

### FALL 2018 NEWSLETTER

#### A note from the Transfer Center Director

Hello fabulous students, advisors, administrators, faculty, and staff of Harold Washington College. Welcome to Transfer-Mation, the Fall 2018 edition of the Harold Washington College Transfer Center Newsletter! This publication offers tips for making a seamless transfer from HWC to four-year institutions and alumni updates about the success that your classmates have achieved after graduation from the City Colleges of Chicago.

We call the newsletter "Transfer-Mation" for two reasons. First, it provides you with transfer information. Second, it celebrates each student's personal "transformation" as they pursue their education. HWC students are continually growing and changing. This growth will continue beyond CCC as well.

We at the City Colleges of Chicago are proud of our students, and this newsletter highlights their accomplishments personally, professionally, and academically. We look forward to our students earning degrees, jobs, and accolades throughout their entire lives!

-Ellen Goldberg, Transfer Center Director egoldberg1@ccc.edu

#### Transfer Center Services

Located at Harold Washington College in Room 1139 Students can do the following:

- Make an appointment to talk about transferring to four-year institutions.
- Get an unlimited number of application fee waivers for your transfer destinations. To qualify for waivers, the Estimated Family Contribution for Financial Aid should be zero. (However, exceptions can be made.)
- Learn about scholarships and other funding opportunities after graduating from CCC.
- Attend workshops that help you in every step of your transfer process.





The Fall 2018 City Colleges Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference was held at Harold Washington College on Friday, September 28, 2019. This annual conference is a collaboration with the Transfer Center Directors in the City Colleges of Chicago and the HWC Transfer Team that includes four Rockstar College Advisors. Chrishon Lampley, owner of Love Cork Screw, was the keynote speaker and James Conner Jr. was the student-keynote speaker at lunch. Participants got to pick a total of 4 breakout sessions, eat a pizza lunch (sponsored by National Louis University, DePaul University, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale), and also engage in an inspirational activity called "Crossing the Line." A good time was had by all! A BIG SHOUT OUT to Jasmine Barnes, a Rockstar HWC Alumna, who volunteered at the conference and co-led Crossing the Line! Way to go, Jasmine! You rock and inspire!

# Transfer-Mation Leadership Conference

















Not pictured, Cindy Kokuma)

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# Rockstar Transfer Luncheon

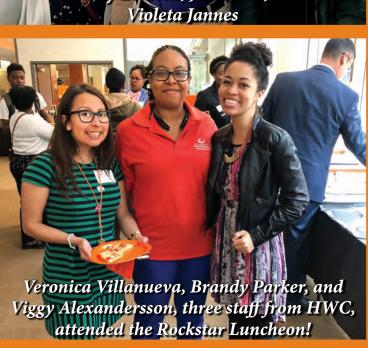














The Transfer Center and Advising Office hosts the Annual Rockstar Transfer Luncheon for students who are transferring from HWC to their new dream schools! The event took place Tuesday, June 26, 2018. It is a time where Rockstar HWC Alumni are invited to come home to Harold Washington College and recent grads are able to celebrate getting into their new dream schools! Alumni often invite their Advisors, Professors, or HWC staff that helped them to achieve success! The purpose of the luncheon is to celebrate our amazing students and to also connect the Alumni to recent grads (especially who share the same Alma Mater or future transfer destination). A BIG CONGRATS to the Rockstar ALUMNI of the City Colleges of Chicago and Harold Washington College!





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## Route 116

# MOUNT HOLYDING

This picture was taken with my new MoHo sisters and Ellen a few months before I encountered Route 116 for the first time. Photo Credit: Hedy Cohen.

When I arrived on Mount Holyoke's campus three years ago, I was petrified, nervous, and unsettled. Here I was—a 34-year-old Black woman from Chicago—with a jumbled road map that led me to this private, white, and elite school in New England that I was certain I did not belong in. I drove up Route 116 (the main artery that connects travelers to Mount Holyoke) and I saw the sign that read: Founded 1837 Mount Holyoke College. My first gaze upon the sign that I would eventually see every day for the next three years instantly reinforced that I was home. Somehow, my spirit knew that this was exactly where I was supposed to be at this moment.

