

# THE ADVISOR

News from the Hagerstown Community College Advancement Office

Spring 2025

## PRESIDENT'S REFLECTION



Greetings, as we approach the start of spring! As I write this, the daffodils are beginning to peek through the soil in front of the Administration Building, signifying yet again the power of growth and resilience. At HCC, we are excited for continued development as we embark upon our season of celebrations on campus.

In early April, we will host the 25th Anniversary of the Tribute, the prin-

cipal annual fundraiser for our Foundation. It has changed over the years, but it remains a wonderful way to get together as a community. This year, we will honor our students and student-athletes through scholarships. In this edition, you will get to read an interview of one of our athletic teams. You will learn how their determination is paying off.

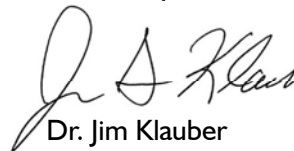
I am not sure there is much more that can bring a sense of renewal to your heart than our HCC Food Pantry. You can read about it in this issue! It brings assistance to our neediest students, and in many cases is one small additional service to keep them enrolled in college.

This edition also focuses on our Radiography Program that is blooming with student success. Our graduates

are highly successful and sought after for employment. I attribute much of that accomplishment to our faculty who are dedicated to these students.

We cover all of that, plus you'll read about an alumnus, a scholarship recipient, a Foundation Board member, and a fantastic student-centered engineering professor. Spring is upon us and we continue to be filled with hope for our students. We appreciate your significant contributions to make all of this happen. We would not be resilient without you!

Yours truly,



Dr. Jim Klauber



*"Many students face challenges that go beyond the classroom," he explains. "By supporting them financially, we can help ease some of their burdens, allowing them to focus on their studies."*

*- Ed Sigler, Associate Professor of Engineering*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

*Care Cupboard Highlight, Radiography, Alumni Spotlight, HCC Track & Field Update, and more!*

**Would you like to make a difference in our community? Donate towards your preferred scholarship fund today at [hagerstowncc.edu/giving](http://hagerstowncc.edu/giving).**

What do you want to see in our newsletters? Email us at [collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu) to let us know!

## HCC Faculty Spotlight: Ed Sigler



Ed Sigler, Associate Professor of Engineering

### Ed Sigler: A Passion for Teaching and Giving Back at HCC

Ed Sigler, a longtime Hagerstown resident, has deep roots in his community. A graduate of South Hagerstown High School, Ed pursued his higher education in engineering, earning degrees from Virginia Tech, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland. Over the years, he has built a career as a practicing engineer and the owner of his own consulting business. Ed has been married for 36 years to his high school sweetheart, and together they have two children. His wife, like him, is connected to Hagerstown Junior College, having graduated in 1985 and is currently an adjunct professor teaching mathematics at HCC.

### Choosing HCC: A Passion for Teaching and Community

Ed's journey to teaching at Hagerstown Community College began unexpectedly. As a successful engineer, Ed had always wanted to give back to the community. He started by submitting his paperwork to teach as an adjunct instructor. One morning, he received a call from Robin Thomas, the office as-

sociate for the math and science division, asking him to come in and teach four classes. Initially thinking this was just an interview, Ed was surprised to find himself handed textbooks and a syllabus on his first day, tasked with developing all of his lectures. It was also the year his daughter started at HCC, and he ended up being her professor

for Intro to Engineering.

In the following year, Robin called Ed again to temporarily take on some classes after the engineering professor had health issues. This led to a full-time position being offered to him by the spring of 2014. At the same time, Ed was coaching a travel soccer team, on which his daughter played.

Ed's commitment to the HCC community is clear. He loves seeing students have those "Ah-Ha" moments when they finally grasp a concept. He takes great pride in helping students succeed, always striving to support them in their learning. "I don't like giving out F's. My goal is to help students succeed," he shares.

### Why HCC Stands Out

For Ed, the students are what make HCC special. While he appreciates the beautiful campus and excellent facilities, it's the students who stand out the most. "The students are the heart of what makes HCC great," he says. It's their drive, curiosity, and willingness to learn that make his work as a professor so rewarding.

### Supporting Students Through the HCC Foundation

Ed is also a strong advocate for supporting students financially through the HCC Foundation's Employee Giving Campaign. "Many students face challenges that go beyond the classroom," he explains. "By supporting them financially, we can help ease some of their burdens, allowing them to focus on their studies." He believes that every donation, no matter the size, can make a significant difference in the lives of students, especially those facing socioeconomic difficulties.

