



# IMPACT REPORT 2024

CT State Housatonic remains committed to sustaining and building upon its reputation for providing outstanding programs and serving the diverse needs of the region’s students and employers. Located in Bridgeport, CT’s largest city, the campus serves an eleven-town area in Southwestern CT. Housatonic is a student-centered, national Achieving the Dream institution, and strives to provide high quality, accessible instruction and student services within an environment of mutual respect among faculty, staff and students.

In July 2023, the state’s 12 community colleges including Housatonic merged into one accredited institution called the Connecticut State Community College (CT State). CT State’s mission is to provide access to academically rigorous and innovative education and training focused on student success. The college supports excellence in teaching and learning, makes data-informed decisions, promotes equity, and advances positive change for the students, communities, and industries it serves.

## CT State Housatonic

**4,690**

full-time, part-time degree, certificate seeking students and noncredit students

**62%**

female students

**70%**

students of color

**67%**

age 24 and younger

**86**

associate degrees & certificate programs

2023-24 Academic Year Data

## Message from the CT State Housatonic CEO



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on a year of meaningful impact, I am filled with gratitude and pride for all that was accomplished. This past year reminds us of the resilience of our community and the unwavering commitment to our students.

In this annual report, you will find highlights of key initiatives and the lives we’ve touched through our programs. Our dedicated faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that we meet the evolving needs of the students we serve. Through our partnerships and outreach, our collective efforts have fostered positive change and empowered many students. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your belief in our work inspires us every day. Together, we are building a brighter future, one where education and support are accessible to all.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission of serving our students. I invite you to explore the stories and achievements highlighted in this report and join us in our journey toward making a lasting difference. Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,  
Patricia Benson, Ed.D.

# THANK YOU

Dear Housatonic Community Partners and Friends,

Whenever I am on the campus of CT State Housatonic I am most impressed by the distinct features and programs offered to these students because of your generosity and commitment. Right here in Bridgeport, Connecticut, this campus provides a quality education, offers a unique opportunity in a real-life entrepreneurial program within the state-of-the-art Werth Center; hands-on training and experience at the Manufacturing Technology Center; and an esteemed showcased fine art collection throughout the campus and within the Burt Chernow Galleries.

Secondly, the foundation members and I, understand this educational impact, as many first-generation graduates are earning degrees and making life changing career goals for themselves and families. We witness personally, how these scholarships and funds assist with overcoming financial challenges, that would make attending school difficult. Your continued support provides them with hope and opportunity, and it has the power to change the trajectory towards success. Our students thank you, and we thank you.

**Your partnership means the world to us. Thank you again for investing in our students.**

Sincerely,



Judith Corprew  
Board President  
Housatonic Community College Foundation

## Board of Directors

**Special Thank you to the generous time and support of the HCC Foundation's Board of directors.**

Laurie Giles, Board Vice President  
Jennifer Cutrali, Board Treasurer  
Rick Costantini, Board Secretary

Liz Ball	Rina Bakalar	Carmen Colon
David Femi	Mark Floramo	Lindy Lee Gold
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**MISSION** The Housatonic Community College Foundation solicits, secures, and manages contributions from the private sector through philanthropic individuals, corporations, and foundations to benefit CT State Housatonic.

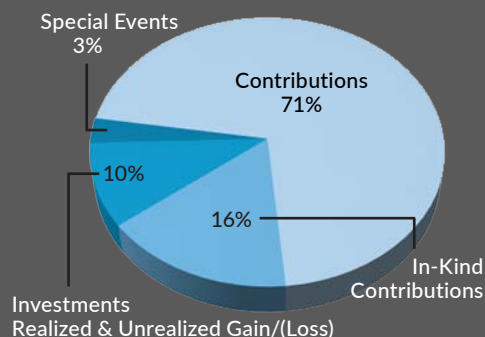
Housatonic Community College Foundation works closely with the college to expand access to affordable higher education, enhance workforce development training, and provide quality education to students. The focus is on increasing student retention and completion and providing opportunities for career readiness.

## Financials

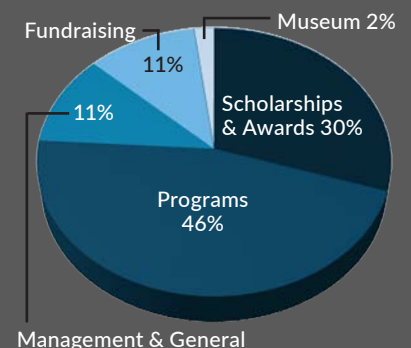
	2023	2024
Total Revenue and Support	1,787,460	2,164,368
Total Expenses	1,565,827	1,837,297
Change in Net Assets	221,632	327,071
Net Assets, Ending	\$3,003,683	\$3,330,754

\*Change in net assets due to endowed and restricted gifts.