Mount Holyoke College became a cocoon for me to blossom into a Black butterfly who would transform into my true self. I have gained confidence, gathered insurmountable knowledge, entered into a sisterhood that extends through time and space, found my academic love of geography, research, and teaching, and exerted my internal dynamism to become an architect who carved out a purposeful space that was my own. I made it a point to explore all that Mount Holyoke offered while challenging and at times disrupting the rigidness of it as an academic institution with set rules and regulations that did not always work for me. I extended myself toward every opportunity that Mount Holyoke provided and trusted the process during my travels.

Throughout my time here, I self-designed my own major in Black Geographies becoming the first person in history to do so. I dedicated the past three years to working as

a research assistant for the Chair of the Africana Studies department, Dr. Preston Smith, as well as serving as a teaching assistant for his Black Metropolis course, which focuses on post-war Black Chicago. I completed an honors thesis entitled: Still Sweatin'...Mapping House and Black Bodies: Place Making In the Black House Music and Cultural Community of Chicago. My thesis work also led me to presenting my research at the Engaged Scholarship and Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference at Harvard University and the American Association of Geographers Conference in New Orleans as a presenter and panelist. I was elected into the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and won the Phi Beta Kappa award for my thesis research, served as the president of the Frances Perkins Scholar Association, I was awarded the Barbara Benson '33 Memorial Prize award for prose writing, and two geography senior field work fellowship awards for my research on Black Chicago. I am also a Public Leadership Education Network Student Leadership grant recipient, I was named a Hearst Foundation endowed scholarship recipient for the past two years, and traveled to Washington D.C. and New York City for the first time. Lastly, I was the only Black student and Francis Perkins scholar to graduate summa cum laude in my graduating class. Three years ago, these were goals that I could not foresee for myself as a fourtime community college dropout, but here I was living, breathing, existing, maneuvering, and accomplishing these goals. Mount Holyoke was the only place to make these dreams firm realities.



Standing in front of the Mount Holyoke sign that I passed every day while traveling Route 116.

Photo Credit: Roderick "Midas Wells" Jackson.

The cross pollination and collaborative efforts of my family and friends, Hedy Cohen, the Roger W. Bardwell Scholarship family, Ellen Goldberg, various professors at HWC, and Mount Holyoke faculty, staff, and student colleagues provided vast opportunities and a space where continued on page 7...

## Route 116 continued

I could locate myself in academia as a Black female scholar. I am honored, beholden, and thrilled to have walked across the stage on my mother's birthday on May 20, earning my degree after twenty years of multiple disruptions, adversities, and uncertainties. I am a living, breathing, flesh and blood example of the power of education, investment, mentorship, patience, hard work, and determination. I lost both my beloved 16-year-old beagle the first week of my senior year and my grandfather, who I deeply cherished, five months later. Despite this, I persisted because I knew that it is what both would have wanted, but more than anything, I knew my purpose.



Graduation day. I did it!

Photo credit: Roderick "Midas Wells" Jackson.

One of the things that I find most compelling about geography is the ways our geographic imaginaries of places create boundaries that determine who belongs as well as who does not. For a while, I felt out of place at the thought of Mount Holyoke, only to discover that it was in fact my place—my "Mo Home"—all along. That is why my spirit jolted and my eyes collected tears as I drove up Route 116 that humid, still day in June. My internal compass directed me to my intended home and Mount Holyoke has paid it forward by assisting me in developing my agency as a cartographer who is creating my next map. My heart and soul are full as I embark on the next chapter as a proud Black Chicagoan with a map in hand in search of the next Route 116.

April L. Graham Mount Holyoke College, FP 2018 A.B., Summa Cum Laude, Black Geographies Harold Washington College, 2015 A.G.S., Honors, General Studies

#### Transfer Leadership Class

The Transfer Center Director, Ellen Goldberg, along with Transfer Center Volunteer, Jim Poole, coteach the Transfer Leadership Class (TLC) twice per semester for 5 weeks each. The class is designed to help HWC Rockstars and high achievers to transfer to the top schools in the nation and to get up to full-funding. By completing the five week class, students receive certificates to celebrate their awesome accomplishment! We at Harold Washington College are proud of the Transfer Leadership Class Rockstars!



Fall 2018 Transfer Leadership Class Session #1



Fall 2018 Transfer Leadership Class Session #2

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## Rockstar Alumni!

















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Harold Washington College Transfer Center

