



MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT'S GIFT:
President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth,
and Stakeholders' Engagement

BIENNIAL REPORT 2022–2024

OUR MISSION

Consistent with the mission of The City University of New York to provide access to higher education for all who seek it, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College was established in the South Bronx to meet the higher educational needs of people from this and similar communities who historically have been excluded from higher education.

The mission of Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is to offer access to higher education leading to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility through the development of linguistic, mathematical, technological, and critical thinking proficiencies needed for lifelong learning and for success in a variety of programs including careers, liberal arts, transfer, and those professional programs leading to licensure.

The College takes pride in its historical role in educating students from diverse ethnic, racial, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, particularly Hispanics and African Americans. An integral part of fulfilling its mission is to provide transitional language instruction for all English-as-a-Second-Language learners along with Spanish/English bilingual education offerings to foster a multicultural environment for all students. Hostos Community College, in addition to offering degree programs, is determined to be a resource to the South Bronx and other communities served by the College by providing continuing education, cultural events, and expertise for the further development of the communities it serves.

THE SIX PILLARS OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT

- 1. Provide access to higher education.**
- 2. Serve as a community resource.**
- 3. Celebrate diversity and multiculturalism.**
- 4. Facilitate socio-economic mobility.**
- 5. English and math skills development.**
- 6. Foster intellectual growth and lifelong learning.**



Dear Hostos Family and Friends,

It is with considerable pride that I write these words of introduction for the 2022–2024 Biennial Report for the Ms. MacKenzie Scott’s Gift: President’s Initiatives.

These initiatives have begun to move forward steadily in support of faculty and students, research and culture, as well as in their efforts to promote a diverse and integrated college experience.

The initiatives ably described in the report are beginning to also gain support with additional external funding, and this augurs a potential growth and multiplication of efforts funded from other sources as well.

As I write these brief remarks, my dearest wish is to see research grow also in the direction of supporting and understanding the challenges faced by the communities we serve, to produce additional funding for faculty and student projects as well as scholarships and the flourishing of publications.

A very special thank you to all who have participated in the Hostos Advisory Corps, the activities and the grant writing. Mil gracias y bendiciones, in particular, to Dr. Sofía Oviedo and Prof. Yoel Rodríguez for their leadership.

Warmest regards to all as I look forward to continued growth of our goals and initiatives in support of the Hostos Mission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daisy Cocco De Filippis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.

President

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College, CUNY

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OVERVIEW

Since its founding in 1968, Eugenio María de Hostos Community College has served as an educational and cultural anchor in the South Bronx and surrounding communities dedicated to providing high quality education, support, and resources for Black, Latinx, and immigrant students to succeed as lifelong learners, achieve their educational goals, and realize their dreams.

In July 2021, the transformative work Hostos Community College has carried out for decades caught the attention of philanthropist and author, Ms. MacKenzie Scott, who gifted Hostos with the largest donation we have ever received. With her generous gift, Ms. Scott recognizes Hostos' significant contribution to the South Bronx communities it has served with quality academic programs, hope, care and understanding for the past 56 years. A significant portion of this magnificent gift has been invested to ensure returns for many years to come and in support of the College's Strategic Plan. Part of this gift is also being used, supplemented by additional fundraising, to drive and support several important initiatives designed to promote retention and graduation, intentionality in advisement, access to career development opportunities, and support for faculty and staff engagement in research and grants development to advance innovation in teaching and learning strategies.

Under the guiding vision of President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D., a multi-disciplinary committee, the Hostos Advisory Corps, was established including faculty, student, alumni, and staff members of the Hostos community, who worked together to identify and plan new initiatives to support our students and foster institutional innovation. A Research Programs Director was hired to work under the President's supervision and in collaboration with the committee to provide leadership and guidance over the implementation and evaluation process.

The initiatives were designed to build upon the foundations that Hostos has laid to achieve the following goals:

- **Promote a strong college-going culture to advance academic excellence.**
- **Provide social and emotional supports for students and their families.**
- **Increase and enhance career development efforts.**
- **Build a thriving research center that will generate and test innovative ideas and interventions across all disciplines.**
- **Build stronger connections between students and faculty.**
- **Promote opportunities and spaces to generate thoughtful discussions centered on diversity, equity, and inclusion to support genuine community-building.**
- **Build collaborative partnerships to support college growth and innovation.**

PILOT INITIATIVES 2022–24

1. FAMILIES UNITED IN EDUCATION
2. MENTOR/MENTEE JOBS ON CAMPUS
3. HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER
4. HOSTOS MENTORING AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2+2+2 PROGRAMS
5. HOSTOS EXTERNAL INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM
6. BRIDGE TUITION SUPPORT ASSISTANCE FUND
7. EDUCATING FOR DIVERSITY
8. WORKFORCE INITIATIVE
9. HOSTOS STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
10. CAIMAN DIRECT: VIRTUAL STUDENT SUPPORT
11. PRESIDENT'S STUDENT RECOGNITION EVENTS
12. CAMPUS CLIMATE INITIATIVE

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LEADERSHIP



Appointed in January 2022, Dr. Sofia Oviedo serves as the Research Programs Director at Hostos Community College, providing management and oversight for the Ms. MacKenzie Scott's Gift: President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth and Stakeholders' Engagement. Reporting to President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, and working collaboratively with the Hostos Advisory Corps, faculty, students, and staff, Dr. Oviedo is responsible for ensuring the alignment of the multiple college-wide initiatives to the College's mission and priorities, managing administrative processes, and developing the evaluation methods to assess the implementation and impact of the funded initiatives. Reflecting on her experience, Dr. Oviedo said, "I have always believed in the power of education to transform lives and to lift the poor and marginalized out of poverty. Serving in the role of Research Programs Director at Hostos Community College, working alongside President Cocco De Filippis and a dedicated team of colleagues to advance this critical work that is providing new learning and career development opportunities for our students, has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. The Ms. MacKenzie Scott's Gift: President's Initiatives have breathed new life and resources to a college community that has always been and will remain student-centered, empowering our students with the skills and knowledge to succeed, and instill hope that they can realize their dreams."

Prior to serving in this role, Dr. Oviedo has been a teacher and researcher at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College and authored articles for scholarly publications such as the *Journal of Ethnic & Cultural Diversity in Social Work* and the *Journal of Research on Social Work Practice*. She has worked in both the public and private spheres, in various capacities as a fundraiser, administrator, evaluator, and program developer. Most recently, she served as the Senior Development and Evaluation officer for L&G Research and Evaluation Consulting, Inc. Prior to that she held the position of Senior Development and Program Officer for Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDco). She has also served as Director of Development for various non-profit organizations including Global Kids, the HOPE initiative at NYU School of Medicine's Child Study Center and as Program Manager and Analyst for the Puerto Rican Family Institute, Inc. Dr. Oviedo holds a Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the Graduate Center of The City University of New York, an MPA from Baruch College's School of Public Affairs, and a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

HOSTOS ADVISORY CORPS MEMBERSHIP

The Hostos Advisory Corps includes faculty, student, alumni, and staff members of the Hostos community, who meet monthly to provide guidance and feedback on the progress of the initiatives and serve key roles to support the implementation and assessment of the initiatives.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

Shiang-Kwei Wang, Ph.D.
Provost and VP for Academic Affairs

Esther Rodriguez-Chardavoyne
Senior Vice President for Administration
and Finance

Althea Sterling, Ph.D.
Interim Vice President of Student
Development and Enrollment Management

La Toro Yates, Ph.D.
Former Vice President of Student
Development and Enrollment Management

Colette Atkins
Vice President of Institutional Advancement

Evelyn Fernández-Ketcham, Ph.D.
Vice President of Continuing Education
and Workforce Development

Babette Audant, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President of Institutional
Effectiveness, Research & Assessment
and Dean of Academic Affairs

Diana Kreymer
Executive Deputy to the President and
Chief of Staff

Ana García Reyes
Dean of Community Relations

Johanna Gómez
Associate Dean of Student Life

Fabián Wander
Director of Health and Wellness

Sofia Oviedo, Ph.D.
Research Programs Director

Lisanette Rosario
(Hostos alumna) Director of Career Services

Charles Drago, DH.Ed.
Professor and Chair, Allied Health

Kate Wolfe, Ph.D.
Professor, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Ángel Morales
Professor, Humanities

Biao Jiang, Ph.D.
Professor, Natural Sciences

Nelson Nuñez-Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Professor, Natural Sciences

