

July 19, 2019

Dear HWC Family,

I hope this communication finds you well and that you are enjoying the summer. As we enter finals week and begin our journey toward a successful fall semester, I wanted to send a quick note of appreciation and reflection.

We often find ourselves saying that the summer semester is a bit slower in pace than the fall and spring semester, yet this summer has been filled with continuous momentum, energy and a lot of great work. As you walk around the building, you will notice some new colors and decals on our windows and walls. The Engineering team and Facilities team continue to do great work in maintaining the building but also adding improvements to our home. I will have more updates on our building and space improvement efforts this fall.

Thank you to the World Languages Department faculty, Prof. Andrew Aquino-Cutcher and Prof. Jackie Cunningham for their thoughtful leadership and support – together they are currently in Paris, France chaperoning ten of our students engaging in a study abroad program at Sorbonne University. Keep up with their adventures by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

The Office of Instruction continues to lead in partnerships and innovation. This summer, HWC launched programming in the continuing education space. One particular program catching headlines is HWC's partnership with Facebook. HWC and Facebook have collaborated on a Digital Marketing Certificate. This week the college, one of our students, and one of our faculty members was featured on ABC Channel 7 (you can see the news clip [here](#)). Thank you to our Business Department faculty and the Career Services and Continuing Education teams for your help, expertise and leadership with this program!

As you are aware, the college has been in search for its next Vice President of Student and Academic Affairs for the last several months. The college has been searching for a leader who can continue to bring us together, to be a resource to our students and faculty, to be a communicator and collaborator, someone committed to the success of HWC. The search committee selected two candidates to bring to the college last week, and they were able to engage with the college community. The college will have a formal announcement on next steps in the coming weeks.

Finally, I wanted to take a moment to pause and reflect on some of the national rhetoric and concerns about immigration in this country. HWC continues and will always be welcoming and inclusive – just like the great Mayor Harold Washington. We truly live out his values and principles of leadership and justice. No one should fear for their safety or security walking through our doors. The rhetoric, stance, position and tone coming from our nation's President is not my rhetoric, stance, position or tone. What we hear or read in



the papers can be dividing. As a family, we are smarter than this and we are braver than this, which is why we will not fall victim to a forced divide, instead we will continue to unite. After reading the Washington Post this morning, there are rising concerns about “being torn away from our families,” about “tearing this country apart” – I need to tell you and remind us that I will not let that happen in our college community. At HWC we stick together, we support each other and we welcome everyone. I have been saying this for the last two years, together we are a family and we will not be “torn” apart. In the coming months you will see the college engaging in more inviting, uniting and welcoming activities. I ask that you please join in and ask us how you can help in the next couple of weeks.

I wish you a restful and peaceful summer. Continue to reflect on your own connections and unity. Let us continue to check in on each other and our students. Let us keep our connection as an HWC family and let us carry this momentum into a successful fall semester. Should you need help in talking to someone please do not hesitate to reach out. Remember the college has several services including the Wellness Center services and student support services to engage in dialogue and support. Thank you for continuing to make HWC a welcoming community!

With Respect, Peace and Unity,

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