

Harold Washington College
One of the City Colleges of Chicago
30 E. Lake St. | Chicago, IL 60601 | 312.553.5600 | hwc.ccc.edu

Transfer- Mation



AN INFORMATIVE NEWSLETTER FOR THE TRANSFER
CENTER AT HAROLD WASHINGTON COLLEGE

SPRING 2020 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 Spring 2020 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

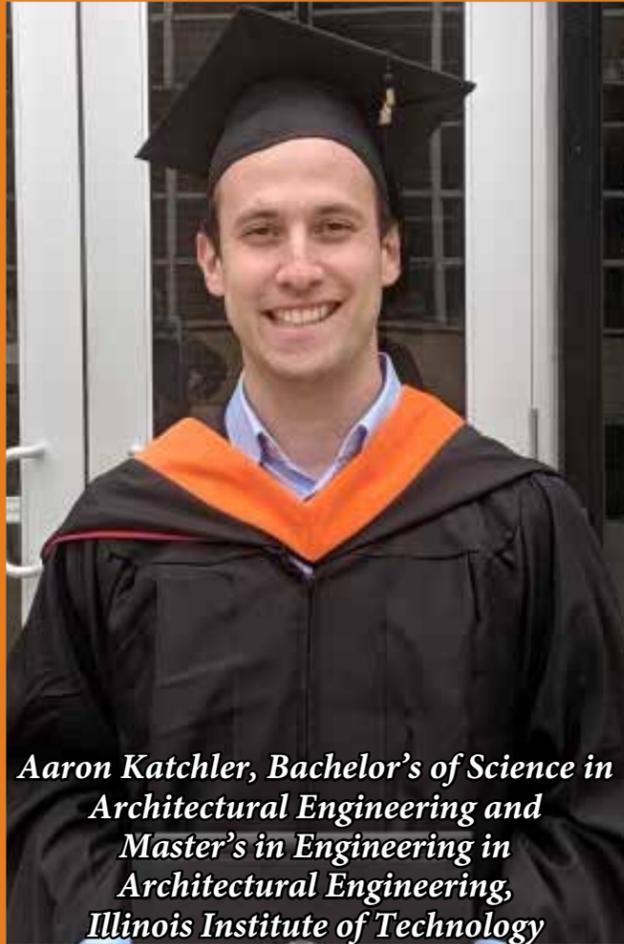
Located at Harold Washington College in Room 1139
Students can do the following:

- 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.



**Shout out to the Spring 2020
Transfer Leadership Class Session #1!**

Recent Alumni who have gotten their Bachelor's and beyond



Aaron Katchler, Bachelor's of Science in Architectural Engineering and Master's in Engineering in Architectural Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology



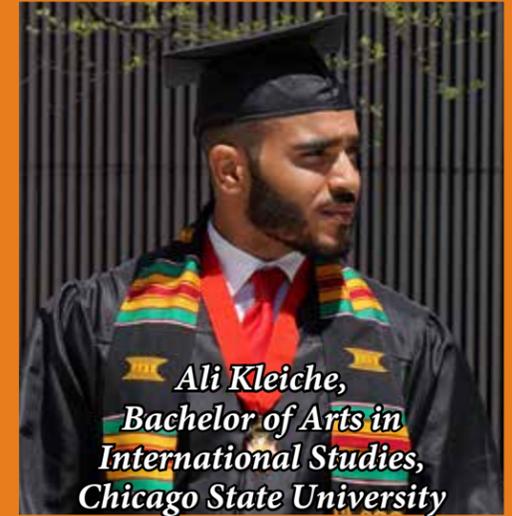
Alejandra Cosio, Bachelor's of Arts in Advertising, Columbia College Chicago



Bhaikaji (Bishal) Manandhar, Bachelor's in Fine Arts in Studio Art, School of the Art Institute of Chicago



Logan Lawson Parks, Bachelor's of Arts in Television & Cinema Arts Producing and Writing, Columbia College Chicago



Ali Kleiche, Bachelor of Arts in International Studies, Chicago State University



Lou Stejhamae Sarangaya, Bachelor of Science in Business-Accountancy, DePaul University



