



A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

IN MEMORIAM: MICHELE CATALDI (1937-2025)

Hostos has lost a truly remarkable member of the family: Michele (“Mike”) Cataldi passed away on May 3. He was 87 years old.

Cataldi had a lengthy and distinguished career as an educator and administrator; among his many achievements, he founded the Hostos-Lincoln Academy of Science in 1986 and served as its first Principal. (The Academy is one of the Early College Initiatives Hostos offers, a seven-year academic program which culminates in an Advanced Regents diploma and an AA degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.) Cataldi had also been a member of the Hostos Cabinet.

Born in Italy, Mike came to America with his parents in 1957. Two years later he enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he excelled as an airman and athlete. Upon his discharge, he received a BA from Hunter College and an MA and a Ph.D. from Middlebury College and the University of Florence. He was a two-time Fulbright Scholar (1980 Italy and 2002 China).

His awards and honors include: Supervisor Of The Year (NYC Board of Education 2000), Principal of the year (Council of Supervisors and Administrators 2002), and the Leone of San Marco Award: Outstanding Italian-American Educator (Italian Heritage Culture of the Bronx and Westchester 1992).

Mike Cataldi was, in a word, phenomenal. He knew the power of education because his own life was a testament to what can be achieved through intensive study, hard work, and the opportunities provided by a healthy public school system. He wanted others to excel as he had, and bent his every effort to that purpose.

He will be missed – and, without a doubt, remembered, for his legacy is vast and lives on.

On behalf of Hostos, I send my heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

With gratitude for a life well lived,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President

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