



# FUNDING OUR FUTURE

HCC Foundation 2008 Annual Report



## Mission

The Houston Community College Foundation enhances the quality of life of our community and of our fellow citizens through fundraising efforts that improve access to higher education, support career and technology training and advance student learning at Houston Community College.



*Internationally acclaimed pastry chef and associate chair Eddy Van Damme, instructs students in HCC's Culinary Arts Program, one of 70 workforce programs at HCC. Culinary Arts is also one of 25 HCC workforce programs recognized as exemplary in Texas.*



*HCC Foundation Board President Ginger Blanton with Sandra Callejas, a 2008 recipient of the Josephine Ramirez Nelson Hispanic Scholarship established in honor of Ginger's mother.*

## Letter from Ginger Renfroe Blanton President, HCC Foundation Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

As President of the Houston Community College Foundation Board of Directors, it has been my privilege to work with HCC as we improve access to higher education and provide support through the Foundation's fundraising efforts.

I am truly honored to work with this institution. As a former HCC student, community activist and long-time advocate for education, I must admit that even I am surprised by the tremendous reach of HCC in our community today. Students can take core academic classes that are fully transferable to Texas state four-year colleges and universities. They can also choose from 70 different programs that in one or two years will prepare them for a marketable career—from automotive mechanics to nursing to petroleum engineering technology.

HCC is Houston's best educational value with full-time tuition less than \$800 per semester. Yet, for many in our community, college remains out of reach financially. These are the people community colleges are intended to serve. And these are exactly the people the HCC Foundation strives to serve.

The Foundation awarded in excess of \$323,000 in 2008 for scholarships. These scholarships are helping to provide brighter futures for Houston students who seek to advance their education and workplace skills. We salute their aspiration, their dedication and their personal achievements.

In this report, you will read some of these students' stories and learn how the Foundation has touched their lives, offering them an opportunity to get ahead with the lasting gift of education. Behind each account stand hundreds more students whose potential we are helping to fulfill through the HCC Foundation's philanthropic programs.

Of all the Foundation's outstanding projects, I am especially proud of our historic Opportunity 14 scholarship announced in Fall 2008. Opportunity 14 is a commitment to help those whose financial circumstances put them just out of reach of the higher education that will provide them better jobs and a better quality of life. I encourage you to learn more about our Opportunity 14 initiative in this report.

As an institution, HCC continues to gain momentum as a major educational provider and economic engine for our great city. The HCC Foundation is committed to leveraging this growth to the benefit of future generations of Houstonians, and to training the workforce of our city. We look to this city of visionary supporters to help us in this work.

Thank you for supporting the HCC Foundation and helping to ensure that Houston students get a chance at a higher education. We are deeply grateful to all who have invested time and resources in the HCC Foundation. Your gifts are providing rich rewards for our students and the community they call home.

Sincerely,

Ginger Renfroe Blanton  
President, Houston Community College Foundation

Opportunity 14.  
The Scholarship that Changes  
Lives. And Houston

**“Opportunity 14 is an excellent example of what can be accomplished when a community comes together and commits to solving a problem.”**

*Dr. Mary S. Spangler, Chancellor, Houston Community College*

## Opportunity 14 Lead Supporters

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### Board Member Raises the Bar

Houston Community College Foundation Board member Harriet Foster describes herself foremost as a community volunteer. And her busy calendar of charity events and community activities reflect her commitment.

In addition to their lead support of the HCC Opportunity 14 Scholarship, Harriet and her husband Joe provided lead support for the College Connection scholarship fund that enabled high school students to be better prepared for college and future success in the workplace.

Harriet is a longtime supporter of the HCC Foundation, serving on the Board of Directors since 2001. In 2008, Harriet served as chair of HCC's Passport to the Future gala, which raised over \$400,000 in scholarship support for students at HCC. She currently is a member of the Foundation's Opportunity 14 Development Council and is helping raise funds for the \$30 million endowment campaign to fund the scholarship program in perpetuity.

Harriet is committed to helping students achieve their goals and garnering the support of others.

**“Many students have overcome substantial obstacles to take their seats in HCC classrooms. Money is not the only obstacle to higher education, but it is the most common one—and the obstacle that is most readily overcome when members of our community join together,” she says.**



*HCC Foundation board member Harriet Foster (left) visits with College Connection scholarship recipient Tafashilia McCoy and her mother Lisa, an HCC police officer.*

Harriet grew up in Houston and was raised with a strong sense of service to others. She has served on the board of Catholic Charities of Houston-Galveston, Houston Hospice and Christus Foundation for Healthcare, in addition to the Houston Community College Foundation. Her husband Joe shares her philanthropic interests. He serves on a number of local boards and has previously served as chairman of the boards of the Greater Houston YMCA, Houston Museum of Natural Science, and Houston A+ Challenge.