### 2024 REVENUE AND SUPPORT



### 2024 EXPENSES





**310** Students at CT State Housatonic have display extraordinary resilience and determination in their academic journeys. This achievement can be largely attributed to the vital support they receive through scholarships and emergency fund awards. These financial resources have proven instrumental in alleviating the burdens of unexpected challenges, enabling students to focus on their studies and pursue their academic aspirations with renewed vigor. By easing financial pressures, these funds have empowered students to overcome obstacles and successfully reach their educational goals.

Students pursued degrees in Accounting, Early Childhood Education, Human Services, Criminal Justice, Computer Science, Business Administration, Medical Assisting, Fine Arts and more. Students also engaged in workforce development certificate programs such as Advanced Manufacturing, Community Health Worker, Sterile Processing, CNC Operator, IT Support Specialist and more.

“

*“I just want to say thank you. I love all the workshops through FESP since I get to learn very helpful information. It’s challenging to meet with other people when you are a mom and in school, as it feels like you don’t have enough time. But through FESP events, I met other students like me and had the opportunity to get to know them better. Now I have a support system to help me work toward my goals.*”

*My dream is to one day have my own business. Housatonic has been helping me by giving me the tools and information needed to make my dream come true.”*

**- Carmen**



**30+** remarkable students from the Connecticut State Community College system have been empowered with more than \$16,000 in funding, igniting their passion as aspiring entrepreneurs through The Werth Center's transformative events and programs, including GRANTfest, PITCHfest, the Elevator Pitch Competitions, and the summer boot camp.

**16** Students participated in the 2024 Summer Build a Business Boot Camp, a transformational month-long program designed for entrepreneurial-minded individuals at various stages of their business journeys. This unique program united students together with industry experts to acquire invaluable skills and refine their business ideas. Throughout the intensive sessions, students crafted business plans and pitch decks, learned about taxes and loans, and forged connections with a supportive network of mentors and peers.

**Here is what the students had to say:**

*"Over the course of six sessions, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the fundamentals of starting and running a small business. The program covered everything from business planning and marketing strategies to financial management and legal considerations. The instructors and speakers were knowledgeable and approachable. The hands-on workshops provided practical skills that I can immediately apply. This Boot Camp has equipped me with the confidence and tools to launch my own business. I highly recommend it to anyone looking to turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality."*

**- Bryce, Recovery Wise**

*"My experience with the Werth Center Boot Camp was everything I needed and expected. I was able to learn and construct my upcoming business the way I wanted it to be. They taught everything down to T, including banking, marketing, licensing, being a leader, and a great business owner. I understand more about business taxes, and what types of financial options are available to me."*

**- Madison, Tiny Tots Treasure**



**91** students received one-on-one mentorship and coaching, financial assistance, exclusive learning opportunities and other wrap-around supports through one of our Equity Programs, Equity Project or FESP (Family Economic Security Program). These programs increase access to opportunities for historically marginalized, low-income students, giving them a community of peers, a supportive network, and a sense of belonging that encourages success at Housatonic and beyond.

This completes the second year of our Justice in Higher Education Program which served formerly incarcerated individuals seeking higher education and workforce development opportunities through Housatonic. Formerly incarcerated individuals are among the most vulnerable populations, facing stigmas and many challenges to community re-entry that oftentimes result in high rates of recidivism. In Connecticut, the rate of recidivism is about 50% in as few as three years.

Through a one-on-one achievement coaching method, tuition assistance, and community partnerships, justice-impacted individuals are given the tools and support to persist in their educational careers and establish stable, productive lives, ultimately reducing recidivism.

