

The Foundation Catalyst

News from the HCC Foundation, Alumni and Friends



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Rickey Murray, Student Extraordinaire

Rickey Murray graduates from HCC this spring and transfers to USF as a pre-med undergrad. Wise well beyond his years, Rickey realized at a young age that his personal struggles are his strengths. This drives him to be the best possible person he can be, compelling those in his circle to do the same. Without a doubt, he will leave an indelible impression on the students and faculty at HCC who have had the pleasure of knowing him.



The youngest of six children, Rickey lived in Orlando with his mother until he was 10 years old. Although his mother was very loving, his home environment was unstable and she could no longer care for him. Rickey eventually moved to Virginia to live with his sister Tanesha. Tanesha's army career was advancing and she knew she could provide a stable home environment for her younger brother. After he graduated high school, his sister was reassigned to MacDill Air Force Base and they moved to Gibsonton, Florida. Rickey attributes his successes in and out of the classroom to his sister, and states that she is his greatest influence. Tanesha recognized that Rickey had the capacity to break the cycle of poverty that plagued their family. She advised him not to be afraid of people, respect where you came from and be the best you can be. He lives his life by her sage advice.

Rickey's thirst for knowledge is as strong as his need to share that knowledge with others. His math professor hand-selected Rickey to serve as a Chemistry Supplemental Instructor for a peer-led study group. Audrey Rose Blanco, Lead Mentor for the program, says this position could have been made for Rickey and remarked, "he is not only seeking resources, he wants to be the resource."

Drawn to the medical field, Rickey planned to go into nursing. However, after attending a seminar at an AMSA conference held at USF, he now aspires to become a doctor. As a doctor, he says he can draw from his personal experiences to be more empathetic to his patients. This summer, Rickey was accepted into the Moffitt SPARK (Summer Program for the Advancement of Research Knowledge), an internship program for undergraduates at Moffitt Cancer Center. He credits his professors for pushing him outside his comfort zone and making him aware of opportunities like SPARK, that he may have otherwise missed.

Rickey Murray is a recipient of the HCC Foundation Gwendolyn Stephenson Scholarship, established in honor of HCC's 6th President. To give the gift of higher education to outstanding students like Rickey is a reward we will all reap the benefits from for many years to come. To find out how you too can make a difference, please contact Ann Menchen at (813) 253-7018 or amenchen3@hccfl.edu.

Executive Director's Message



HCC 50

FIVE DECADES OF INNOVATION AND INSPIRATION

We are excited to announce that Hillsborough Community College will celebrate five decades of service and inspiration in 2018-2019. HCC is currently the seventh largest community college in Florida's state college system, serving more than 44,000 students each year at its five campuses and three centers. HCC has an annual economic impact of over \$1.1 billion, and since 84% of our alumni remain in the Tampa Bay area, HCC and its diverse graduates create the backbone of our community and enhance the character of our cities.

HCC and the HCC Foundation will kick off our year-long 50th anniversary celebration with the Annual Presidential Showcase on Thursday, September 13, 2018. The event will take place at the new Armature Works venue on the river in Tampa Heights.

Presidential Showcase will be only the beginning of our year of commemorating our rich history. From October 2018 through March 2019, we will welcome the community to each of our five campuses for monthly special events. These events will reflect the spirit of those sites and highlight what we do best at each of our locations. Throughout the school year, many other HCC events will have special 50th anniversary additions and enhancements. And finally, in spring 2019 we will mark the culmination of our celebratory year at an event that will also show our community what the next 50 years have in store for HCC. Look for more information from the College and the Foundation in the coming months about all these exciting events. We invite you to join us for one or many as we celebrate the College's outstanding students and programs!



Stephen C. Shear
Executive Director

Making a Charitable Gift to Hillsborough Community College

When considering your charitable plans, providing for your family is a priority, but did you also consider how a planned gift could benefit the students of HCC? A bequest allows you to leave a lasting legacy while creating opportunity and hope for a deserving student.

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. You can designate a specific dollar amount, or designate a percentage of your estate in your will or trust plan. If you wish to make a gift of your retirement plan, this can provide a significant tax savings and usually be done by filling out a beneficiary designation form provided by your plan administrator.

For more information on how to make a bequest or transfer other planned gifts, please call Denise Godfrey, Development Officer, HCC Foundation at 813-253-7165 or by email at dgodfrey3@hccfl.edu.

HCC ALUMNI & FRIENDS



HCC Alumni Q&A

Who is an HCC Alumni?

An HCC Alumni is anyone who graduated or took classes at HCC.

Is there a cost to participate?

There is no cost.

What are the benefits of being an HCC Alumni?