In March 2009, Harriet and Joe were honored by The Christus Foundation as the 2009 Legacy Award recipients in recognition of their dedication to community service.

“The HCC Foundation is fortunate to have individuals such as Harriet and Joe to help advance our goals and support our mission of raising support for educational access for all Houstonians,” says Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga, Executive Director of the HCC Foundation. “We are so thankful for all they do to help these students get a college education.”



Houston Community College announced a bold new scholarship program entitled Opportunity 14 at a press conference held August 12, 2008 at Houston Independent School District's Lee High School. Community and educational leaders gathered for the event, which marked a milestone in educational access for all Houstonians.

The HCC Foundation established Opportunity 14 to send the message to Houstonians that we must change our expectations about the minimum amount of education required for our children. Every child in this city must obtain at least 14 years of education: 12 plus two years of college. The Opportunity 14 Scholarship will help young people meet these higher expectations by providing financial assistance for tuition, fees and books to HCC for every student who qualifies.



*HCC Foundation Board President Ginger Blanton speaks with reporters at the press conference held to announce HCC's Opportunity 14 Scholarship.*

The program aims to boost Houston's economic development potential by providing a skilled work force with the higher earning potential conferred by a two-year college degree. People who earn a two-year degree from a community college make, on average, \$577,000 more during their careers than people with only a high school diploma, as found in a May 2008 study on "The Economic Contribution of Houston Community College."

"We need to make sure that we have a skilled workforce, and that includes technical training. The payback for this investment is huge," says HCC Foundation Board President Ginger Blanton.

Opportunity 14 has earned endorsements from organizations such as the Greater Houston Partnership, the Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The Foundation raised more than \$1 million in scholarship funding for Opportunity 14 in 2007-2008. Now the HCC Foundation is embarking on a \$30 million endowment campaign to ensure this scholarship is available for future generations of Houstonians.

"The promise of two years of higher education for Houston's young people must continue for generations to come. The HCC Foundation is committed to securing annual support of this scholarship program and to establishing and funding an endowment that will provide Opportunity 14 scholarships in perpetuity," says Dr. Kelly J. Zúñiga, Executive Director of the HCC Foundation.

## HCC Foundation Highlights 2007-2008

### HCC Foundation Triples Fundraising Success!

The HCC Foundation raised \$3,242,055 in 2007-2008, triple the amount raised during the previous fiscal year. These funds are providing benefit for programmatic support, capital/equipment enhancement, faculty support, and scholarships—including the new Opportunity 14 Scholarship. These funds will also benefit HCC initiatives that promote student learning.



**October 2007**

#### Chancellor's Speaker Series

Rice sociology professor and HCC Foundation board member Dr. Stephen Klineberg was guest speaker at the inaugural Chancellor's Speaker Series held in October 2007, an event hosted by the HCC Foundation. Klineberg, who is known for his annual Houston Area Survey on Houston's economic and demographic changes, offered guests an insider's look at local trends.



*HCC student and scholarship recipient Tafashilia McCoy speaks at a donor luncheon.*

**November 2007**

#### HCCF Honors College Connection Scholarship Recipients

Also in November 2007, the HCC Foundation hosted a luncheon for its College Connection scholarship recipients and donors. In 2006, the HCC Foundation initiated the College Connection Scholarship to benefit high school students completing HCC's College Connection program.



*HCC Chancellor Dr. Mary S. Spangler with Crystal Eagle Award recipients, past and present, former Houston mayor Bob Lanier (left) and Houston Chronicle publisher and president Jack Sweeney.*

**January 2008**

#### HCC Gala Raises Record Funds

The HCC Foundation's Passport to the Future Gala raised more than \$400,000 in scholarship funds for local students. The 2006 recipient of HCC's Crystal Eagle Award, former mayor Bob Lanier, presented the award to a fellow citizen who is also passionate about education, Houston Chronicle publisher and president Jack Sweeney.

**November 2007**

#### Scholarship Luncheon Celebrates Students

The HCC Foundation hosted its second annual Scholarship Luncheon in November 2007, honoring the 2007-2008 scholarship recipients and the donors whose generosity made their scholarships possible. The event provided an opportunity for student recipients to personally thank the individuals who provided the funds that assisted them in pursuing and completing their education at HCC.