Yoel Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Natural Sciences

Catherine Lewis
Professor, Humanities, Hostos College Wide
Senate Representative

José González
Student Government Association,
President (Spring, 2023)

Dainma Martínez
Student Government Association,
President (2023–24)

Idelsa Mendez
(Hostos alumna) Development Officer

José R. García
(Hostos alumnus) Brand, Creative Services
and Communications Associate

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2022–24 GOALS ACHIEVED

Promote a Strong College-Going Culture

- Increased students' access to innovative programming
- Supported post-COVID transition to on-campus learning
- Increased organizational capacity to serve diverse groups of students

Provide Social and Emotional Supports

- Offered integrated supports (financial and social-emotional)
- Provided mentoring experiences through on-campus jobs and research internships
- Recognized students' persistence and resilience

Increase and Enhance Career Development Efforts

- Provided students with meaningful work experiences that develop career readiness competencies
- Provided hands-on research skill-building and exposure to real-world research projects
- Placed students in paid internships at community-based organizations

The President's Initiatives have generated many positive results in promoting a college-going culture by providing increased access to innovative programming that has generated enthusiasm across the college community. This approach has helped to support our transition back to campus after two years of remote learning: it has increased organizational capacity to serve targeted groups of students including family members attending Hostos together to support their path to graduation, continuing education students that are being motivated to advance education through a degree program, and students interested in pursuing careers in public health.

The President's Initiatives support students' social-emotional development through mentoring experiences, community engagement, and special President's Recognition events that honor students' resiliency and commitment to academic excellence while facing significant challenges. One of the President's Initiatives, Families United in Education (FUIE), offers integrated supports to enhance students' social and emotional well-being through financial resources to ease the costs of college attendance (books, Metrocards), meetings to provide support and guidance, and cultural activities to promote peer and family bonding.

Several initiatives addressed this goal: Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus, Hostos Research Center (HRC), and the Hostos External Internships Program. The Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus increased our students' access to financial stability, meaningful work experiences, and mentoring from our own faculty/staff to support their academic progress and professional development. The HRC created research opportunities for students to collaborate with faculty on new research projects, and the Hostos External Internships Program placed students in internships at community partner sites. Students gained valuable work experience and knowledge of how community-based organizations contribute to the vitality and well-being of our local communities.

The Hostos Research Center (HRC) was established to increase organizational capacity to produce academic and community-based research that will advance multi-disciplinary knowledge, translate institutional needs and strengths into external funding opportunities, and foster faculty-student research mentorship. The HRC is laying the groundwork for research and grants development through internal grant opportunities, capacity-building workshops, dissemination of faculty/staff research findings, and fostering stronger faculty-student connections through research-based skill-building and mentorship. During 2022–24, the HRC awarded \$298,971 in grants to 60 faculty/staff; 50 students were engaged as research assistants working closely with faculty and staff across various disciplines.

The Educating for Diversity Initiative was instrumental in motivating faculty and staff to lead and facilitate engaging activities that addressed issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. During 2022–24, \$40,080 was awarded in mini-grants to support notable programs and events including Black History Month and Women’s History Month, cultural activities, creative writing workshops, poetry readings, lecture series, resource fairs, and cultural presentations. With support from a CUNY Campus Climate grant, Hostos launched its Campus Climate Initiative, offering various community-building activities, to cultivate a more inclusive, supportive, and responsive campus community.

The Hostos External Internships Program placed five students in paid summer internships in 2022 with community-based organizations that meet critical needs in the areas of health, food insecurity, legal services, and youth development. The Hostos Mentoring and Supporting Students in 2+2+2 Opportunities Programs is developing a Hostos pipeline of talented transfer students to competitive institutions for completion of their undergraduate and graduate degrees. In 2022, Hostos launched the NextGen Public Health Scholars 2+2+2 Program in partnership with Columbia University that is providing a cohort of five students a career pathway in public health and epidemiology. A new \$1M Congressional earmark grant is providing comprehensive scholarship support to 16 students pursuing degrees in public health at Columbia University, engineering at the City College of NY and arts administration at Queens College.

Build Thriving Research Center to Generate/Test Interventions

- New space opened to foster grants/research development and faculty-student mentoring
- Awarded numerous grants to support faculty/staff research and student internships
- Students working directly with faculty on research projects across multiple disciplines

Promote Opportunities to Generate Discussions on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- Mini-grants motivated faculty/staff to lead and facilitate engaging activities
- Campus Climate Initiative promoted dialogue among students, faculty and staff

Build Collaborative Partnerships

- Developed community-based partnerships that provided new internship opportunities
- Partnership with Columbia University is building career pathway in public health and serving as a model for expansion of transfer and career pathways
- \$1 Million Congressional Earmark grant established the Building Transfer Pathways and Pipelines Initiative to provide new transfer opportunities

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FAMILIES UNITED IN EDUCATION



**“Without the guidance I received in the program,
I wouldn't even have a job. As a mother, there
were many challenges, but thanks to this, I
will keep going until I reach my destination.”**

— **Kimberly Feble**
Licensed Practical Nursing



Families United in Education (FUIE) is designed to assist family members (this includes parents and adult children, spouses/partners, siblings, cousins) who are enrolled in degree programs at Hostos to complete their education, maintain health and well-being, and build stronger familial bonds. The initiative is a natural extension of the academic, social, and emotional supports that Hostos provides with a special emphasis on building educational continuity for families enrolled at Hostos. Participants have access to monthly Metrocards, book vouchers, and a community of peer support to stay motivated and make progress toward credit completion. The program also engages participants in cultural experiences to help expand their learning and community engagement. The initiative is implemented with the dedicated support and leadership of key staff in the Health and Wellness Office, Ms. Christeen Francis and Mr. Fabian Wander, who were instrumental in leading student outreach, engaging family members, and ensuring that students had access to needed services.

Key Facts

- Enrolled 23 students in 2022–23; enrolled 22 students in 2023–24.
- Family configurations represented include siblings, cousins, parents and children.
- Participants include freshmen and continuing/transfer students.
- Participants’ majors included community health, computer science, criminal justice, dental hygiene, early childhood education, game design, nursing, and liberal arts and sciences.
- Students attended cultural activities including the Caribbean play *Tek Weh Yuhself* at the Hostos Center for Arts and Culture, the Bronx Zoo, and Broadway shows *Wicked* and *Hell’s Kitchen*.
- Eight participants have graduated across two academic years.
- 18 students were awarded FUIE scholarships in 2022–23, and 20 students were awarded scholarships in 2023–24 for attaining 3.0 GPA or better.

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MENTOR/MENTEE JOBS ON CAMPUS



“It was really scary coming to a new country. The culture was different, the people were different. Everything was different, really. But once I got that job, it opened a lot of doors for me. I was able to speak to different departments and got to know a lot more things like scholarship opportunities, even opportunities that aren't yet available and be the first in line to receive information. It has been tremendously amazing.”

— Jahneilia Curtin
Healthcare Services Administration/Management



Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus (MMJOC) provides Hostos students with valuable work experience, on the job mentoring, and professional development to promote career readiness and future job retention. Mentoring is provided to students by a faculty/staff member to support their academic growth and professional development. Students are paid a competitive hourly rate of \$20/hour and work 10 hours/week at various academic and administrative departments across Hostos. Job opportunities are also open for international students. To further support the growth of participants, career development events are held that offer skill-building workshops to build up students' career readiness competencies and sessions that promote best practices in mentoring.

Key Facts

- 54 students employed in 2022–23; 20 students employed full academic year
- 30 students employed in 2023–24; 10 students employed full academic year
- Five Career Development Day events held over 2022–24
- Mentoring supports students in key areas: academic progress, personal goal-setting, professional development, managing school/work/life balance
- Feedback from mentor/mentee surveys show over 90% satisfaction with program experience

MMJOC Departments/Programs* 2022–2024

ASAP
 Athletics Department
 College Discovery
 Dental Hygiene Program
 Division of Institutional Advancement
 English Department
 Family Empowerment Program
 Health & Wellness Services
 Hostos Center for Arts & Culture
 Hostos Office of Veterans Affairs
 Hostos One Stop Program
 Hostos Research Center
 Humanities, Black Studies Unit
 Humanities, Animation Design
 Humanities, Game Design
 Humanities, Media Design Unit
 Library & Archives
 Mathematics Department
 Office of Academic Affairs
 Office of Career Services
 Office of Procurement
 Office of School-College Partnerships
 Projecto Access STEP/C-STEP
 Registrar's Office
 Scholarship Office
 STEM & Dual Degree Programs
 SDEM
 SDEM-Caiman Direct
 Student Leadership Academy
 Student Success Coaching Unit (SSCU)

*Departments/programs that participated for one or more semesters.