- Alumni Perks Program offering discounts to well-known local and national restaurants, retail, and travel related establishments.
- Ten percent off all classes at the HCC Institute for Corporate and Continuing Education.
- Discounts to HCC Performing Arts events.
- Free admission to HCC sporting events.
- Invitations to Alumni appreciation events throughout the year, held at various locations throughout the Tampa Bay region.
- Access to any of our five campus libraries. Please contact the library at your chosen campus for more information regarding library privileges.
- Access to any of our five career services offices located on each campus. Services offered may include resume writing assistance, career counseling and interview skills assessment. Please contact your campus career services office for more information.
- News about upcoming campus events and activities through email blasts, direct marketing pieces and our Foundation bi-annual newsletter.
- Volunteer opportunities on and off campus.

I am an HCC Alumnus/a, why don't I receive anything from the College?

Please update your information by entering this address in your browser: hccfoundation.com/alumniupdate and completing the brief form.

Dr. Maribeth Mobley

HCC Alumna, HCC Professor and HCCF Donor: A Perfect Trifecta

Dr. Maribeth Mobley was born in Bartow, Florida and moved to Plant City as a young child, where her father served as pastor at Deliverance Tabernacle for 46 years. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, her father was a heavy equipment mechanic until his retirement. Dr. Mobley recalls her father as a spiritually, emotionally and physically strong man and credits her staunch work ethic to him.

A self-proclaimed goofball, as a young person, college was not on Dr. Mobley's radar. In fact, she dropped out of school at 16 to marry her high school sweetheart, promising her father that she would complete her high school courses. She earned her high school diploma from the American School of Correspondence at 19. It was not until the age of 23 that Dr. Mobley's sister decided that they should both take a class at the newly opened HCC Plant City Campus. Dr. Mobley found the atmosphere on the campus exciting and conducive to intellectual growth. She remembers the students being older, mid-twenties, thirties, some forties, and conscientious. During these early years as a college student, she developed an intense love of learning, "a fire in her belly," she says.

By the time she began her college career, Dr. Mobley had a myriad of colorful experiences as a manual laborer under her belt. She fondly recalled working at a mobile home factory and proudly mentioned that she was one of the first women hired as a laborer in this industry. She loved the work and made a very good wage for a young woman in the 1970s. This is hard to imagine; Dr. Mobley putting mobile home frames together. Those of us who know Dr. Mobley, know she is slight in stature. However, the moment you look in her eyes, you see them twinkle with a combination of determination and mischief, and quickly realize she accomplishes whatever she sets her mind to.

Slowly, her career as a manual laborer ended, and as she progressed in her studies, she began to pay for her classes by tutoring. At the time, classes at HCC were about \$7 a credit hour. Initially, she took classes aimlessly, but developed a love of humanities, in particular American literature, and decided to major in English. Dr. Mobley had a series of mentors along the way who saw things in her that she had not yet seen in herself. After graduating with her AA from HCC, she went on to USF and obtained her Bachelor's, Master's and finally her Ph.D. During these years, she paid for her classes by part-time teaching at HCC and USF.

Dr. Mobley loves teaching and she loves HCC. As she reflected on her many years at the college and the countless number of students she has taught, she initially claimed she does not remember many of them. But she then shared numerous encounters with former students she has crossed paths with in grocery stores, doctors' offices and many other places who thanked her for her wisdom, her love of learning, and her kindness. Similar to the mentors of her youth, Dr. Mobley instinctively knew something about them that they did not yet know about themselves and clearly made a difference in these students' lives.

She also makes a difference for students through her support of the HCC Foundation. A longtime annual donor to the Foundation, Dr. Mobley's generous annual contributions to support student scholarships have helped many of our students who ordinarily would not have been able to attend HCC fulfill their dream of a college education. Dr. Mobley says her "blood is in this ground." There is intense pride in this statement, and we are all grateful for her many years of dedication to HCC.



Event Recap

The HCC Foundation proudly hosted the **14th Annual Golf Classic** on Monday, April 2, at Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club. This year's event was the most successful ever, with 110 golfers participating and proceeds of more than \$50,000 to benefit HCC's Athletics programs.

The winners of the tournament were: 1st place, Energy Air, Inc.; 2nd place, Cox Fire Protection; and 3rd place, JE Dunn Construction. Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor, Gilbane Inc!



The Foundation's **2018 Scholarship Partners Breakfast** on Friday, April 20, was a huge success! More than 40 students who receive scholarships from the Foundation and over 100 donors mingled at the annual breakfast at Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club. Highlights included remarks by HCC President Dr. Ken Atwater, outstanding HCC student Alanah Cooper, recipient of the Foundation's Honors Scholarship, and Dr. Liana Fernandez Fox, retired college faculty and 50th Anniversary Celebration Co-Chair. We loved celebrating our generous donors and know they enjoyed getting to know a little more about their outstanding students!

Thanks to Suncoast Credit Union for sponsoring the event!






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