*Nancy Berkey, HCC nursing student and recipient of both ARAMARK and George Foundation scholarships awarded by the HCC Foundation (pictured with HCC Chancellor Dr. Mary S. Spangler). Berkey was the student speaker at the 2007 scholarship luncheon.*

#### Grant Funding Fuels HCC Programs

Numerous HCC programs received outside funding as a result of the HCC Foundation's fundraising efforts in 2007-2008. A sampling of these projects include training and mentorship for local childcare workers through HCC's Child Development Department; College Connection, an HCC program that works directly with high school seniors to help them make the transition to higher education; translation software to improve literacy rates for students in HCC's Adult Basic Education program; and a collaboration with HCC's Coleman College for Health Sciences and Houston area clinic to improve the immunization rates of Houston children.

**January 2008**

#### HCC Foundation Launches On-Line Scholarship Application

Scholarship opportunities for HCC students are just a click away with the improved online scholarship application introduced by the HCC Foundation in January 2008. The Foundation's single, online scholarship application has greatly eased the application process.

## "Thank you HCC for a life-changing excursion into global citizenship."

Jake Neeves, HCC Student and Salzburg Seminar Participant

### March 2008

#### Faculty and Staff Pitch in to Make a Difference

HCC faculty and staff demonstrated their commitment to HCC students in the second annual employee campaign. The 2008 HCC Faculty and Staff campaign, "Making a Difference," raised more than \$32,000 toward student scholarships and faculty and staff professional development.



### May 2008

#### HCC Foundation 2008 Annual Board Meeting

The HCC Foundation Board of Directors met at HCC's new Alief campus, welcoming incoming members and recognizing outgoing officers for their service to the HCC Foundation. The meeting concluded with a tour of the Alief Campus's sophisticated teaching stations, high-tech science labs and state-of-the-art classrooms.



### June 2008

#### Welcome Luncheon Offers Tips on College Success

A group of motivated Houston-area high school seniors were special guests at an orientation luncheon held at HCC Southwest's Alief Campus, hosted in June 2008 by the HCC Foundation. Eight students each received a \$1,000 scholarship to attend HCC in 2008-2009, presented on behalf of the Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas, Inc. and the HCC Foundation.

### June 2008

#### Scholarship Recipients Honored by Asian Chamber of Commerce

The Asian Chamber of Commerce honored five HCC Foundation Asian Chamber of Commerce scholarship recipients at their monthly luncheon in June 2008. "These students exemplify strength of mind," said HCC Chancellor Dr. Mary S. Spangler.



### April 2008

#### Chancellor's Wine Tasting

The HCC Foundation hosted a private wine tasting in April 2008 at the home of HCC Chancellor Dr. Mary S. Spangler. Guests enjoyed fine wines from around the world selected by Les Dames d'Escoffier International and paired with hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and desserts specially prepared by students enrolled in HCC's award-winning Culinary Arts Program. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Mary Nell Reck Culinary Arts Scholarship for students attending HCC.



### June 2008

#### Foundation Funds Study Abroad

Six HCC students and three HCC faculty members were selected as HCC's first-ever participants in the Salzburg Seminar International Community College Study Program. The international seminar is held at the Leopoldskron Schloss, a historic monument in Austria and home to the Salzburg Global Seminar.

### August 2008

#### Opportunity 14 Press Conference

The HCC Foundation announced its Opportunity 14 scholarship at a press conference held in August 2008 at a local high school. Educational and city leaders gathered to celebrate the historic scholarship program that aims to make higher education available to all Houstonians, regardless of financial circumstances.

## Scholarships Fuel Brighter Futures

The HCC Foundation is helping to provide educational opportunity for HCC students through the gift of scholarship. Here are just a few of these scholarship recipients' stories. Each story represents a life transformed by the generosity of donors to the HCC Foundation and the lasting gift of education.

### Paul Pham

#### Black History Scholarship

The oldest of eight children, Paul Pham spends much of his time taking care of family since his

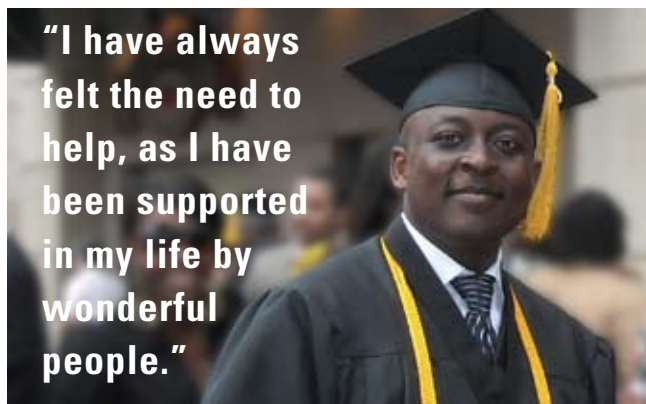
**"A career in the health field is something that is self rewarding as its purpose serves others."**

parents are no longer alive. His compassion for others has translated into a career in the health sciences. Pham already had a bachelor's in Health Science

Administration when he enrolled in HCC to pursue his Associate of Applied Science degree in radiology—a goal he achieved in May 2009.