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HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER



“The Hostos Research Center has quickly become a vibrant hub of research activity and opportunity. Our high-impact initiatives, including several internal grant competitions, have awarded 52 grants, and engaged 50 students in unique mentored research experiences. We are very proud of the work at the HRC and the positive impact it is having at our institution.”

— Yoel Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Chair, Natural Sciences Department
Professor of Physics and Chemistry
Co-Director, Hostos Research Center

HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER



The Hostos Research Center (HRC) was established to advance the development of new faculty and staff-led research projects, faculty-student mentorship, and creation of student research internships. The mission of the HRC is to foster a culture of research and grants development and enhance students' access to professional experiences. The HRC's mission is aligned with the College mission to provide opportunities for intellectual growth, socio-economic mobility and develop the proficiencies needed for lifelong learning and success. The HRC is also supported by the active engagement of the Hostos Committee on Sponsored Programs and Grants (CSPG).

On March 30, 2023, the newly dedicated space that now houses the HRC was opened at a Ribbon Cutting ceremony that brought together over 100 members of the Hostos community. Faculty, students, and staff were in attendance to celebrate and witness this momentous occasion. The ceremony featured remarks from President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Professors Yoel Rodríguez and Thomas Beachdel, and student researcher José Armando Keppis, who shared how the research experiences and faculty mentoring he received at Hostos helped to significantly influence his academic growth and future career plans. There were several special guests in attendance, including CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Deputy Bronx Borough President Janet Peguero, and NYC Council Member Eric Dinowitz, and a special proclamation from the office of NYC Council Member Rafael Salamanca was also presented.

The new space supports faculty/staff research planning, project development, faculty-student mentoring, capacity-building workshops, and research presentations. The HRC serves as a dynamic and interactive space for strengthening faculty-student relationships across disciplines and engaging students in new research opportunities. By providing students with authentic research experiences in laboratory and community settings, the HRC further advances the College's strategic goals to improve outcomes in student retention and graduation and prepare students for transfer opportunities in undergraduate/graduate education and professional research-focused opportunities.

With the leadership of President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, guidance of key staff including Research Programs Director Sofia Oviedo, Professors Yoel Rodríguez and Antonios Varelas, and with support from the CSPG, the HRC increases the College's organizational capacity to produce academic and community-based research, increases Hostos' external funding sources, and provides our students with an interactive and intellectually stimulating space for scholarly and professional development.

HRC Internal Grants Funding Program

ADELANTE PROJECT AWARD

ADvancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, ScieNces, Technology and Engineering (ADELANTE) Project Awards support proposals that address research, need-based, and/or creative and transformative interventions in all disciplines. ADELANTE funds year-long projects that also engage students as research assistants to promote mentorship and experiential learning.

Grant awards range between
\$6,000 – \$10,000

2022
11 ADELANTE grants
\$86,525
Awarded to faculty/staff

2023
11 ADELANTE grants
\$98,153
awarded to faculty/staff

2024
9 ADELANTE grants
\$85,793
awarded to faculty/staff

IDEAS PROJECT AWARD

Innovating, Developing and Executing Actions with Success (IDEAS) Project Awards support proposals addressing institutional needs and/or current research questions with potential to be materialized into external funding opportunities. IDEAS funds short-term projects that can inform the development of full-fledged grant proposals for future funding.

Grant awards range between
\$1,000 – \$2,000

2022
6 IDEAS grants
\$8,500
awarded to faculty/staff

2023
9 IDEAS grants
\$11,000
awarded to faculty/staff

2024
6 IDEAS grants
\$9,000
awarded to faculty/staff

HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER PARTICIPANTS

60 Faculty & Staff

2022–23
38 faculty/staff members
awarded ADELANTE and
IDEAS funding

2023–24
22 faculty/staff members
awarded ADELANTE and
IDEAS funding

50 Students

30 students were engaged
as research assistants

20 students were engaged
as research assistants

Students worked on research across various disciplines including: education, natural sciences, humanities, and game design.

Hostos Research Center Grants 2022–2024 Faculty/Staff Represented

Allied Health Department

Behavioral and Social
Sciences Department

Center for Teaching and
Learning

Continuing Education and
Workforce Development

Education Department

Educational Technology

English Department

Hostos Academic
Learning Center

Library Department

Humanities Department

Mathematics Department

Natural Sciences
Department

Office of Academic Affairs

Office of Institutional
Effectiveness, Research,
and Assessment

Student Development and
Enrollment Management

HRC GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The HRC launched an Open House series in 2023-24 that featured special research presentations by Hostos faculty, staff, and students, and hosted special presentations and celebratory events.

Two grant writing workshops were held in 2022 and seven workshops held in 2023-24 to support faculty and staff capacity-building in securing public and private grants.

Hostos Research Day was held on April 27, 2023, featuring the research of 33 faculty members who were recognized for their scholarly contributions.

The first Hostos Research Center Mini Conference and Awardee Celebration was held on May 14, 2024. This event showcased the incredible work carried out by our faculty, staff, and students and highlighted the impacts of these research experiences for our students.

50

Stories of Student Research Assistants HERE ARE JUST THREE



Susan Hu

PI: Dr. Vladimir Ovtcharenko

Natural Sciences Department
Research Project: Introducing
Students of HCC from the South

Bronx Community to the Underrepresented Field of
STEM Programs: Systematics and Taxonomy

Susan was able to explore entomology, the study
of insects, and discovered a career path that she
had not known was possible. She will continue her
studies in the life sciences. **“Meeting Dr. Ovtcharenko
encouraged me to continue this career path and I feel
I’m on the right track.”**



Joshua Wiggan

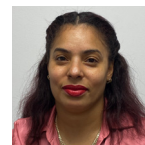
PI: Professor Catherine Lewis

Humanities Department

Research Project: The Revolutionary
Print Shop: Establishing a Sustainable

Model for Apprenticeship

Joshua is a digital design major who supported the
development of the Revolutionary Print Shop, a
professional screen printing apprenticeship. Of his
experience, Joshua shared, **“Professor Lewis was able
to help me with improving my leadership and problem
solving skills, and my entire motivation tripled as I was
able to work in an art space and teach students how
to screen print.”**



Christlynn Rodriguez

PI: Dr. Debasish Roy

Natural Sciences Department

Research Project: Lab to Land:
Screening of Drug Resistant

Bacteria Around South Bronx and NYC and Testing
Their Potency Against Newly Developed Anti-Microbial
Drugs to Prevent Future Pandemic

Christlynn gained hands-on experience conducting
research in the field and laboratory, which solidified
her career aspirations to become a cosmetic scientist
to develop cosmetics for people of color. She is
grateful for Professor Roy’s mentorship. **“He is very
student-centered, helping to make the connection for
students from the research to students’ career goals.”**

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HOSTOS MENTORING AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2+2+2 PROGRAMS



“Thanks to an opportunity like this, I was privileged enough to not have to decide between continuing my studies or halting my progress due to financial constraints.”

— **Hawa Antonet Abraham '23**
Community Health



Maria Vasquez Guillen, Hawa Abraham and Andrea Vasquez Guillen.

NextGen Public Health Scholars 2+2+2 Program

This initiative is designed to support students through mentoring and scholarship to establish a Hostos pipeline of talented transfer students to competitive institutions for completion of their undergraduate and graduate degrees. Launched in 2022, the program is a unique partnership between Hostos Community College and Columbia University that prepares Hostos students for careers in public health and epidemiology. The NextGen Public Health Scholars are selected through a joint application process that sets them on an educational path to complete their Associate of Arts (AA) at Hostos, then the Bachelor of Arts (BA) at the Columbia School of General Studies and followed by a Master of Public Health (MPH) or Master of Science (MS) in the Department of Epidemiology at the Columbia Mailman School of Public Health. Selected students receive full tuition coverage, monthly stipends, MetroCards, mentorship, personal laptop, and access to internships and career development opportunities.

