



Gratefully
YOURS.

HACC Foundation
Donors' Impact
on HACC and Central Pennsylvania

Fall 2022



Dear HACC Foundation donors,

We hope you are well.

We are writing to remind you of your significant impact on HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College, our students and our Central Pennsylvania community.

We talk often about the impact of scholarships and emergency assistance funds:

- The HACC Foundation awarded \$968,845.07 in scholarships to 716 students last fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). Because of our donors' generosity, these students are more likely to complete their HACC credential and will graduate from HACC with less debt.
- The HACC Foundation awarded \$24,565.93 in emergency assistance funds to 55 students last fiscal year (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022). Because of our donors, the crises and emergencies these students faced did not sideline them. They were able to continue attending their HACC classes due to the empathetic support provided by our donors.

However, we do not talk enough about the many other ways you positively impact our students and community:

- The HACC Foundation – as a result of our donors' generous charitable contributions – has provided funding for many mission-critical initiatives at HACC. These initiatives would not have been possible without the HACC Foundation.
- While we wish we could tell you about all of these initiatives, we have selected some of the most recent ones and included them in this publication. We believe you will be pleased with the outcomes.

HACC is an excellent investment of your philanthropy. Our tuition rates are economical, and we are very fiscally responsible. We do not waste your hard-earned money, and a dollar goes a long way at HACC.

If you have a few moments to spare, we would love to hear from you about the information you read in this publication. Our contact information is below.

Thank you for believing in us! We absolutely believe in you and the power of philanthropy.

Gratefully YOURS,

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Gym Floor Receives Makeover

HACC's donors provided funding to sand, paint and refinish the gym floor in the Evans Physical Education Center on HACC's Harrisburg Campus. The floor is used for the intercollegiate men's basketball, women's basketball and volleyball teams, physical education classes, general student recreation and community reservations.

The project of refinishing and repainting the gym floor has positively impacted our students by giving them a basketball court that is up to date with the new College basketball court lines. This will enable our students to compete in intercollegiate competition against other colleges while adhering to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) rules. The new refinishing also gives the floor tact, which will help students get traction while playing on it, helping to prevent slipping and enabling them to play more sharply. In addition to being functional, the floor looks great! Aesthetically, the students love it. The new color scheme and HACC hawk in the center of the floor help the court to feel like "home" for our HACC students.

This project has positively transformed HACC by refinishing a court that was in need of repairs, giving it a fresh look and bringing it up to current NJCAA standards. The floor had not been sanded to the bare wood and repainted in over 20 years. There were a few boards that were cracked, and the paint on the floor had yellowed and faded over the years. If the boards had not been repaired, they would have eventually created a tripping hazard for participants.

This project was definitely a success. By refinishing the floor, it is safer for our students, looks sharp and makes the HACC community feel #HACCproud. The finished project is definitely more than just aesthetically pleasing – it gives the space a "WOW" factor.



Our Donors Funded Outdoor Fitness Equipment

The addition of the outdoor fitness equipment at the Senator John J. Shumaker Public Safety Center (PSC) affirms HACC's commitment to providing the most state-of-the-art public safety training programs. This equipment will provide future first responders and public safety professionals with opportunities to improve their physical health while enrolled in our training programs. Furthermore, this equipment will be available to other students, employees and visitors as part of our training grounds, ensuring the impact of this equipment far exceeds the students of public safety training programs.

Cadets in the police academy have been utilizing this equipment as part of the regular physical training components in their programs, allowing them to maintain physical health, an imperative element in the public safety field. Physical strength and endurance are necessary to ensure first responders can capably perform rescue and safety operations for our region's citizens. The career fire academies will also utilize this equipment.

Without this funding provided by donors, this project would not have been possible. The addition of this equipment will ensure the sustainability of our programs and the legacy of HACC being a premier location for public safety training programs.



Our Donors Funded an Internationally Known Artist's Visit to HACC

Photographs from Cuba by internationally known artist Jim Hartsen were displayed in the Rose Lehrman Art Gallery at HACC in September 2022.

Hartsen graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in photographic illustration in 1968. For over 12 years, he has been going back to his roots of street photography, focusing on Cuba and Peru. He has been given the privilege of simply photographing the daily lives of the people he meets. His goal is to capture images that touch the heart, photographing the mysteries and magic appearing before him. Hartsen's work has been published in numerous national magazines and photographic publications. Most of his work is now exhibited and sold through fine art galleries to grace the walls of homes and offices.