"I want to prove that a single person can make a difference in our community. I grew up reading comics and wanted to become a superhero. In the real world, health care workers are modern day heroes," says Pham. "A career in the health field is something that is self rewarding as its purpose serves others."

Pham adds that his experience as a volunteer in the City Year Corps, where he united with young people of all backgrounds for a year of full-time service, taught him life skills that he is putting to practice in his studies. "I met many people who taught me that diversity brings creativity and talents to any goal," says Pham. "This scholarship enables me to take steps in achieving my goals. Without this financial assistance, I would not be able to pay for classes."



### Habunamboka ("Marc") Kilonda

#### Black History Scholarship

Growing up, Marc Kilonda says his biggest dream was to be an airplane pilot and travel around the world. After a sports injury from playing basketball, however, Kilonda decided he wanted to be an orthopedic specialist. "I have always felt the need to help, as I have been supported in my life by wonderful people," he says.

"This scholarship made me realize that I can keep on dreaming for my goals, because there are people believing in me. In addition, this scholarship is a total encouragement for hard work and persistence," says Kilonda. "This scholarship will reduce, if not erase, all my financial worries about school and help me concentrate more on community work, which is a goal of mine."

Marc graduated with highest honors and received his Associate of Science degree from HCC in May 2009. He was joined by his brother, Lucien, who graduated with high honors and also received his Associate of Science degree from HCC. The Kilonda brothers plan to continue their medical studies at Baylor University this fall.

### Uniqeka Fullerton

#### Marsha Ann Wooldridge Scholarship

"My name was given to me by my aunt because she knew I would be one of a kind," says Uniqeka Fullerton, a native Houstonian who aspires to one day travel the world and educate those in need with the knowledge she has gained from her studies.

"This scholarship has helped me pay for my education, while remaining debt free. Without charitable donors, dreams like mine

**"This scholarship has helped me pay for my education, while remaining debt free."**

wouldn't come to pass. Words cannot express the gratitude that I feel," says Fullerton. "When I first opened the envelope I almost burst

into tears that I had won a scholarship and that someone cared about my education. Thank you so much for your help."

**“Without community colleges, millions of students and adult learners would not be able to access the education they need to be prepared for further education or the workplace. Community colleges often are the access point for education in a town and a real catalyst for economic development.”**

American Association of Community Colleges



### **Mario Soto**

#### **Sembradores de Amistad Educational Foundation Scholarship**

Mario Soto understands the importance of time management. The busy father of four is constantly striving to balance his college studies with work and family obligations.

**“Thank you for caring  
and thank you for doing  
your part to better  
the community.”**

Soto’s self-discipline is a contrast to his younger days when he served time in a Texas prison. The experience helped Soto turn his life around and now he is working to help other inmates do the same. Soto is a recruiter/unit case manager for the Prison Entrepreneurship Program,

a non-profit organization that redirects inmates’ talents by equipping them with values-based entrepreneurial training—enabling them to productively re-enter society.

Soto recalls the moment he learned of his HCC scholarship. When his wife said she had something to show him, Soto feared it was another bill and his heart sank. His emotions quickly turned to joy when he read his scholarship award letter. “I had to leave the room so that my kids did not see me cry,” says Soto. “I could not believe that someone out there chose to invest in my future without even knowing who I am. I can truly say that this is a blessing for me as well as my family. Thank you for caring and thank you for doing your part to better the community. I will do my part in the future.”

For now, the future looks bright for Soto. “My life and motivation is my family. I will succeed for them!” he says.