Three highly-prepared students from Hostos were selected as the inaugural NextGen Public Health Scholars cohort in 2022. Hawa Abraham, along with two sisters, Andrea Vasquez Guillen and Maria Vasquez Guillen, are all immigrant women of color whose dreams of achieving their educational and career goals in public health have now been made possible. They each overcame significant

challenges in their home countries such as civil war, political turmoil, and economic crises, which brought them and their families to the U.S. While adjusting to a new life in this country, they also bore witness to the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on communities of color, which further fueled their determination to become public health researchers and practitioners where their contributions can make a huge difference. Hostos Community College and Columbia University are thrilled to have launched these three amazing women as the first cohort.

In 2023, a new cohort of two students was selected: Ansumana Jammeh and Renata Tedaldi. Ansumana Jammeh, a liberal arts and sciences major, was an active member of the Student Government Association and the Student Leadership Academy. He has also participated in several extracurricular activities including LSAMP (Louis Stokes Alliances Minority Participation), America Needs You Fellowship, and the UN Model Senate. Ansumana's career goal is to become a seasoned epidemiologist that will conduct research on pressing public health issues on a local and global scale. Renata Tedaldi is a former DACA student who majored in liberal arts and sciences at Hostos, and her career goal is to become a public health leader and advocate that will address health disparities impacting Latino immigrant communities.

HOSTOS MENTORING AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN 2+2+2 PROGRAMS



On November 20, 2023, the President's Office in collaboration with the Office of Academic Affairs celebrated the launch of this transformative initiative and honored Congressman Ritchie Torres for championing this funding to support our students.

Building Transfer Pathways and Pipelines Initiative

The 2023–24 academic year marked the launch of the Building Transfer Pathways and Pipelines initiative that is funded by a \$1M congressional earmark secured on Hostos' behalf by Congressman Ritchie Torres (NY-15). With this tremendous support, Hostos will strengthen and expand our current dual/joint degree programs known as “articulation agreements” with four-year colleges and universities. This includes existing partnerships as well as new ones that will ensure our students receive high-quality opportunities to continue their education and pursue advanced degrees in high-demand fields. Current partnerships include articulation agreements with City College of New York – Grove School of Engineering (CCNY-GSoE) in Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering programs, an Arts Administration degree program with Queens College, and the NextGen Public Health Scholars 2+2+2 program with Columbia University. Hostos faculty and staff worked in collaboration with our educational partners to identify 16 outstanding students who will be pursuing degrees in engineering, arts administration, and public health.

NextGen Public Health Scholars

Columbia University



Hawa Abraham



Renata Tedaldi



Ansumana Jammeh



Andrea Vasquez Guillen



Maria Vasquez Guillen

NextGen Engineering Scholars

City College of NY-GSoE



Aaron Arjunelall



Joel Javier



Jose Armando Keppis



Erika M. Mata



Sor Angel Bello Melendez



Brando Mendez



John Santana



Kanou Hortense Awa Zerbo

NextGen Arts Administration Scholars

Queens College



Marie Keita



Victoria Redillo



Tiffany Wilson

MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT'S GIFT: President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth, and Stakeholders' Engagement

EDUCATING FOR DIVERSITY

This initiative supports cultural, social, and educational activities that address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mini-grants ranging between \$1,000 - \$2,000, are awarded to Hostos faculty, staff, and students who are interested in hosting an activity and engaging the Hostos community in thoughtful discussions and communal learning. In Spring 2022, the Educating for Diversity initiative awarded seven mini-grants that supported various activities such as educational workshops, a film screening, student panel, and book discussions. In Spring 2023, 11 grants were awarded totaling \$17,695, and in Spring 2024, 15 grants totaling \$15,000 were awarded.

2023 Educating for Diversity Event Highlights

1. Special events for Black History Month included “Removing Symbols of Oppression and Facilitating Healing,” an essential discussion led by Professor Cequyna Moore, Program Director of the World Heritage Monuments Toolkit Project, and “A Conversation with Black Studies Alumni,” moderated by Professor Anamaría Flores, featuring alumni insights on how Hostos’ Black Studies program shaped their lives and careers.



2. Three-part lecture series, “Food as an Intercultural Bridge and Communicator,” hosted by the Food Studies Program. The speakers representing diverse cultural groups who through their talks addressed current issues impacting urban food systems.



3. The presentation of the online exhibit developed by Professor William Casari of the Hostos Library and Archives – “La Lucha: The Save Hostos Movement.” The exhibit documents, through photographs taken by Magda J. Vasillov, the incredibly rich history of the College’s first decade of struggles to stay open amidst a backdrop of social, political, and fiscal crises that threatened the College’s existence.



4. The Hostos JUSTICE Committee, in partnership with the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, held the Welcome Home Resource Fair, which brought together over 40 community-based organizations to provide vital information on available services for students and family members impacted by the criminal justice system.



5. “Music Connects Us,” an initiative led by faculty in the Humanities Department, engaged students and faculty in writing short essays and poems about songs and music that were important for their families and heritage. Students in Digital Music recorded a podcast featuring the writings and songs, which were presented at a celebratory concert that was held during the Hostos Student Symposium.



2024 Educating for Diversity Event Highlights

1. Women’s History Month events included a roundtable led by Professor Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla with Latina writers on their roles in publishing locally and globally, an online book discussion hosted by Professor Marcella Bencivenni with the editors of “Talking to the Girls” on the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire, and a presentation by Professor Jennifer Tang on Barbie’s history, highlighting diversity and inclusion.



2. The special presentation of Digital MoCHA: The Online Archives of the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art Collection. The event celebrated the launch of this new digital repository and was hosted by Professors Jorge Matos and William Casari of the Hostos Library and Archives. Keynote speaker Taína Caragol from the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian provided a historical presentation of the museum’s legacy and continuing impact on Latin American and Latinx artists.

3. The Career Services Office hosted a virtual Career Symposium that engaged students in learning about career readiness skills and Pathways into STEM, Community Health, Education, Digital Media and Liberal Arts/Humanities. The event featured a special keynote speaker, panel presentations including one with Hostos alumni and industry experts, and several breakout sessions.

4. Professor Marcella Bencivenni hosted two screenings of the documentary “Stonebreakers” and a special Q & A session with the Director Valerio Ciriaci and Producer Isaak Liptzin. The documentary chronicles the controversy over monuments and statues that arose in the United States during the George Floyd protests and the 2020 presidential election.

5. The Muslim Student Club hosted the first Hostos Eid Festival, a special event held in honor of Zakat Eid, the Muslim tradition of charity and mutual support to spread joy and ensure everyone can partake in the festivities at the conclusion of the fasting month of Ramadan. The event was hosted by SGA Senator Ansumana Jammeh, and featured guest speakers who spoke about the tenets of Islam. There was also wonderful food and special treats provided from West African and Yemeni restaurants.



MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT'S GIFT: President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth, and Stakeholders' Engagement

HOSTOS EXTERNAL INTERNSHIPS PROGRAM

The Hostos External Internships Program aims to support unpaid internships at well-respected institutions and will help our students develop new skills and build professional competencies and prepare them to succeed in today's workforce. To support their participation in a six-to-eight-week internship, students are paid a stipend and receive transportation assistance. During summer 2022, Hostos supported five students' participation in external internships with community-based organizations located in the Bronx and upper Manhattan.

Overall, our students gained valuable work experience working for non-profit organizations that address critical community needs including health education, food insecurity, legal assistance, and youth development. This experience is opening doors to community engagement that will make a difference in their career trajectory.



Dulce Luna '22
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Youth Development Intern



AFTER-SCHOOL ALL-STARS NY provides free, comprehensive after-school programs for NYC youth, focusing on academic support, enrichment activities, and life skills to empower and inspire students.

Dulce interned with After-School All-Stars NY in their Summer Rising youth development program providing programmatic and administrative support. This opportunity gave Dulce new insights into the educational and developmental needs of children, which would serve her well. After she graduated Hostos, and obtained a Bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from Hunter College, she is seeking to obtain a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. The internship program is one of the many ways that Hostos supported Dulce's educational journey; in her words, "I had a great experience during my enrollment at Hostos. I will never forget my professors, mentors, everyone, including admissions. Thanks to all of you for making my experience much easier. A special thanks for helping me with the placement in this program."



Hawa Abraham '23
Community Health

Health Educator



ARGUS COMMUNITY, INC. offers essential health education services across NYC, promoting wellness, prevention, and support to empower individuals and communities for healthier, informed lifestyles.