Jacob Miguest, Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, University of Illinois at Chicago



Maria Chuknova, Master's in Regional Studies (Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe), Columbia University



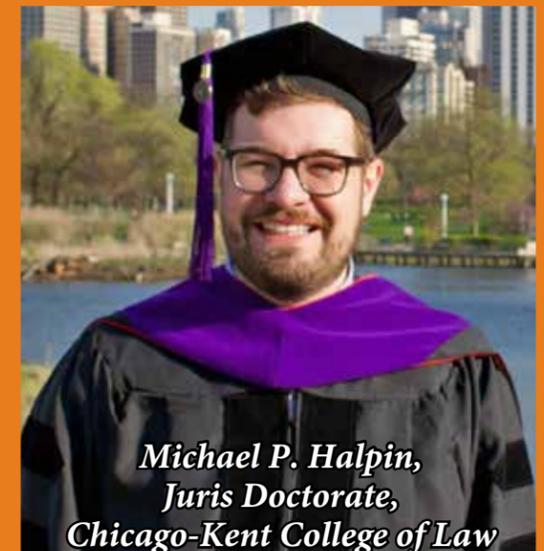
Paige E. Patrick, Double major in Statistical and Data Sciences and Psychology, Smith College



Athena Guizar Ablang, Bachelor of Arts in Political Theory, Columbia University



Elizabeth Shirk, Elementary Education, Governors State University



Michael P. Halpin, Juris Doctorate, Chicago-Kent College of Law

Recent Alumni who have gotten their Bachelor's and beyond



*Yuliya Lavysh,
Bachelor's in Economics,
Smith College*



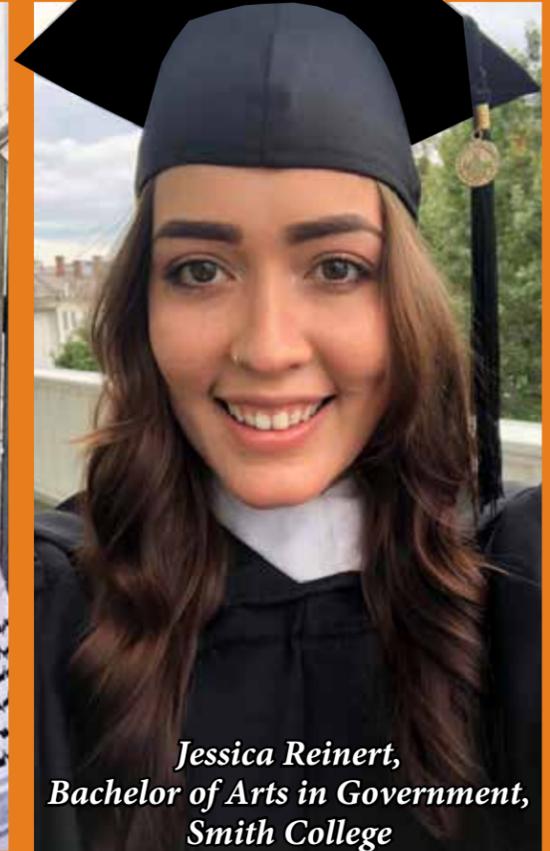
*Frances Nuguid,
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science,
Columbia University*



*Ebony Ellis,
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism,
DePaul University*