### **Javier Hernandez**

#### **Josephine Ramirez Nelson Hispanic Scholarship**

Javier Hernandez was born in Bogota, Colombia and moved to the United States just before his ninth birthday. Hernandez says his dream in life is to travel and see the world—an ambition he

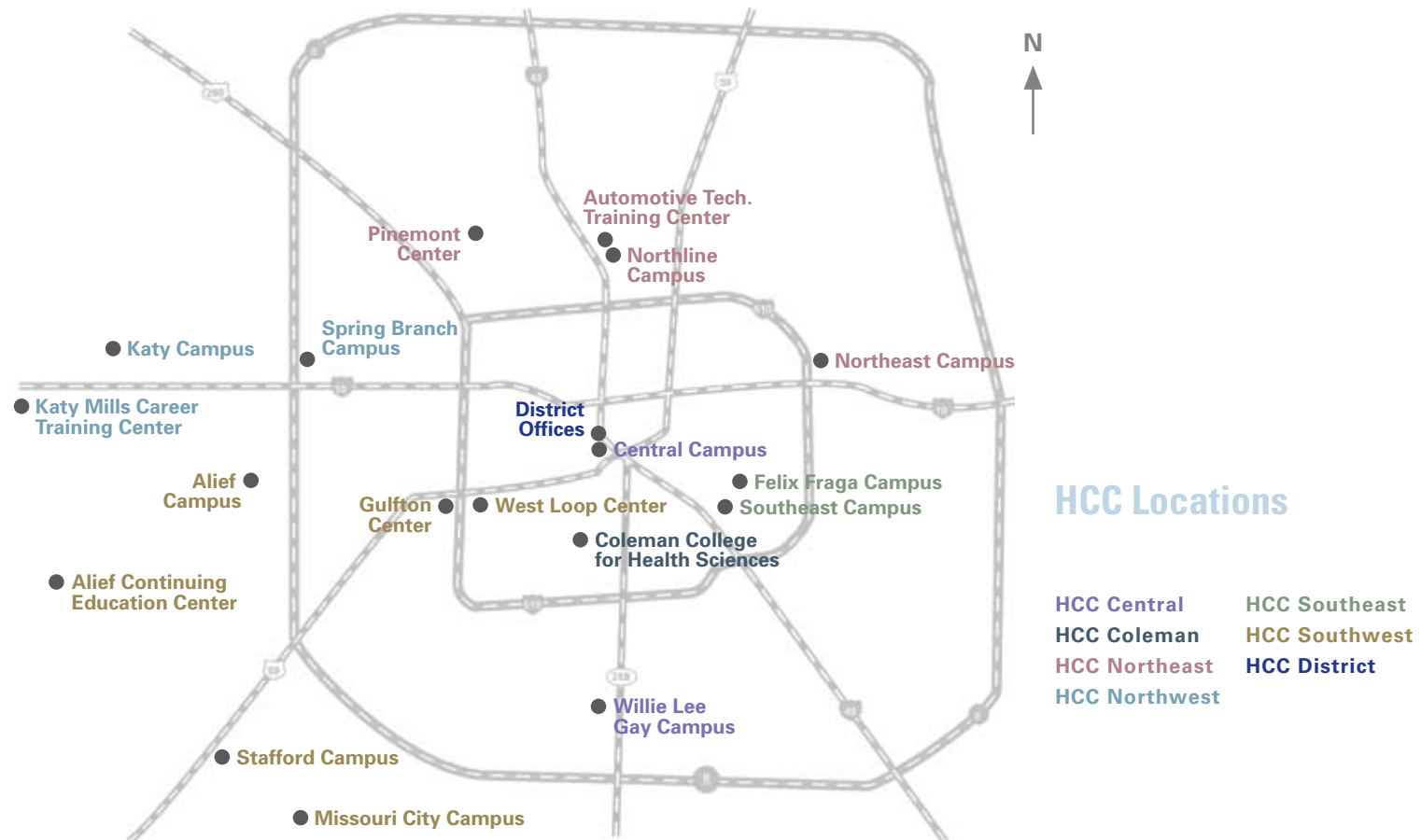
**“With the help of this  
scholarship, I am one step  
closer towards achieving  
my dream in life.”**

hopes to fulfill by pursuing a degree in international business upon completing his studies at HCC.