Hawa worked as a Health Educator for Argus Community, Inc., and was engaged in health promotion, education, group facilitation, and counseling; an experience which helped to solidify her passion for improving the health and wellbeing of vulnerable communities.



Reyna Compres '24
Dental Hygiene

Development Intern



EVERY DAY IS A MIRACLE supports NYC families with special needs children, providing resources, advocacy, and programs to enhance quality of life, foster inclusion, and promote resilience.

Reyna Compres supported the communications and fundraising efforts of Every Day is a Miracle, which opened Reyna's horizons to the possibilities of a career in fundraising. Reyna honed her writing and design skills helping to write a newsletter and other marketing materials that brought to light the organization's community focus.



Iris Massiel Vargas '24
CUNY Language Immersion Program

Legal Clinic Intern



PART OF THE SOLUTION (POTS) aids NYC families facing poverty, offering comprehensive services like food, housing support, legal assistance, and job training to foster stability and self-sufficiency.

Iris interned for POTS providing support and referrals to community members seeking legal assistance. Iris gained valuable knowledge of the intake process and legal referrals, while developing core skills in customer service, teamwork, and project management, to help meet clients' needs.



Edita Makolli '23
Business Management and Accounting

Assistant Administrator



KIPS BAY BOYS & GIRLS CLUB provides NYC youth with educational, recreational, and social programs, creating a safe, supportive environment that encourages personal growth, academic success, and positive life choices.

Edita gained valuable work experience at Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club, enhancing her Excel and communication skills while building confidence. This led to a mentee job through Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus. After graduating from Hostos, she secured a part-time position in the Hostos Procurement Office and is now pursuing a Bachelor's in accounting and business management at Baruch College.

Bridge Tuition Support Assistance

At Hostos, student retention and degree completion are more than institutional goals; they are essential pathways for integrating individuals into the workforce. These efforts align with two key pillars of our mission: to provide access to higher education and facilitate socioeconomic mobility. Ensuring that students can persist through challenges and earn their degrees is vital to opening doors to career advancement. For many of our students, the journey to graduation is fraught with financial barriers, which can threaten their academic aspirations and long-term success.

During 2022–24, BTSA awarded \$260,533 in tuition assistance, providing critical relief to students at risk of dropping out.

The Bridge Tuition Support Assistance Fund (BTSA) is a need-based program designed to support students facing financial hardships. Awards are distributed in the form of tuition vouchers, which are applied directly to the student's balance. This streamlined process helps students resolve tuition holds quickly, allowing them to remain enrolled or graduate on time. The application process is accessible and straightforward, with students able to apply online through the Hostos website. During 2022–24, BTSA awarded \$260,533 in tuition assistance, providing critical relief to students at risk of dropping out.

By removing financial barriers, BTSA empowers students to stay on track academically and focus on their long-term goals. This support system ensures that students can persist through challenges, ultimately completing their degrees and gaining access to opportunities that promote socioeconomic mobility.

MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT'S GIFT:

President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth,
and Stakeholders' Engagement

ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP



“I am incredibly proud to share that, thanks to the Ms. MacKenzie Scott Adult and Continuing Education Scholarship, I have been able to pursue my education at Hostos, starting with my TASC diploma and now maintaining a 3.61 GPA. This scholarship has eased financial burdens, especially transportation costs, and I am honored to be part of such a supportive team, led by President Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis.”

— Alexandra Martinez
Liberal Arts and Sciences



The Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division (CEWD) established the Ms. MacKenzie Scott Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) Scholarship to support the educational transition of Hostos students that completed a continuing education (CE) program and enrolled in a degree program. Continuing education students seeking to matriculate in a degree program can apply to receive a \$1,000 scholarship, and once enrolled are awarded a \$500 scholarship for maintaining a 3.0 GPA or better. This initiative is building a stronger bridge between Hostos’ continuing education division and degree programs to increase the number of students that fulfill their dreams of attaining their college degrees.

Under the leadership of VP Dr. Evelyn Fernández-Ketcham and Dr. Sam Byrd, Director of College Transition and Alternative Credit Programs, the Ms. MacKenzie Scott ACE Scholarship of \$1,000 was awarded to 33 CEWD students who enrolled in degree programs since Spring 2022. Of these, 15 students who achieved or maintained good academic standing were each awarded a \$500 scholarship. Dr. Byrd provides extensive support to the students by ensuring that they are meeting with their academic advisors regularly and checks in with students to help address any challenges they may be facing to support their transition from non-degree to degree programs. The President’s Office hosted special receptions in honor of the scholarship recipients’ accomplishments upon completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Key Facts

- \$25,000 awarded in scholarships in 2022–23.
- \$25,500 awarded in scholarships in 2023–24.
- Students are pursuing degrees in: Aging and health studies, business management, community health, dental hygiene, early childhood education, liberal arts and sciences, and nursing.
- Two students from the first cohort graduated in Spring 2024.
- 12 scholarship recipients are pursuing nursing degrees.

MS. MACKENZIE SCOTT'S GIFT: President's Initiatives for Student Success, College Growth, and Stakeholders' Engagement

NEW PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES



Hostos Student Symposium

Under the leadership of Dean Andrea Fabrizio and the Office of Academic Affairs, the inaugural Hostos Student Symposium was held on April 18, 2023, and showcased the incredible work of over 60 students across multiple disciplines who were mentored by nearly 40 faculty members. The day included a special keynote presentation, a STEM poster session, and special performances. Over 200 students, faculty, and staff participated, and the sense of community was palpable on campus throughout the day. Due to the success of the inaugural event, the President's Initiatives supported the second annual Hostos Student Symposium, which was held on April 18, 2024. Over 100 students presented their research, essays, and creative works with the support of faculty mentors. The event was a beautiful celebration of our students' academic achievements and creativity, and representative of the Hostos community's love of learning.

Caiman Direct: Virtual Student Support

Caiman Direct is a tiered collaborative effort between Student Development and Enrollment Management offices to streamline essential services to help students navigate and access the services they need to support their enrollment and retention at Hostos. Under the leadership of Dr. Marsha Milan Bethel, two students were hired through Mentor/Mentee Jobs on Campus to serve as Student Advocate Interns to provide virtual support to current and incoming students enrolled via the Caiman Direct platform. The interns are cross-trained within SDEM to support students in completing tasks that prevent their future enrollment (i.e., academic appeal submission, financial aid renewal, immunization processing, etc.). This allows the Student Advocate Interns to gain work experience and build leadership and customer service skills while experiencing employment in higher education. The initiative has been successful over the last two academic years in delivering high-quality services that are efficient and student-centered; building the self-efficacy of students in navigating their journey at Hostos and creating a virtual environment that is committed to student services and student success.



Hostos Children's Center

The Hostos Children's Center, our dedicated on-campus childcare provider, has received valuable support from the Ms. MacKenzie Scott's Gift: President's Initiatives during the 2023–24 academic year. This funding has provided the center with resources to enhance its educational offerings and foster a nurturing environment for young learners. The grant supported the purchase of children's books, a mobile Smartboard, and an indoor gardening program, all of which contribute to a rich, dynamic learning experience. Additionally, monthly birthday celebrations, complete with cupcakes, add a personal and joyful touch, creating lasting memories for the children and their families. Through these enhancements, the Children's Center continues to be a space where early learning and community connections thrive.



Hostos Language Lab

The Hostos Language Lab, a recent initiative developed by Professor Humberto Ballesteros, aims to support students' language acquisition through innovative, web-based resources. Supported by the Humanities Department, this pilot project utilizes Extempore, a specialized language lab software, to help students develop essential language skills through interactive practice. The program was initially piloted in Professor Ballesteros' Italian class in Fall 2023 and expanded in Spring 2024 with the addition of French and Japanese language classes. Professor Ballesteros also trained two faculty members on integrating Extempore into their curriculum, ensuring that the lab offers multilingual learning opportunities. This thoughtful integration of technology represents a significant step in enhancing language instruction at Hostos, offering students a modern and adaptable approach to language learning.

NEW PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES



President's Student Recognition Events

Launched in Spring 2023, the President's Student Recognition events invited faculty and staff to submit nominations of students who demonstrated incredible perseverance and resiliency while excelling in their studies. Over 60 nominations were received, and the review committee selected a total of 31 students to receive this special distinction and a \$500 stipend at one of two special events. The President's Recognition Tea in Honor of Women's History Month was held on March 21, 2023, and honored 15 students. The President's Recognition Barbeque Honoring Student Persistence and Resiliency was held on April 4, 2023, and honored 16 students. Keynote presenters for the events included Dr. Althea Sterling, Associate Dean of SDEM, and Fabian Wander, Director of Health and Wellness Services.