Ed was instrumental in securing donations for a scholarship honoring his mentor, Paul Jozik. Paul was a colleague that Ed admired for his down-to-earth, student-centered approach. Paul's genuine care for students made a lasting impression on Ed. "Paul was one of the best human beings I've ever known," Ed reflects. Ed has modeled his own interactions with students based on Paul's example, always treating students with respect and understanding, even if their experiences differ from his own.

To those who support scholarships at HCC, Ed wants them to know how deeply students appreciate their help. "By and large, students who receive scholarships are truly grateful. For many, without financial support, attending school would not be possible," he shares.

"The scholarships are more than just financial assistance—they are a lifeline that makes education accessible and achievable for students at HCC."

Ed's commitment to his students and the HCC community continues to inspire and shape the future of many students at HCC, and his work is a testament to the power of giving back.

# *HCC Foundation Board Member Spotlight:* **D. R. Risser**

## **1. How did you become affiliated with HCC?**

My affiliation with HCC started long ago when it was still known as HJC. I took a few classes while I was attending college. As time went on, my affiliation became somewhat of a family affair. My grandfather was extremely involved with the college as a member of the Board of Trustees. I attended many Foundation tributes with him and got to know members of the board and the HCC Foundation.

## **2. What do you like most about being an HCC Foundation Board member?**

Being an HCC Foundation board member gives me the feeling that we are making a difference in the community. Working with business and community leaders to build relationships and create opportunities for their families, employees, and curriculum that is important to them allows growth not only for the HCC Foundation and college, but also for the community.

## **3. What project or program are you most passionate about?**

As an HCC Foundation board member, I am honored to serve on the scholarship committee. I feel that we are able to make a difference in people's lives by giving them the opportunity to attend college with some of the financial burden lifted. It is really heartwarming to hear the stories of how receiving a scholarship changed a person's life.

## **4. What impact do you hope HCC will have on the future of the community?**

I hope that the HCC Foundation will continue to grow with the support of the community. This will lead to HCC developing future business and community leaders. I would love to see more success stories involving local and regional people who are products of HCC.





## HCC Foundation Student Spotlight: Abby Demuth



Abby Demuth, HCC Student

Abby Demuth is making the most of her time at Hagerstown Community College. As an elementary education major, Abby works part-time in the College Advancement office and is actively involved with the Christian Fellowship Club. Abby is a recipient of the college's Sioda scholarship, which pairs mentorship with financial support that follows the student through completion of their highest degree. Abby plans to become an elementary school counselor.

Abby's desire to work with the elementary school population comes from a heartfelt motivation: she wants to be the person children can turn to when they need someone to talk to. Her path to this realization began during her senior year of high school when she had the opportuni-

ty to intern with a school counselor. One day, a young student was having a particularly tough time. Abby took the time to speak with him and help him through the moment. Afterward, the student told Abby that she would make a great teacher someday. That moment stayed with her and solidified her desire to work with children, providing them with a safe space where they could feel heard and understood.

Beyond her studies, Abby has been an active participant in campus activities, which has greatly shaped her college experience. During her first three semesters at HCC, she served as the president of the Christian Fellowship Club. This role allowed her to meet like-minded people who shared her faith and provided a safe environment to explore her spirituality. The club holds weekly Bible studies, which have been pivotal in Abby's personal growth, giving her the opportunity to deepen her relationship with her faith

and connect with others who share her beliefs.

Looking ahead, Abby has ambitious goals for her future. She plans to transfer to Shippensburg University to earn her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Afterward, she hopes to pursue a master's degree in school counseling. Her time at HCC has prepared her for these next steps, providing her with the foundational knowledge and experiences necessary to succeed in her field.

Abby's journey at HCC is a testament to the power of community, perseverance, and scholarship. She has embraced every opportunity to grow, not just as a student, but as a person committed to making a positive impact on the lives of others. With her sights set on the future, Abby is well on her way to becoming the teacher and counselor she's always aspired to be.





# HCC Track & Field Soars to National Heights

The Hagerstown Community College Indoor Track and Field Team is making waves in the 2025 season, with standout performances and national-level achievements from its dedicated athletes. Among them, sophomore high jumper Aidan Faith has emerged as a rising star, showcasing exceptional talent and determination on the national stage.

