Rocio Rayo, Transfer Services Manager

Rocio will be responsible for connecting Hostos graduates to four-year institutions that best suit their educational and professional goals.

She recently served as the liaison between Hostos Lincoln Academy of Science (DOE) and Hostos Community College (CUNY) in the Bronx, NY. She managed the Early College Initiative where students graduated with both their High School Diploma and Associates in Arts degree. Rocio believes that public community colleges serve as an entry point for students to access higher education. She is a CUNY alum, a 2011 Hostos Community College graduate, and completed her studies at City College with a BA/MA in History in 2014.

Associate Dean Althea Sterling

Dr. Sterling is a seasoned higher education administrator and a visionary leader with a keen interest in strategic partnerships and student success. She possesses two decades of extensive leadership in areas of student services, student affairs and enrollment management. In her previous role with University of Maryland Eastern Shore, she served as Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Experience. In this role, she oversaw aspects of the Enrollment Management and Student Experience division including strategic leadership and vision for policy development and implementation. As a strong believer in student development and success, she led the successful launch of a Student Leadership program to foster student engagement. Further, she developed a sophomore experience program through Title III funding to promote student persistence and support the campus retention initiative.

In her spare time Dr. Sterling enjoys reading, occasionally binges on a Netflix show, volunteers, and indulges in strength training. She also enjoys spending time with her beautiful cocker spaniel, Logan.

Dr. Sterling earned a Bachelors Degree from the University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, a Masters in Urban Studies from Queens College, CUNY and Doctor of Education degree from Northeastern University.

What your students should know:

Class scheduling Survey

In collaboration with OAA, SDEM sent out a class scheduling survey to all enrolled degree-seeking students early this month. Help us spread the word to students. By completing the survey, they can help shape their scheduling choices for the semesters to come. Survey responses will be used to inform decisions about future course scheduling. [See the survey here.](#)



FineFare CUNY

Eligible CUNY students, NYC residents receive a 50% discount on subway and eligible bus fares! For more info, go to nyc.gov/fairfares

Expansion of the NYS TAP

Over the summer, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of a \$150 million expansion of the New York State Tuition Assistance Program, which will now provide TAP awards to approximately 75,000 additional students enrolled part-time. What does this mean?

At Hostos, the expansion of the TAP Program could create a pathway to affordable education for an estimated 2,000 part-time students for the 2022–2023 academic year. Most Hostos students are New York City residents and may qualify for a full-time TAP award of up to \$4,800 annually; however, qualifying non-NYC residents could be awarded up to \$5,665 annually. Part-time TAP awards will be made available on a prorated basis, similar to the Pell grant, for eligible students taking 6 to 11 qualifying credits per semester.

Students enrolling in the Fall 2022 semester may apply for TAP by filling out the [FAFSA](#). Once submitted, New York State residents attending NYS campuses can link directly to the [TAP](#) application. For students who have already enrolled and submitted their FAFSA for the 2022–2023 academic year, TAP awards will automatically be prorated or adjusted based on the number of enrolled credits.

Evelina 100 at the Children's Center



On Wednesday, September 14, Hostos Community College Foundation Board member Elba Cabrera visited the Hostos Children's Center to share the story of her sister, Dr. Evelina Antonetty as a part of the Evelina 100 series of events. Cabrera, joined by Dr. Antonetty's daughter Anita, spoke about their childhood growing up in Harlem and the South Bronx and her sister's legacy and how the activist movements she started helped efforts in both the founding of Hostos and the establishment of the Hostos Child Care Center. In honor of Evelina 100 series of events, Children's artwork of Puerto Rican flags and portraits of Dr. Antonetty were displayed throughout the Center.

Honorable Mentions

The Director of the Children's Center participated in a BRONXNET interview

Cathy García-Bou represented the Children's Center as a guest on the "Open" segment, along with Elba Cabrera (Evelina Antonetty's sister) to speak about the upcoming 100 Celebration. Segment aired on Friday, September 9. [To view the segment click here.](#)

Hostos Family Empowerment (FEP) annual Student Parent Fair was a big success!!!

On August 31, FEP facilitated a community fair welcoming Hostos Student Parents to the start of the semester. FEP welcomed over 60 community providers to present their programs and resources available to our student parents in the C-building's lobby, in the cafeteria, and in the A-building's Atrium.

Our mission at FEP is to always find resources to enhance the psychosocial and economic mobility of our students. For students who are expecting or parenting and need social support, FEP is located in the D-building, room 101M. All students in need of resources can also visit our One Stop unit or email Madeline Cruz at MCRUZ@hostos.cuny.edu for assistance.

Women's Basketball Finishes as National Runner-Ups

The Caimans conclude the 2021-22 season 17-6 overall, reaching the national championship game for a third time in four years. Along the way, Hostos, who were nationally ranked all season long, captured its fifth consecutive CUNYAC Championship while reaching the finals of the NJCAA Region XV Championship. The Caimans earned an at-large bid to the national tournament, earning victories as the No. 11 seed over No. 6 Rock Valley, No. 3 Onondaga and No. 7 Minnesota West.

Dr. George White, Jr. Closes Black History Month With Presentation of "One Nation Under A Social Justice Groove"

At the invitation of Dr. La Toro Yates, Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Management at Hostos, Dr. George White, Jr., Interim Professor and Dean for the School of Arts and Sciences at York College, gave an engaging and timely virtual presentation on the intersection of music and social movements and perspectives.

Inspired by a blog post he'd published on "The Blerdy Report," titled "[One Nation Under A Social Justice Groove!](#)," White's discussion examined how music created by Black artists has historically and continues to reflect the social and political movements of the time in which it is created. [Watch the full program.](#)



Stay tuned for our next issue in the spring!

**Do you have a recommendation for SDEM's Unsung Hero*
If so, email ebonilla@hostos.cuny.edu your nominations.
A committee will then review and select the SDEM Unsung Hero.**

**nominations remain anonymous*