In Spring 2024, the second annual President's Student Recognition events were held and 31 students were selected to receive this special distinction and a \$500 stipend. The President's Recognition Tea in Honor of Women's History Month was held on March 26, 2024, and honored 14 students. The President's Recognition Barbeque Honoring Student Persistence and Resiliency was held on April 15, 2024, and honored 17 students. Each event featured welcoming remarks from President Cocco De Filippis, a special poetry reading, and keynote presentations from Professor Jacqueline DiSanto and ASAP Director Siddique Mohamed. The events were quite memorable as nominators shared why they nominated the student and how they were inspired by the student's commitment to their education even while facing many challenges and overcoming significant obstacles in their lives. Equally moving were the students' own words as they shared their gratitude over being nominated and highlighted the support and encouragement they received from the nominating faculty/staff members.



Celebrating Hostos Community College's 55th Anniversary

The Shine Your Light Poetry Celebration Day, held on May 16, 2023, was a special event that brought together our Hostos community in celebration of the College's 55th anniversary. Faculty, students, and staff were invited to read their favorite poem, either an original poem or one written by their favorite poet. The event featured 20 Hostos poets including students, faculty, and staff. The event was uplifting and provided powerful messages reflective of our diversity and collective human experiences. This is best illustrated in the poem written by Erika M. Mata, who read it aloud to the attendees.

At the event, Hostos President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, who has long been a researcher of poetry and a poet herself, said, "Poetry teaches you about critical thinking, to look for what's hidden, and read between the lines." Following the success of this event, the Office of the President and the Hostos Writing Center collaborated to host the first Peace and Poetry event in 2023 to share poetry that reflects the ideals of hope and peace that united us a community. This could certainly become a Hostos signature event to showcase the breadth of creativity in our Hostos community.

Not a label. A Diamond Star! By Erika Margarita Mata

I'm a child that just has been born
Not a labeled box in the delivery room of the world.
I'm a carbon that needs to be polished to shine.
Not only carbon to move the Corporate Engine around

I'm a child, a little person that can learn,
Not a rock with the label "null" or "void"
I'm eager to watch, absorb and to be grown

Do not expect that I won't bloom or surrender my soul
I know I'm a child that will save the world
Even if a label has robbed my childhood
Even if biased people try to prevent me to just be
We have the right to be treated fair and good

I've been judged by name, by my face,
By my zip code and by my faith.
But I refuse to be treated like that.
I am a human, I won't be crushed.

I am refusing to be dehumanized
I exist, I am alive, I am worthy, and smart
I'm a child that will rise.
Not a label: A Diamond Star.

NEW PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES

Hostos Campus Climate Initiative

Hostos was awarded a \$24,000 grant from the CUNY Transformation Initiative to develop a Campus Climate Initiative that would advance our efforts to cultivate a more inclusive, supportive, and responsive campus community. Many activities were held that engaged our students, faculty, and staff. Highlights from Spring 2023 events include the following:

1. On March 14, 2023, the first Hostos Interfaith Symposium and Luncheon was held with the participation of several interfaith leaders who shed light on the core principles that resonate across diverse forms of faith and discussed how their communities have come together to address community needs. A student panel also shared their diverse faith experiences and how they have sought to grow in their understanding of others' faith experiences.



2. A three-part workshop series facilitated by the authors of the book "Silent Agreements," Linda D. Anderson, Ph.D, Sonia R. Banks, Ph.D., and Michele L. Owens, Ph.D., was held on April 24, May 1, and May 9, 2023. The series focused on strengthening our community's relationship-building practices and engaged participants in examining the values, beliefs, biases, and unspoken expectations ("silent agreements") that underlie interactions with others. They also provided participants with strategies to improve self-awareness, understanding and communication of our intersectional identities, and exploring healthy approaches to strengthen relationships in our work teams.



3. The Office of the President in collaboration with the Accessibility Resource Center and Office of Educational Technology hosted a special training event on May 11, 2023, to promote different practices and resources in support of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). Faculty and staff were invited to learn more about accessible teaching strategies and tools that they can incorporate in their course materials to increase learning accessibility for all students. The event featured presentations by faculty and staff that addressed the benefits of applying Universal Design for Learning (UDL) concepts to promote higher student engagement and positive learning outcomes.

4. The Black at Hostos Town Hall series, a signature Hostos initiative born in response to student calls for social justice after the murder of George Floyd in 2020, hosted two forums focused on the theme, "Black Resistance in the Courts, in the Workplace, and in the Classroom." The first forum, held on February 9, 2023, and moderated by Professor Kathy Taylor from Naugatuck Valley Community College, featured a special presentation by Mark Joseph Stern, a senior writer for Slate Magazine, providing a critical analysis of key Supreme Court decisions and their impact on racial progress. The second forum, held on April 25, 2023, featured Amazon Labor Union co-founders Jordan Flowers and Gerald Bryson, who discussed their work in forming the ALU, the resistance strategies they used to promote worker advocacy, and the vital importance of civic engagement.



5. A series of Community-Building Circles were facilitated in Fall 2023 by the New York Peace Institute, an experienced provider of restorative justice services. The circles provided a safe space for participants, including faculty, students, and staff, who were encouraged to share and discuss their views about building a community at Hostos that supports and honors all diverse identities and experiences.

Hostos Anti-Hate Initiative

In Spring 2024, Hostos launched the Anti-Hate Initiative supported by funding awarded by CUNY from the NYC Council. The initiative sought to increase greater cultural awareness, understanding, and support for specific communities that have experienced discrimination. With this year's focus on antisemitism and anti-Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) hate, the Office of the President and the Office of Compliance and Diversity hosted several college-wide events to promote awareness and understanding of these groups' experiences, and to address other forms of hatred.

1. The opening reception for the Jewish Diversity/Jewish Identity exhibit of the photographer Zion Ozeri was held on March 5, 2024. The exhibit featuring Mr. Ozeri's stunning black and white photographs documented the multi-faceted nature of Jewish life in Israel and around the world. President Daisy Cocco De Filippis brought welcoming remarks followed by special guests NYC Council Member Eric Dinowitz, Rabbi Ron Fish of the Anti-Defamation League, and Mr. Ozeri, who all reflected about the various aspects of the Jewish lived experience and how these were reflected in the photographs.



2. The College Civility Committee, chaired by Professor Manuel Livingston, hosted a college-wide community discussion on April 16, 2024, Bullying and Hate in the Digital Age, featuring a special keynote presentation from Dr. Jeffrey Lane, Associate Professor of Communication at Rutgers University. Dr. Lane's presentation examined the practice of authentic listening and how this can provide a good foundation for engaging in civil and respectful conversations, especially when there are differences of opinion. Following the presentation, Professor Livingston moderated a student panel that invited the students to share how they would use authentic listening as a positive response to counteract cyberbullying.



3. The Second Annual Multi-Faith Symposium and Luncheon was held on April 16, 2024, with the participation of interfaith leaders including Hostos Chaplain Father James Sheehan, Rabbi Bob Kaplan of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Rev. Doyeon Park, Minister of the Manhattan Won Buddhist Temple, Imam Ammar Abdul Rahman, Deputy Imam at Masjid Al-Haram USA, and Rabbi Saadia Pewzner of the Bronx Jewish Center. They participated in a panel discussion where they reflected on their personal journeys to becoming faith leaders in their communities, shared significant spiritual practices of their faith tradition, and identified the core values that resonate across diverse faiths that foster interfaith collaboration. A wonderful group of students participated in a panel discussion, where they shared their personal faith/spiritual experiences and how their faith helps to support them as students, and to show kindness and empathy towards others of diverse faith traditions.



4. The Asian American Federation hosted a hybrid workshop on May 8, 2024, to promote understanding of the diverse Asian communities in NY and nationally, address anti-Asian hate as well as its impact on Asian New Yorkers, and outlined protections for Asian New Yorkers against hate crimes.

HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER 2022 GRANT AWARDEES

ADvancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, sciNces, Technology and Engineering 2022 ADELANTE Project Winning Proposals

Track 1: Expand Research Opportunities for Faculty and Staff in All Disciplines

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
Purpose and Sustainability: Lessons Learned from the Interrogation of Title V Program Legacy at Hostos Beyond the Funding Period	Dr. Silvia Reyes, PI Dr. Nelson Nuñez Rodríguez, Co-PI Ms. Sarah Brennan, Co-PI Office of Academic Affairs Natural Sciences Department	\$6,000
Teaching Action Research to Pre-service Teachers to Increase Research Knowledge and Evidence-based Practices	Dr. Sonia Maldonado Torres, PI Education Department	\$10,000
The Role of Old Hollywood Movies in LGBTQ Older Adults Self-Development	Dr. Mateo Sancho Cardiel, PI Behavioral and Social Sciences Department, Humanities Department	\$7,225
Lab to Land: Development of a Biomedical Workforce through Biomedical Research	Dr. Debasish Roy, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$10,000
Peer Observation at Hostos: A Collaborative Practice	Dr. Diana Macri, PI Mr. Carlos Guevara, Co-PI Allied Health Department Educational Technology Center for Teaching and Learning	\$10,000
Imagining an Agnostic Course Design through an Online Teaching Hive (OTH)	Dr. Jacqueline DiSanto, PI Education Department Center for Teaching and Learning	\$10,000
Cracked Codes: Humor and Philosophy in Carmelita Tropicana's and Susana Chávez-Silverman's Mixed Genre Writing	Dr. Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, PI Humanities Department	\$3,300

Track 2 | Expand Undergraduate Research Opportunities Based on Faculty Expertise

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
Making Evidence-based Student Success Practices the Drivetrain of Our Strategic Plan and Operational Priorities	Dr. Asrat G. Amnie, PI Education Department	\$6,000
Analysis of the Distribution of GIRK1/GIRK2 Channel and CPT1C Protein in Different Subregions of the Hippocampus in a Mouse Model of Alzheimer's Disease	Dr. Maria del Carmen Inda, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$8,000
Addressing Environmental Issue of Water Pollution with Phytoremediation	Dr. Anna Ivanova, PI Dr. Flor Henderson, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department	\$8,000
Hostos Games Studio, Pilot Program	Marcelo D. Viana Neto, MFA, PI Humanities Department	\$8,000

Total Grants Awarded **\$86,525**

**Innovating, Developing, and Executing Actions with Success
2022 IDEAS Project Development Awards**

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
<u>Translating Scales: Geological and Human Realms in Euclides da Cunha</u>	Dr. Emmanuel A. Velayos Larrabure, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
<u>Dissecting the Effectiveness of Online Modality for Teaching Lab Courses Required for Non-Science Majors: What works?</u>	Dr. Nelson Nuñez Rodríguez, PI Dr. Maria Eugenia Alaniz, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department	\$2,000
<u>Tracing Black: Color and Concept, An Art Historical Phenomenology</u>	Dr. Thomas Beachdel, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
<u>Strengthening Information Literacy Learning Outcomes by Increasing Access to Primary Sources in the Hostos Archives</u>	Professor William Casari, PI Professor Jorge Matos, MA, Co-PI Hostos Library	\$2,000
<u>Preparing an Oral History of Joe Conzo Sr.'s Life in Latin Music</u>	Dr. Samuel K. Byrd, PI Continuing Education and Workforce Development Division (CEWD)	\$1,000
<u>Access and Opportunity in the Bronx: Mathematics Sequences from High School to Hostos</u>	Dr. Anders Jasson Stachelek, PI Ms. Elizabeth Wilson, Co-PI Dr. Babette Audant, Co-PI Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Research and Assessment Mathematics Department Office of Academic Affairs	\$1,500
Total Grants Awarded		\$8,500

HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER 2023 GRANT AWARDEES

ADvancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, scieNces, Technology and Engineering 2023 ADELANTE Project Winning Proposals

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
Animating Science Labs: Digital-Media Students as Co-Creators of Science Curriculum	Dr. Nelson Nuñez Rodríguez, PI Professor Andrew London, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department Humanities Department	\$10,000
I-to-I: Self Portrait and Identity, Libuše Jarcovjáčková and Marie Tomanova	Dr. Thomas Beachdel, PI Lucie Černá, Co-PI Humanities Department	\$10,000
The Revolutionary Print Shop: Establishing a Sustainable Model for Apprenticeship	Professor Catherine Lewis, MFA, PI Humanities Department	\$10,000
NYC Parle Francais!: Teaching Videos of our Francophone Communities	Dr. Nicole Wallenbrock, PI Humanities Department	\$7,900
Connections, Community, Careers - Enhancing the Educational Experience of LAS-AS Students at Hostos Community College	Dr. Anna Ivanova, PI Ms. Karla Contreras, M.Sc., Co-PI Dr. Andrea Fabrizio, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department Office of Academic Affairs	\$10,000
Seizing the Language of Rights: Race and Citizenship in Jacinto Ventura de Molina	Dr. Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure, PI Humanities Department	\$6,000
Beyond Expression: Phenomenologies of Reception in Gloria E. Anzaldúa and Josefina Báez	Dr. Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, PI Humanities Department	\$6,313.20
Introducing African Americans and Hispanic Students of Hostos CC to the Underrepresented Field of STEM Programs – Taxonomy – Through the Active Participation of Students in the NSF Project for the Creation and Development Database for the Research Collection of the American Museum of Natural History	Dr. Vladimir Ovtcharenko, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$9,940
The Myth of the “Good Woman:” Forced Motherhood in the Mid-Victorian Period	Dr. Christine Choi, PI English Department	\$8,000
Lab to Land: Modification/Development of Anti-Microbial Drugs through Molecular-Microbiological Research	Dr. Debasish Roy, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$10,000
Other Possible Games – Hostos Game Design Studio Year 2	Prof. Marcelo D. Viana Neto, MFA, PI Prof. Matthew R. F. Baloušek, Co-PI Humanities Department	\$10,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$98,153.20

**Innovating, Developing, and Executing Actions with Success
2023 IDEAS Project Development Awards**

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
Plotting Women in Eighteenth-Century British Literature: Prehistories of Western Feminism	Dr. Elizabeth Porter, PI English Department	\$1,000
Uncovering the Impact of Virtual Lab Integration into a Wet-Lab Sequence on General Chemistry I Student Scientific Skills	Dr. Bianca Lee Rivera Peña, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$1,000
Death-valorization, Necroecologies, and the Making of the South Bronx Racialized Urban Injustices	Dr. Víctor M. Torres-Vélez, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
Multi-Generational Engaged Storytelling: A First Year Seminar Curricular Unit at Hostos CC	Dr. Tram Nguyen, PI Dr. Victoria Muñoz, Co-PI Dr. Amina Tajbhai, Co-PI English Department	\$2,000
Enhancing Collaborative Learning: Assessing the Impact of Course-Specific Virtual Study Groups on Community College Students' Academic Performance and Engagement	Dr. Asrat Amnie, PI Education Department	\$1,000
Depictions of a Black 'Letrado': The Nineteenth-Century Reception of Jacinto Ventura de Molina	Dr. Emmanuel A. Velayos Larrabure, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
Academic Completion Initiative / Achieving Student Success	Dr. Sheryce Woolery-Balgobin, PI Emani Palma, M.A., Co-PI Student Development and Enrollment Management, Student Success Coaching Unit	\$2,000
Promoting the Study of Social Mobility in CUNY's Community College Students	Prof. Norberto M. Hernández Valdés-Portela, M.A., PI Behavioral and Social Sciences Department	\$1,000
How Does the Use of Smart Boards Improve Engagement and Academic Achievement?	Prof. Jennifer Sabour, M.S., PI Natural Sciences Department	\$1,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$11,000

HOSTOS RESEARCH CENTER 2024 GRANT AWARDEES

ADvancing Excellence in Liberal Arts, sciences, Technology and Engineering 2024 ADELANTE Project Winning Proposals