While on campus, Hartsen discussed his work, with a reception immediately following at the gallery. The reception and exhibit were free and open to the public – thanks to generous HACC Foundation donors.

The goal of having an artist lecture about their work is to bring students and community members to a better understanding of the artwork. Also, attendees are able to have one-on-one interactions with the artist during the reception that follows the lecture. Students, employees and community members agree that hearing the artist's lecture makes the visual art experience greater.

Six student groups visited the gallery and learned about the artist and his photographs directly from the gallery director. Four student groups visited the gallery and received artist lectures directly from the artist. Over 250 people visited the gallery to see the photographs. More than 40 people attended the artist's lecture on campus and via Facebook Live. Students, employees and community members spent significant time learning directly from the artist. It was a truly transformative experience.



Our Donors Funded Food for HACC Students

At HACC, we are committed to supporting students in need. The “Groceries on the Go” program was developed to help address food insecurities faced by HACC students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

HACC planned a two-phase “Groceries on the Go” program:

- Phase 1: Thanks to HACC Foundation donors and in collaboration with five grocery retailers, the College provided students the opportunity to pick up one free bag of groceries at one of the several stores. The pre-filled bags, valued at \$10 each, were provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The bags were distributed to HACC students at no cost to the students.
- Phase 2: This phase included the distribution of e-gift cards, allowing students to buy groceries when most convenient for their schedules. A high percentage of students attending HACC juggle work and/or family obligations in addition to their class schedule. Students who lived over 50 miles from a previous participating grocery store would have better access to other grocery stores. Another benefit was the ability to purchase groceries online. Students could shop for food items based on their needs and dietary preferences.

Donors provided funding during an unanticipated time of hardship for some of our students. Food and housing insecurity as well as fear from the pandemic was high. HACC serves students from our local region but also students from around the world. This funding made a significant difference in these students’ lives, some young and others older, who lost their employment.

Each student has a story that is often unspoken, oftentimes due to shame. Through HACC’s Consultation, Advocacy, Referrals and Empowerment (CARE) Center, students began to share their experiences and needs, some of which we addressed due to donors’ generous donations.

This program was successful:

- 1,411 grocery bags were provided to HACC students
- 90 e-gift cards were distributed to HACC students
- 90% of the students who were assisted by the CARE Center remained enrolled for the fall 2021 semester

Non-academic barriers are often what cause a student to withdraw from HACC. When life becomes difficult, students may not complete their desired academic goal. The students who reached out to the CARE Center had an average GPA of 2.76. For the majority of these students, in spite of the food insecurity they experienced, they continued in their pursuit of a changed life. The impact of this program cannot be told by numbers alone.

Following is a student testimonial:

I am currently living in a hotel room with my disabled mother. We have been displaced/homeless since last January, and it has been a very long and a very expensive year. I lost my job due to the pandemic last March and I have been on unemployment the whole time... Unfortunately, though living in a hotel room is anything but cheap. I am paying anywhere between \$270 to \$370 a week so most weeks there is no money left for food. It has been incredibly hard for me to keep my head in my studies when I am constantly worrying about me and my mother’s most basic necessities. This card will at least give me some peace of mind for a few days. I thank everyone involved in this program, I am incredibly grateful!



Our Donors Funded Gift Cards for HACC Students

HACC's Keystone Education Yields Success (KEYS) Program is a program that helps students succeed while attending HACC. Students who receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are among those who participate in the program.

The KEYS Program was able to recognize and celebrate graduates, high GPA earners and all KEYS students at two end-of-semester events. The financial impact was meaningful at crucial times during the students' educational journeys. Thanks to donors' contributions, KEYS gave away 305 gift cards to 141 students.

Without the funding from HACC Foundation donors, KEYS would not have been able to offer these incentives and programs, which allowed our students to complete the semester successfully. The incentives and programs also allowed our KEYS students to connect with their peers and engage in a meaningful activity during the challenges and isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were able to play fun games, participate in challenges for prizes, experience new activities and connect with HACC leaders.

This project positively impacted and transformed our KEYS students and HACC. Students completed their studies, which helped overall enrollment and retention for the College. The early registration/retention rate from spring 2021 to summer 2021 and/or fall 2021 was 85%. Students were energized and motivated for the next semester and/or their next steps after graduation.