## Aidan Faith: Driven to Succeed

A 2023 graduate of Hancock High School, Faith has quickly made a name for herself in collegiate track and field. With three collegiate invitational victories under her belt, she currently holds the number one high jump performance in the nation among NJCAA student-athletes, clearing 1.68 meters (5 feet, 6 inches). Faith credits her success to the support of her coaches, teammates, and community.

“The HCC track team has helped me develop valuable skills and has given me a strong sense of camaraderie,” she shares. “Coming from a small town like Hancock, I know I have something to prove, and I want to make my community proud.”

Looking ahead, Faith hopes to earn an athletic scholarship to a Division I university while pursuing a degree in business management. Her advice to incoming HCC athletes? “Never doubt your dedication and determination. Competing against larger schools can be intimidating, but your hard work and discipline will always set you apart.”

## HCC Track & Field Continues to Dominate

Faith isn't the only Hawk making headlines this season. Freshmen sprinters Furious Trammel and Austin McCoy have clocked 400-meter times of 48.39 and 49.28, marking the fastest indoor performances by HCC quarter-milers this century. Meanwhile, long-distance standout Michaela Gross, a 2024 Smithsburg High School graduate, has qualified for the NJCAA Division I Na-



Aidan Faith, HCC Student Athlete



Aidan Faith performing the high jump

tional Championships in the 5,000 meters after an 18:32.31 performance at Virginia Military Institute.

With these incredible achievements, HCC's track and field team is gearing up for the NJCAA Division I National Indoor Track & Field Championships, hosted by Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, on March 7-8, 2025.

As the season progresses, Head Coach Mike Spinnler and the entire HCC track and field team continue to raise the bar, proving that dedication, determination, and teamwork can take athletes to new heights—both on and off the track.

## HCC Internship Spotlight – Rachel Haymes



### Internships: A Pathway to Success for HCC Students

Internships offer Hagerstown Community College students the chance to gain real-world experience while earning academic credit. For Rachel Haymes, an aspiring federal judge, her internship with the State's Attorney's Office has been an exciting opportunity to explore the legal field and develop essential skills.

### Balancing Act: Managing a Busy Schedule

Rachel is no stranger to a packed schedule. As a student athlete, campus worker, and intern, she manages a full plate with impressive organization. "I'm very organized with my schedule," she says. Working at the fitness center, the testing center, and a weekend job off-campus, Rachel has found flexibility by not taking in-person classes this semester. Using tools like the D2L app and a planner, she tracks assignments and deadlines, ensuring she stays on top of her commitments. With 19 credits this semester, Rachel's approach to

planning ahead has been key to managing her time effectively. Sundays are her catch-up day, dedicated to personal life and relaxation.

### Career Inspiration: Rachel's Path to Law

Rachel's dream of becoming a federal judge is deeply rooted in her upbringing.

"My mom had a passion for education, and that's been a guiding force in my life," she shares. Despite facing discouragement as part of an underrepresented group in law, Rachel remains determined.

"Only three percent% of Hispanic women become lawyers, and I want to help change that." She currently works in the Victim Witness Unit at the State's Attorney's Office, gaining valuable experience advocating for victims—a role she's passionate about.

"I want to make a difference in the legal system and ensure that victims are represented and supported," Rachel explains.

### Leadership Impact: Shaping Rachel's College Experience

Beyond her internship, Rachel's involvement in campus activities has shaped her college experience. As a two-season soccer player and team

captain, she's developed leadership, teamwork, and communication skills. "Soccer taught me how to work as a team and stay professional, which is important for my future career in law," Rachel says. These skills have helped her become more comfortable with public speaking, which is crucial for her future court appearances.

Rachel is also active in the Student Government Association (SGA) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), making meaningful connections with faculty and peers. As a non-traditional student, starting at HCC at 16, she values the support and guidance she's received from the HCC community.

### Looking Ahead: Rachel's Future Goals

Rachel's journey at HCC has been defined by hard work and determination. She's not only preparing for her career but also paving the way for others. "I want to empower more women to pursue careers in law," she says.

Through her internship, leadership roles, and support from HCC, Rachel is gaining the experience she needs to succeed in her legal career.





# Supporting Student Wellness: The Impact of HCC's Care Cupboard

At Hagerstown Community College, ensuring student success goes beyond the classroom—it means supporting students' well-being in every aspect of their lives. One of the most impactful resources on campus is HCC's Care Cupboard, which provides essential food and hygiene items to students facing food insecurity.