“I am very thankful for receiving the

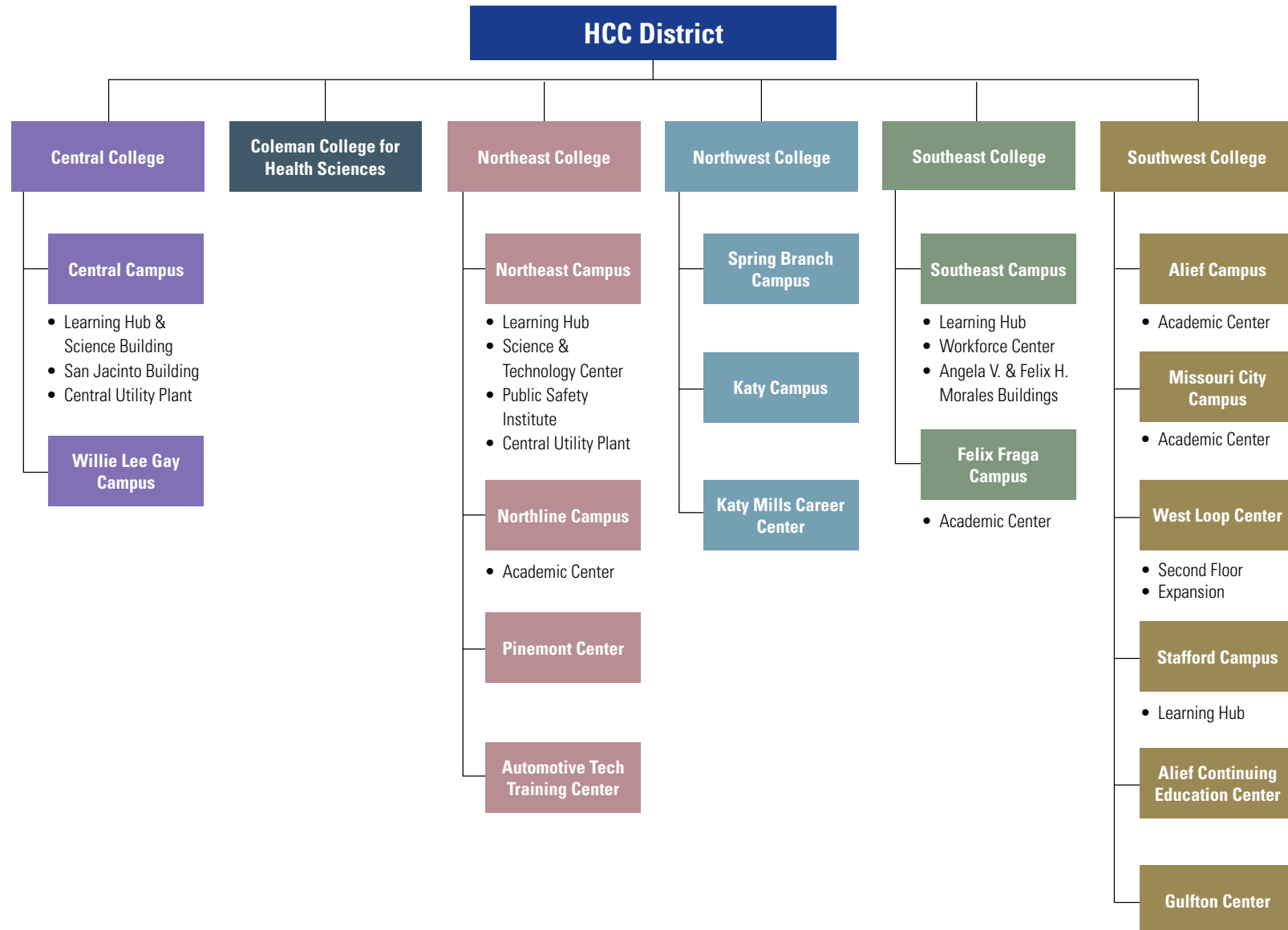
Josephine Ramirez Nelson Hispanic Scholarship. With the help of this scholarship, I am one step closer towards achieving my dream in life. I want to thank Mr. Jack S. Blanton and Mrs. Ginger Renfroe Blanton for their generosity, and I will continue to work hard to maintain a high grade point average.”

Hernandez achieved an important goal in May 2009, graduating with high honors and receiving his Associate of Arts degree in pre-business from HCC.



In order to realize its vision, Houston Community College embarked on a six-year capital improvement program to enhance student outcomes through the creation of state-of-the-art learning environments. Begun in 2002 under the leadership of the HCC Board of Trustees, a comprehensive facilities assessment was commissioned and funded by a \$151 million general obligation bond approved by voters in 2003. The projects were substantially completed in 2008 with the entire program scheduled for completion by December 2009.

## College and Campus Improvements Overview



The HCC Foundation has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of names listed in this donor acknowledgement.

Please send notice of omission or incorrect listings to HCC Foundation, Suite 12B12 (MC 1148), Houston, TX 77002.