This investment in students was successful:

- Over the last three semesters, we celebrated 32 graduates
- 85% of enrolled KEYS students enrolled in early registration for summer and/or fall 2021
- 17% of KEYS students in fall 2021 had a 4.0 GPA

However, the greatest successes were the relationships that were built, connections that were made and barriers that were overcome. This project is considered a success not just because of the positive measurable outcomes but also the smiles, laughter and connections made during interactions between our KEYS students and employees.



Our Donors Funded a Dental Simulation Laboratory

The dental simulation laboratory is an innovative project that provides current and future students in HACC's dental programs a learning environment that is not only safe but effective in mastering hands-on clinical skills needed for entry into the dental professions.

The dental simulation laboratory project was a huge success in so many ways for the dental programs and community we serve at HACC. The project commenced during a critical time for the College, as the COVID-19 pandemic caused significant hurdles for in-person learning. The simulation laboratory allows students to learn their clinical skills on a simulator and effectively progress to providing dental hygiene services within the community.

The dental simulation laboratory brings a uniqueness to HACC, as it is one of the only simulation laboratories on the East Coast for a dental hygiene program. The impacts this brings to students is continuous, as their hands-on clinical skills will continually improve. The goal of the program is to provide excellence in learning and in serving our community.

By offering a dental simulation laboratory, students gain additional skills prior to providing dental services to the community of patients served. The job market for dental professions has taken a major leap since the COVID-19 pandemic. The applicant pool continues to grow for the dental programs, and the goal will be to expand the Dental Hygiene Program to fulfill the need of the community. By increasing the number of students, we have the potential to increase our dental services and the number of patients served each year. This would allow HACC to serve more patients at the HACC Dental Clinic as well as through outreach services and events in the community.

It is the goal of the dental programs at HACC to be the number one choice for education. The dental simulation laboratory continues to provide opportunities to make the goal achievable. With that, this project is a major success – thanks to HACC Foundation donors!



Our Donors Funded an Affordable Textbook Initiative

Textbooks can be very expensive for HACC students. The purpose of HACC's Affordable Textbook Initiative (ATI) is to provide free or low-cost textbook options for HACC students.

The ATI works with HACC faculty to incorporate free or other low-cost textbook alternatives into their courses.

More than 5,579 HACC students will benefit from free resources per semester, for an estimate of more than \$572,000 in textbook cost savings per semester. The investment by the HACC Foundation created the structure for faculty to develop or select resources that provide the opportunity for unlimited student savings as the ATI grows. The ATI will gain momentum and continue to increase the benefit to students by minimizing textbook costs.

In spring 2022, 48.56% (1,078 of 2,200 classes) were using low or no-cost textbooks. Specifically, we saw a notable increase in the number of courses with a no-cost textbook (383 in fall 2020 to 778 in spring 2022).

The ATI provided faculty an incentive to change how they choose textbooks. Instead of selecting traditionally published textbooks that were too expensive and made money for publishers, faculty are creating, adapting or adopting textbooks that best fit the needs of HACC students. Not only are the textbooks less expensive or free, they are also more accessible, current, relevant and diverse than traditional textbooks.

In a 2019 survey, HACC students indicated that the cost of textbooks negatively impacted their education, including preventing them from taking courses and purchasing the required textbooks for courses. When the same survey was administered two years later, these percentages had decreased in every category, including the percentage of students paying \$200 or more for their textbooks. Specifically, this percentage decreased from 65% to 47%.

Additionally, when students in classes with free resources were surveyed in spring 2022, 93% of students appreciated the impact on their textbook costs, and 92% indicated that free resources were important to their success in the course. The ATI coordinators recognize the impact this initiative has had on students' success at HACC and looks forward to seeing additional impact in the future.



Our Donors Funded a Solo Exhibition of Media-Based Artwork

In April 2022, 136 students and employees viewed the solo exhibition of media-based artwork by Jeffrey Moser in the Rose Lehrman Art Gallery on HACC's Harrisburg Campus. The gallery director gave tours to students and typically spoke with students for about 15 minutes after the tour. The director shared that the interactions with students and employees were the deepest discussions they have had in their time of coordinating exhibitions in the gallery. For most students, this was their first interaction with video-based artwork, and this first-hand experience was very rewarding.

Moser gave an artist lecture via Zoom, which was attended by 39 people. That lecture was recorded and shared with all of the art students who could not attend. The lecture was well-received by all who attended.

This project transformed how we can display artwork and where it can be viewed. Video-based exhibitions can be shown at all of HACC's campuses. Also, we can exhibit a more diverse group of artists that we could not work with before.

The discussions the gallery director and employees had with student groups in the gallery were the greatest indicator of success for this project.





