



## A message from **THE PRESIDENT**

### **In Memoriam: DeForest Westry**

It is with great sadness that I share the news of the sudden passing of a member of our beloved Hostos family: Professor DeForest Westry.

Westry was a valued instructor in both the Department of Language and Cognition, where he worked as an adjunct for several years, and in the Office of School-College Partnerships, where he had taught for College Now as an ESL instructor since 2019 and in the Summer Intensive English Language Program (SIELP) since 2021.

A retired DOE teacher, Westry brought to Hostos an infectious enthusiasm for teaching and a deep love for his students. Whether teaching in Language and Cognition or developing new approaches in SIELP, he embraced the challenges of engaging with curriculum and pedagogy with energy and joy. He especially enjoyed incorporating field trips and experiential learning, making a lasting impact on the students he guided.

Adjunct faculty like Westry are vital to the mission of Hostos and the CUNY system. They bring extraordinary dedication, talent, and experience to our classrooms, enriching the lives of our students and sustaining the academic community.

He will be remembered as a wonderful colleague and teacher who was always supportive and deeply caring toward students and peers alike. His students respected him, and his colleagues cherished his warmth and generosity.

On behalf of the entire Hostos community, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew him. His memory will live on through the many lives he touched, and he will be missed terribly.

In sorrow,

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President

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