*Samer Hassan Saleh,
American Political Science,
Columbia University*



*Jessica Reinert,
Bachelor of Arts in Government,
Smith College*

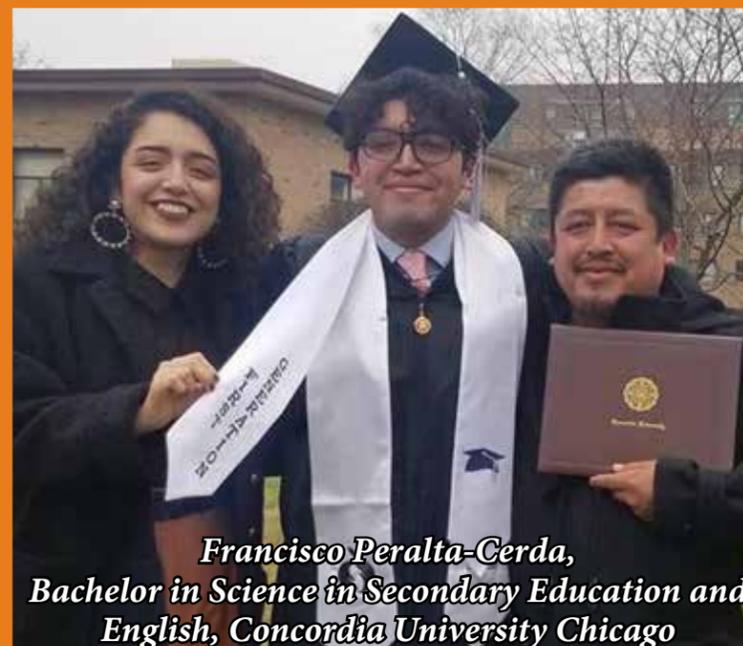


*Maria Antonia Villasenor-Marshal,
Master's in Design in Fashion
Body and Garment,
School of the Art Institute of Chicago*



*Sandra E. Oyibo,
Doctorate in Pharmacy,
University of Illinois at Chicago*

We ♥ our Rockstar Alumni!



*Francisco Peralta-Cerda,
Bachelor in Science in Secondary Education and
English, Concordia University Chicago*



*Jessica Jamaica,
Double major in Political Science
and Women's Studies,
University of Michigan*



*Emily Alyce Koon,
Bachelor of Arts in
Psychology,
Mount Holyoke College*

Spring 2020 Art & Architecture Transfer Fair



Spring 2020 **ART & ARCHITECTURE** Transfer FAIR

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 10:00am - 1:00pm
8th floor HWC

Participating Schools

- Columbia College Chicago
- Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising (FIDM)
- Governors State University
- Illinois Tech (IIT)
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD)
- North Park University
- Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU)
- Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD)
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- St. Xavier University
- University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
- University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC)
- Valparaiso University

All Students, faculty & staff are welcome to attend!

CITY COLLEGS OF CHICAGO
Harold Washington

30 E. Lake St.
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 553-5600 | hwc.ccc.edu

Journey of an Immigrant *continued*

campaign that would encourage Congress to reform the FAFSA process. I told him that students like me were kept out of building a better life solely because of a status in which we had no part in creating. Even after all this success, there was still so much more to do.

Our agenda to level the playing field at HWC inspired SGA to buy hundreds of CTA cards for our students who couldn't afford the train costs. Some students couldn't afford tuition, so we successfully fought to lower it for hundreds that were struggling. All I wanted to do was level the playing field and my peers showed me they could take over from there. The end of my presidency showed me that all of our hard work paid off. Our students went on to some of the best universities in the country. What more could I wish for?

My dream of college began to evolve as I found out that I received a scholarship to attend an Ivy League institution. I didn't even know what an Ivy League School was, let alone how long students prepared to attend them. I got into Columbia University in the city of New York. They recommended a student only take 12 credits while studying as this was such a "rigorous academic environment". Even though I had a prestigious scholarship, I still needed to figure out how to pay for rent and food. That scholarship did pay my tuition but I didn't have any support for other costs. "You should feel lucky to have that scholarship," they told me, but this had nothing to do with luck." I earned and fought for this like so many immigrants before me.

I used the little savings I had in order to pay for a student apartment but that quickly ran out. Like so many immigrants in this country, I experienced hurdles in front of my dreams that were mighty and high, and like so many immigrants in this country, I overcame those hurdles. I was good enough and I belonged there, something that took me years to learn because the institutions in this country led me to believe that I didn't. I worked just as hard and long as I had in Chicago while taking 15 credits at Columbia. I went to school full-time and worked full-time. I graduated in two years. "You did that so fast!" they said to me. Little do they know it took me 11 years of hard work to get a college degree.

Immigrants don't give up, we set the bar for future generations but the thing is, we shouldn't have to.