Track 1: Expand Research Opportunities for Faculty and Staff in All Disciplines

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
The Skin of a White Man for Parchment: Anti-Slavery, Violence, and the (Re)Writing of Rights in Post-Revolutionary Haiti	Dr. Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure, PI Humanities Department	\$6,000
Examining the Impact of Assumptions, Bias, and Beliefs of Science Faculty and High School Teachers on the Development of Online Courses and Integration of AI Tools	Professor Feliberto Feliz, PI Professor Ana Marjanovic, Co-PI Dr. Jacqueline DiSanto, Co-PI Dr. Nelson Nuñez Rodríguez, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department Educational Technology Education Department	\$10,000
Unlocking Advanced Gene Modulation: Computational Analysis of Chirality-Enriched PNA Analogs for Enhanced Cellular Uptake	Dr. Anna Manukyan, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$9,920
Echoes Across Eras: Tracing Victorian Archetypes in Contemporary Representations of Women	Dr. Christine Choi, PI English Department	\$10,000
Getting Ready for Chemistry – Intensive Hands-On Training for Undergraduate Students	Dr. Anna Ivanova, PI Emilio Peña Torrez, Co-PI Natural Sciences Department	\$9,973
Empowering Mobility-Challenged Individuals in Emergency Evacuations: NFC Solutions	Dr. Biao Jiang, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$10,000
Lab to Land: Screening of Drug Resistant Bacteria Around South Bronx And NYC and Testing Their Potency Against Newly Developed Anti-Microbial Drugs to Prevent Future Pandemic	Dr. Debasish Roy, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$10,000

Track 2 | Expand Research on Issues Affecting the South Bronx Community

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
In Pursuit of Green Futures: Enhancing Latinx Presence in NYC Green Economy	Dr. Víctor M. Torres-Vélez, PI Humanities Department	\$10,000
Introducing Students of Hostos CC from the South Bronx Community to the Underrepresented Field of STEM Programs: Systematics and Taxonomy	Dr. Vladimir Ovtcharenko, PI Natural Sciences Department	\$9,900

Total Grants Awarded

\$85,793

**Innovating, Developing, and Executing Actions with Success
2024 IDEAS Project Development Awards**

Project Name	Principal Investigator(s)	Amount
Nursing Students Working as Doulas to Serve Women of Color in the South Bronx	Dr. Teresa Gray, PI Professor Joselyn Baez, Co-PI Allied Health Department, Nursing Unit	\$2,000
Utilizing ChatGPT-4o as an Academic Tool for Best Tutoring Practices	Dr. Lissette Jourdain, PI Professor Ana Marjanovic, Co- PI Hostos Academic Learning Center Office of Educational Technology	\$2,000
Archiving Oral Histories at Hostos Community College	Dr. Tram Nguyen, PI Professor William Casari, Co-PI English Department Hostos Library and Archives	\$2,000
EngageMath: Developing Interactive Learning Modules for Enhanced Mathematics Learning	Dr. Tanvir Prince, PI Mathematics Department	\$1,000
Shaping Free Soil: The Frontiers of Marronage on Hispaniola	Dr. Emmanuel A. Velayos Larrabure, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
Women Making Films in the Maghreb, Before and After the Arab Spring	Dr. Nicole Wallenbrock, PI Humanities Department	\$1,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$9,000

EDUCATING FOR DIVERSITY GRANT AWARDEES

Educating for Diversity Initiative Spring 2022		
Grantee(s)	Project Title	Award
Elizabeth Porter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Coordinator	Intersectional and Interdisciplinary: Women's and Gender Studies Programming	\$250
Alexandra Milsom, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English	Hostos Student Podcast – "Somos Hostos"	\$1,700
Marcella Bencivenni, Ph.D., Professor of History and Kristopher Burrell, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History	Social Sciences Speakers Series and Emerging Scholars Speakers Series	\$800
Own Your Power Committee: Tovah Thompson, Allison Lee, Leo Coodin, Linda Delerme, Alana Greenberg and Sara Rodberg	Own Your Power Educational Workshops	\$1,008
Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of Latin American Writer's Institute, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies Unit Coordinator; Supporting faculty include Prof. Victor Torres-Vélez, Ph.D., Prof. Emmanuel Velayos Larrabure, Ph.D., and WGS Faculty Council	Documenting Experience, Imagining Diverse, Inclusive Worlds Through Creative Writing	\$1,700
Victor Torres-Vélez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Unit	Finding Latinx – A Velada Hostosiana/Hostos Culture Talk	\$927
Elizabeth Wilson, Director of School-College Partnerships representing the HEO Executive Committee	Racial Justice and Liberation Workshops for HEOs	\$1,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$7,385

Educating for Diversity Initiative | Spring 2023

Grantee(s)	Project Title	Award
Elizabeth Porter, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Coordinator	Women's History Month: Telling Our Stories	\$2,000
Christeen Francis, Project Manager, Family Empowerment Program	Caribbean Play "Tek Weh Yuhself"	\$2,000
William Casari, Associate Professor and Archivist	La Lucha: The Save Hostos Movement Online Photo Exhibit	\$1,975
Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Director of Latin American Writer's Institute, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Unit Coordinator	Borderlands Creative Writing Workshop, Contest, and Velada: Meaningful Bonding through Curricular Integration	\$1,900
Ana Ozuna, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Black Studies Unit Coordinator; Anamaría Flores, Ph.D., Lecturer, Black Studies Unit	Black History Month Program	\$1,700
Cynthia Jones, Lecturer, English Department, Center for Teaching and Learning Co-Director, Honors Program Co-Director	Lift Every Voice and Sing – African American Read-in	\$845
Marsha Milan Bethel, Ph.D., Student Services Specialist and Immigrant Student Success Liaison	Hostos JUSTICE Resource Fair and Symposium	\$2,000
Stacey Cooper, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Coordinator of Teaching Meets Wellness	Teaching Meets Wellness Conference	\$975
Flor Henderson, Ph.D., Professor, Biology Unit, Food Studies Unit Coordinator, Natural Sciences Department	Food as an Intercultural Bridge and Communicator Lecture Series	\$1,500
Nicole Wallenbrock, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, French and Francophone Studies; Joseph Carvalho, Assistant Professor, Media Design Unit, Humanities Department	Music Connects Us: Hostos Family and Community Songs	\$1,800
Carlos Guevara, Director, Office of Educational Technology, Co-Director, Center for Teaching and Learning	Hostos Teaching Day	\$1,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$17,695

EDUCATING FOR DIVERSITY GRANT AWARDEES

Educating for Diversity Initiative Spring 2024		
Grantee(s)	Project Title	Award Amount
Marcella Bencivenni, Ph.D., Professor of History, Behavioral and Social Sciences Department	“Stonebreakers” – Film Screening and Panel Discussion	\$1,000
Aaron Botwick, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English; and Lauren Wolf, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor of Mathematics	Hostos Reads	\$700
Michelle Cheikin, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Humanities Department	The Hostos Neighborhood	\$700
Travaras Geter, Associate Director, College Now; and Stacey J. Cooper Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology	From Classroom to Community: Hostos Inspires Civic Action	\$1,400
Teresa Gray, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Allied Health Department	Nursing Day – Celebrating Nurses of Color	\$550
Laura Hand, Assistant Director of Career Services and Lisanette Rosario, Director of Career Services	Candid Careers and Conversations: Virtual and In-Person Activities to Promote DEI in the Hostos Community College Community, Careers, and Curriculum	\$500
Kelsey Hillebrand, Development Corporate and Foundation Relations Manager, Division of Institutional Advancement	Nourishing Conversations	\$1,000
Gregory Marks, Ph.D., Professor, English Department	Reading Objects: How History is in Things	\$1,300
Jorge Matos, Assistant Professor and Reference Librarian, Hostos Library	Digital MoCHA: The Online Archives of the Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art Collection	\$600
Alexandra Milsom, Ph.D. Assistant Professor; and Charles Rice-Gonzalez, Assistant Professor, English Department	Chat GPT and Equity of Access in the Writing Composition Classroom – An English Department Professional Development	\$1,300
Ana Ozuna, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Black Studies Unit Coordinator; and Anamaría Flores, Ph.D., Lecturer, Black Studies Unit, Humanities Department	Black Studies Black History and Futures Month Program	\$1,000
Elizabeth Porter, Ph.D., Asst. Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies Coordinator; Jennifer Tang, Ph.D., Asst. Professor & Acquisitions Librarian; Marcella Bencivenni, Ph.D., Professor of History, and Inmaculada Lara-Bonilla, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Latin American & Caribbean Studies Unit Coordinator	Women’s History and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	\$1,500
Emmy Thelander, Adjunct Assistant Professor; and Andrew London, Lecturer, Media Design Unit, Humanities Department	Animating Difference	\$1,450
Khadidia Traore, Hostos Student	Cultural Event – Hostos Eid Festival	\$1,000
Elizabeth Wilson, Director, School-College Partnerships	Management in a Changing World: How to Manage for Equity, Sustainability, and Results	\$1,000
Total Grants Awarded		\$15,000

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