Since the start of the 2024-2025 school year, the Care Cupboard has already served 569 unduplicated students. Popular items include ready-to-eat meals, snacks, hygiene products like laundry soap and feminine care items, and beverages like water and juice. The response from students has been overwhelmingly positive, with one student sharing:

*"Thank you all! Having snacks for the students after the café closes helps on the evenings I am on campus."*



To enhance its impact, HCC recently received \$9,300 in grant funding from Swipe Out Hunger and the Maryland Food Bank. These funds are helping expand food storage, implement a check-in system, and increase awareness of the Care Cupboard's services. However, as the demand grows, students have expressed a need for more fresh food options, including eggs, milk, bread, fruits, frozen meats, and breakfast items.



HCC students visit the Care Cupboard in the AC&T Student Center

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Care Cupboard welcomes donations of non-perishable foods, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and paper products. Items can be dropped off at Student Center 163 during office hours:

- ⌚ Monday: 8:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
- ⌚ Tuesday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 240-500-2602 or [studentactivities@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:studentactivities@hagerstowncc.edu).

# Enhancing the Radiography Program at HCC



## Enhancing the Radiography Program at HCC: A Look at New Advancements and Student Success

The Radiography Program at Hagerstown Community College is one of the longest-running allied health programs at the institution, with a legacy of providing students with top-notch education and hands-on training. Megan Dayhoff, associate professor of the Medical Imaging Program at HCC, is leading the charge in enhancing the curriculum and student experience. With support from the HCC Foundation and a recent Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant, significant improvements are underway to ensure students receive the best possible training and are prepared for success in the clinical environment.

## How the ARC Grant is Supporting the Radiography Program

The ARC grant has allowed the program to purchase new equipment that will directly benefit students in their education and clinical preparation. This includes a new hospital bed, trauma cervical collars, a positioning mannequin, an O.R. table, and a collection of lead protective wear.

These purchases are designed to enhance the curriculum and create a realistic, hands-on learning environment. Students will now have the opportunity to work with equipment similar to what they will encounter in real-world clinical settings, promoting a natural progression of learning. In a competency-based healthcare program like radiography, students first observe, then practice, and ultimately perform. These new resources will help ensure that students are equipped with the skills and confidence they need for their clinical rotations and eventual careers in medical imaging.

## Improving Clinical Skills and Confidence

The new hospital bed will be a valuable addition to the program, allowing students to develop skills related to equipment manipulation and bedside patient care, particularly for patients who are bedridden. The cervical collars will be used in trauma-related imaging procedures, helping students understand the intricacies of imaging patients with injuries.

The positioning mannequin is another key tool, providing students with the ability to practice body positioning and radiographic imaging techniques. The mannequin will also be used to teach

patient transfer techniques and emergent care procedures. These hands-on tools will allow students to gain practical experience before entering the clinical environment.

The new O.R. table and lead protective wear will also be instrumental in improving the program. Imaging technology plays a critical role in many surgical procedures, and students often rotate through the operating room at partnering hospitals. The addition of the O.R. table and lead protective wear will allow instructors to develop curriculum and lab activities that simulate the operating room environment. Students will be able to practice proper imaging techniques in a sterile environment, building confidence and competence in this specialty area.

## Building Skills for the Future

The new equipment will directly translate to the students' clinical experiences. By using the O.R. table in conjunction with a mobile C-arm machine, students will participate in mock O.R. scenarios, gaining valuable hands-on practice. As they observe, practice, and perform these procedures on campus, they will be better prepared for the challenges of their clinical rotations.



HCC Radiography Students celebrating RAD Tech week!



## A Legacy of Excellence and Community Impact

The Radiography Program at HCC has a rich history of success, dating back to its accreditation by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) in 1975. The program has formed strong partnerships with clinical facilities across the tri-state region, providing students with diverse and valuable clinical experiences. Graduates of the program earn a degree and professional credential that open doors to employment opportunities across the United States and beyond.

Medical imaging professionals are an essential part of the healthcare system. With around 50 to 60 percent of emergency department patients receiving some form of imaging, the demand for skilled radiographers continues to grow. The education and training students receive at HCC play a crucial role in meeting this demand and ensuring quality patient care.



Would you like to make a difference in the lives of our students? Donate towards your preferred scholarship fund today at [hagerstowncc.edu/giving](http://hagerstowncc.edu/giving).