Imagine if our institutions supported undocumented students. It is this sentiment that will push me to run for public office when I finally become an American. Imagine if this country helped us achieve the American Dream we read about in books. Imagine a world where we didn't have to work 60 hours a week and yet still go hungry. I am committed to creating this world. Our people will thrive if we support them.

Don't let anyone tell you that you don't belong. Don't let anyone make you believe that you should feel lucky to be where you are. Fight to create the change you want to see in this world. This country is big enough for all of us and you are a valued member of this society. Take up space and let your voice echo throughout the halls of whatever institution you come into. People will always build hurdles along your path, but how you conquer them defines you as a leader. Remember that there is a community at Harold Washington College, and no matter what year you went to that school, we will always be a community. My name is Samer Hassan Saleh, and I am a previously undocumented first-generation low income student that went on to graduate from the Ivy League.

Samer Hassan Saleh
Spring 2019 HWC Graduate, Associate of Arts



Journey of an Immigrant

College was a goal I had before I even understood what the concept of college was. Neither of my parents finished their first year of high school. We were undocumented and in no position to afford any sort of college tuition. I was one of five kids that needed to be fed. I grew up hearing about what college could offer people, but deep down, I knew I would never be able to afford it. My friends graduated high school and went off to their first years of university while I became stagnant. My immigration status kept me from making any real progress for a long part of my life. It took me years before I could attain a work permit. But when I finally received it, I dove into the job market. I wasn't going to allow my immigration status to be a hindrance anymore. I was sick of living in fear of deportation. So, I worked every chance I could just to keep a roof over my head - I didn't have a supportive family so at 18, I was on my own.

I walked around six miles a day to and from work. On my long commute, I would walk by Harold Washington College and admire all the students congregated outside its doors. I saw stern faces of students walking in with books in their hand and the faces of others, laughing as they were gossiping with their friends. To me, this was a dream, an experience I wanted to have. I knew that college could open doors and I knew I was being kept out of those doors. Harold Washington College was a door I needed to enter. I didn't want to struggle anymore. I didn't want to work 60 hours a week and still need money. The day I enrolled was the happiest day of my life because I finally had a chance to beat poverty. For me, a college degree meant a better life but the journey to attain it led me down paths I never thought possible. I knew that I wouldn't qualify for any FAFSA as an undocumented individual so I saved every penny so that I could eventually afford to go to school. I was 25 by the time I finally enrolled at HWC.

Being in college was surreal. I was taught by educators that loved to teach and surrounded by students that

loved to learn. Community college allowed me to work my busy schedule while taking flexible classes. I continued to work around 60 hours a week in order to afford tuition on top of average life expenses. It wasn't long until I realized that I was far from alone in that struggle. It was that shared struggle that encouraged me to run for Student Government President. I wanted to give a voice to those students that felt like they were forgotten about. I was taking night classes with adult learners and their drive for success inspired me to hold my administration accountable. I saw an opportunity in these students. No matter their life situation or where they came from, we were all in this school and community together. I remember visiting as many classes as I could while running for the president position and every class told me the same thing, "we just want a level playing field." Those words drove me to campaign as hard as I could and eventually win the office of the SGA President.

I ran on the platform of accountability, increased opportunities, and a level playing field for the 14,000 students I represented. I met mothers that had three kids in daycare while taking full-time classes. I learned about student veterans coming back from Iraq and instantly enrolling in college because their many years of service now gave them enough money to attend. I also learned about the many undocumented students that were struggling to pay their tuitions while working full-time jobs, just like me. My SGA fought to give every single one of them a level playing field. Our SGA attended every district meeting we could, speaking to our administration and letting them know about the reality many of us faced. Our budget was used to send these students on visits to university campuses of their dreams. We created networking events with diplomats and policy changers. Our students went across the country in order to attend leadership conferences and cultivate relationships. I was invited to speak with Bill Gates in DC where I was able to get his support for a

Journey of an Immigrant continued on page 7...



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO

Harold Washington

Transfer Center
30 E Lake St., Room 1139
Ellen Goldberg, Director
Egoldberg1@ccc.edu
(312) 553-5778

Harold Washington
College Transfer Center