## The HCC Foundation gratefully acknowledges the contributions of its 2007-2008 donors *(gifts made during September 1, 2007-August 31, 2008):*

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**“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.”**

**Ben Sweetland, author**

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Dr. Malcolm L. Mazow  
Louis McCarter  
Glenn McQueary  
Ben Mendez  
Microsoft Education Solutions  
Carolyn Rindosh Miller  
Virginia and Richard Mithoff  
Holly and Randall Montalbano  
Linda Morales  
Ana Maria Morris

Robin Morse  
Jacqueline D. Mullis  
Patrick Nguyen  
Srinivas G. Nikam  
Aduke E. Olofinboba  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Frank H. Ortiz  
Marilyn and Philip Palese  
Pavilion Development Corporation  
Audrey C. Payne  
Edward L. Payne  
Pearson Education/HEPG- Longman Publishers  
Dr. Cheryl Peters  
Dominique F. Phillips  
Arthur R. Pick, Jr.  
Wayne Pierce  
PMI  
Patricia D. Porcynaluk  
Mary and R. H. Putney  
Rail Europe  
Connie and J. R. Reddish  
Stephen C. Regan  
Ahmed M. Richard  
Linda L. Richard  
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Charles R. Ritchie  
Eric J. Roberson  
Joella K. Robinson  
Alan Rodney Rocha  
Michael Ronan  
David A. Ross  
James Ross-Nazzal  
Jim Rosser  
David Roylance  
Cindy and Tim Rychlee  
Tom Sage  
Adnan Said  
Jose C. Salazar  
Yeannette Salazar  
Max R. Saravia  
Mary B. Schillaci  
Rose Mary Schouten  
Mary B. Selby  
H R Shaikh Seyar, LLP  
Dr. Daniel Seymour  
Zeba and Syed Shah  
Victor M. Shainock

Cammy Shay  
John A. Sheldon  
Christy Shell  
Dr. Nora Jo Sherman  
Aisha and Ahmed Siddiqui  
Eva Silva  
Red Renee’ Simpson  
David Sipe  
Dana Ruth Skobel  
Earl Smith  
Lois Smith  
Dr. Rudy Soliz  
Frances and Chris Stacy  
Joe T. Starr  
State Employee Charitable Campaign  
Alisa Stevenson-Williams  
H. Bailey Stone Ministries, Inc.  
Dr. Philip E. Swartz  
Dr. R. Neal Tannahill  
Dr. Alan C. Taylor  
Karen M. Taylor  
Fred Tooley  
Juanita and Luis Trevino  
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Dr. Thomas Urban  
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Gabriela and Bogar Ventura  
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Lynn Williams  
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Willie Williams, Jr.  
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Christopher’s Wine Warehouse  
Freddie Woolridge, Jr.  
E. W. (Bill) Wright III  
Dr. Madeleine Wright  
Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel  
Mary L. Young  
Phillipa M. Young

The HCC Foundation is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and classified as a public charity under section 509(a)(3) of the code. The Foundation adheres to the highest standards of financial management, and the result is a healthy balance sheet that allows us to consistently provide programmatic support to important HCC initiatives and scholarships for local students from throughout the Greater Houston area.

The following financial information was summarized from our 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 audited financial statements, which are available upon request and on our website at [www.hccsfoundation.org](http://www.hccsfoundation.org) (Click on 'ABOUT US').

### 2006 - 2008 Summary of Revenue and Expenditures

|  | 2008 Revenue       | 2007 Revenue       | 2006 Revenue       |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Contributions and Donations                            | \$2,466,479        | \$ 955,335         | \$ 650,926         |
| Interest and Dividend Income                           | \$ 91,511          | \$ 97,220          | \$ 67,372          |
| Special Event Contributions, Net                       | \$ 350,928         | —                  | \$ 159,530         |
| In-Kind Revenue  | \$ 922,297         | \$ 735,817         | \$ 310,111         |
| Net Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments | \$ (97,096)        | \$ 10,201          | \$ 22,446          |
| Net Assets Released from Restrictions                  | —                  | —                  | —                  |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                                  | <b>\$3,734,119</b> | <b>\$1,798,573</b> | <b>\$1,210,385</b> |
|  | 2008 Expenditures  | 2007 Expenditures  | 2006 Expenditures  |
| Program Services:                                      |                    |                    |                    |
| Scholarships   | \$ 656,123         | \$ 575,957         | \$ 241,311         |
| Support Services:                                      |                    |                    |                    |
| Fundraising  | \$ 164,910         | \$ 6,162           | \$ 87,460          |
| Administration   | \$ 919,003         | \$ 796,918         | \$ 316,487         |
| <b>Total Support Services</b>                          | <b>\$1,083,913</b> | <b>\$ 803,080</b>  | <b>\$ 403,947</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                                  | <b>\$1,740,036</b> | <b>\$1,379,037</b> | <b>\$ 645,258</b>  |
| <b>Increase in Net Assets</b>                          | <b>\$1,994,083</b> | <b>\$ 419,536</b>  | <b>\$ 565,127</b>  |
| Net Assets, Beginning of Year                          | \$2,358,680        | \$1,939,144        | \$1,374,017        |
| Net Assets, End of Year                                | \$4,352,763        | \$2,358,680        | \$1,939,144        |



## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008 - 2009

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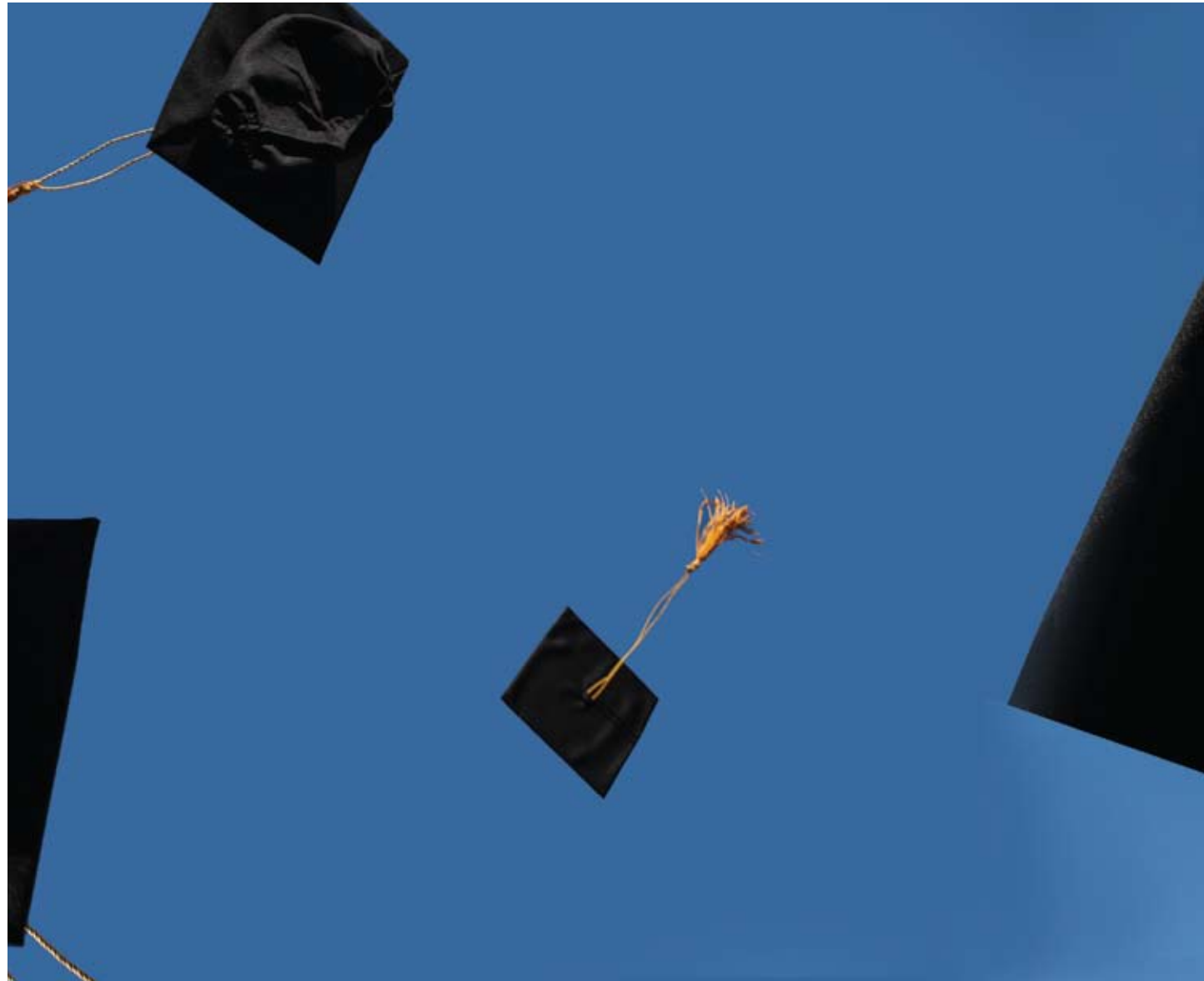
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**“HCC has positioned itself to meet the needs of the Houston community.  
HCC’s leadership, exceptional faculty and staff are committed to  
addressing the educational demands of the 21st century.”**

**Dr. Mary S. Spangler, HCC Chancellor  
The Houston Chronicle, January 31, 2009**



**HCC Foundation**  
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