HCC Radiography Students, Class of 2025



HCC Radiography Students show off their lab gear!

***And through the support of the ARC grant, the Radiography Program at HCC is poised to continue its tradition of excellence, providing students with the resources they need to succeed in the rapidly evolving healthcare field.***

## Alumni Spotlight: Brittany Shadrach



Brittany Shadrach, Licensed Veterinary Technician

### How did your experience at HCC shape your career path and personal growth?

I began my journey at HCC while still in high school, splitting my days between high school classes and HCC courses. My parents, who had encouraged my older brother to do the same, suggested two classes for me: Computer Science and Public Speaking. The Computer Science course made perfect sense, especially since everything was going digital at that time. But looking back, I can't recommend the Public Speaking class enough! At first, I saw it as just an elective, but by the end of the course, I had developed the confidence to speak to any audience with ease. I only wish I could remember the professor's name—she was truly wonderful and incredibly supportive. That class had the most lasting impact on me, and I believe it has helped me communicate clearly and confidently in my career.

Now, working in the veterinary field, I interact with families, emotional clients, doctors, pharmacies, and man-

ufacturers, and I can navigate these conversations with ease, thanks to the skills I gained in Public Speaking.

When I first enrolled at HCC, I was nearly certain I wanted to pursue veterinary medicine, though I also considered sports medicine. The opportunity to earn an associate degree in Biology provided me with a solid foundation to pursue either path. HCC truly gave me a head start on my career.

### What was one of the most memorable moments or experiences you had during your time at HCC?

One of my most memorable experiences at HCC was playing tennis. In high school, I played soccer, basketball, and tennis, with soccer being my biggest passion. Unfortunately, HCC didn't have a girls' soccer team at the time, so I decided to try out for the tennis team with one of my high school classmates. To my surprise, I ended up knowing most of the girls on the team, and we had an absolute blast together! Duk was our coach at the time, with Bobby Boone assisting, and those two really put in the effort to help us succeed. Thanks to their guidance, we made it to Nationals that year. We even flew out to Arizona to compete, and the whole experience—playing alongside friends and teammates—was unforgettable.

### What advice would you give to current students at HCC who are just starting their journey?

My advice to current students is to take full advantage of the fantastic education HCC offers while being able to live at home or with friends. It's an affordable way to get a quality education, especially compared to the high costs of a major university. You won't feel like just

another face in a large class, and you can work while attending school. Plus, since many credits transfer, it's a great way to explore your career path without committing to the expense and pressure of a big university right away.

### How has the HCC community and network continued to impact you after graduation?

I'm fortunate to have met a wonderful person, Kelly Tracey, who played a key role in starting the practice where I currently work. She's also the instructor for the Veterinary Assisting class at HCC. Kelly often recommends her students come to North Paws to complete their 10 hours of shadowing, and I'm lucky enough to be part of that experience. It's an incredible opportunity to share the knowledge and skills I've gained over the years with those just starting out in the field. I'm passionate about helping to shape the next generation of caring, compassionate, and strong individuals in veterinary medicine. It's a challenging field, but I truly believe it's one of the most rewarding careers you can pursue.

## Calling All Alumni!

Do you have an achievement from the last year that you would like to share?

Submit your achievement today at <https://www.hagerstowncc.edu/docs/alumni-life-achievement-submission-form>.





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**MAY 18 · 6:15 PM**  
**U.S. ARMY SIX STRING SOLDIERS**

**JUNE 1 · 3:00 PM**  
**U.S. NAVY COMMODORES**

**JUNE 15 · 3:00 PM**  
**U.S. NAVY SEA CHANTERS**

**JULY 3 · 6:15 PM**  
**229TH ARMY BAND**



Hagerstown Community College  
**Office of College Advancement**  
11400 Robinwood Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

*Address Service Requested*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 28, 2025**  
HCC Open House

**March 28, 2025**  
Washington County Career Expo

**April 4, 2025**  
HCC Foundation Annual Tribute

**April 21, 2025**  
Planned Giving: Lunch & Learn

**April 25, 2025**  
Earth Day

**April 25 -27, 2025**  
Anything Goes, Spring Theater Production

**May 2, 2025**  
Non-Profit Symposium, Catalysts for Community,  
Spring Dance Showcase

**June 1, 2025**  
Alumni Association Navy Band Concert

Questions? Email [collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu](mailto:collegeadvancement@hagerstowncc.edu) or Call 240-500-2348