*“I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Equity Project. This program has been so much more than just financial support; it has given me a sense of belonging and a community that I will carry with me long after my time at Housatonic. Before joining, my involvement on campus was minimal, as I would go straight from classes to home. However, the Equity Project connected me with incredible people and made me aware of the wide range of resources available here on campus, which have been instrumental in supporting my academic journey.*

*One of the standout aspects of the program is the unwavering dedication of Alexandros Valiantis. Alex has been a key figure in helping students like me thrive. He goes above and beyond to ensure that we feel supported, connected, and on track to succeed. His efforts to reach out to students from all backgrounds and to make sure no one is left behind have made a significant impact on my experience at Housatonic. Alex’s genuine care and willingness to work tirelessly have made all the difference.*

*Thanks to the Equity Project, I now feel much more connected to my community and confident in navigating the resources that are here to help me succeed. It has transformed my college experience in ways I didn’t expect, and I am so thankful to be part of it.”*

**- Marwan**



**4,440** students have found hope and support through Housatonic's Food Pantry and our Fresh Food Days, where they can enjoy nutritious fruits and vegetables each month. Food insecurity is a significant challenge for many of our students and their families, impacting their well-being and potential. With the generous help of our donors, we are dedicated to removing these barriers and nurturing the path to success for these individuals.

Thanks to M&T's Charitable Foundation's Amplify fund, we're excited to enhance our food resources on campus. This initiative allows us to expand our food offerings and launch the Greater Housatonic Food and Nutrition Collaborative. Our Collaborative is deeply committed to bringing together community partners and resources to create a supportive culture of food security for low-income and historically marginalized populations in the Greater Bridgeport area. We're focusing on nutrition education, empowering individuals to become growers and harvesters, and increasing access to sustainable food supplies, all aimed at fostering a healthier and more resilient community.

### **Acknowledgment of Gratitude for the Food Pantry:**

*"Having access to the Food Pantry has been a real relief for me. It eases my stress knowing I can get food when I need it. It's been a great help for me and allows me to provide my child with essential food I turn into meals we can enjoy together as a family. I truly appreciate the support."*

## Preparing students for the workplace through STEAM and Advanced Manufacturing



**28** remarkable students completed the challenging 9-month intensive program through Housatonic's Advanced Manufacturing Technology program. Their hard work and determination truly pay off, with nearly 100% of graduates securing fulfilling careers in high-demand manufacturing roles.

CT State Housatonic is dedicated to addressing Connecticut's manufacturing needs by providing students with hands-on training tailored to meet the specific requirements of our local employers. Your support plays a vital role in empowering students in the STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) by funding scholarships, offering emergency assistance, providing resources for the unemployed, and facilitating career preparation activities.

Moreover, CT State Housatonic nurtures meaningful connections with local high schools through our College Connections program. This initiative allows students to earn up to 18 college credits toward a certificate in Advanced Manufacturing, creating pathways for their future and opening doors to exciting opportunities. Together, we are fostering the next generation of skilled professionals.

“

*“The scholarships I received not only made my education possible but also highlighted the impact of community support in shaping the future of aspiring engineers like myself. Thanks to this program, I was recently hired by an aerospace manufacturing company, and I am excited for all the new things I will learn that will make me a better engineer.”*

**- Nicole**





Photo features the Burt Chernow Galleries hosting "The Making of an Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography." Photo credit: Brandon Smith, Whiskey & Oxfords.

**The Housatonic Museum of Art is a leader among community college art museums in the United States. Not only does the museum steward one of the largest art collections of any two-year institution (7,000 artworks), but it is also forging a new path towards collaboration across the nation with groundbreaking events and partnerships.**

**Special exhibitions that attracted hundreds of students and community members:**

- Sweet Grass: Dancing with My Ancestors
- From the Concrete I Rose: Breaking Ground for the Next Generation of Artists
- Hidden Gems from the Housatonic Museum of Art
- The Making of an Icon: Walter looss and Sports Photography
- Faculty Art Exhibition
- Student Art Exhibition
- We Rise: Overcoming Challenges, Manifesting the Future Through Art

**The Housatonic Museum of Art continues to work with partners and supporters to build a sustainable path for the museum, and to offer the highest caliber of exhibitions and programs. We are grateful to the Werth Family Foundation for building the museum's endowment and are excited to share that we received grants from the following organizations:**

- Apple Pickers Foundation
- Connecticut Office of the Arts
- Connecticut Humanities
- Frankenthaler Climate Initiative

**On Thursday, October 10th, the HMA hosted "Art for All: Connecting Campus and Community," the nation's first public event that brought together community college art museum and gallery leaders from across the country.**

# Thank you for your Support

Our students flourish because of your incredible generosity and support. Your contributions truly resonate, creating a real difference in their lives and enriching our community. Thank you for being a vital part of their journey!

## \$100,000-\$499,000

Elisabeth C. DeLuca Foundation  
Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
Elizabeth M. Pfriem Foundation  
Piper 522 Fund

## \$50,000-\$99,999

Almira Family Foundation  
The Ernest & Joan Trefz Foundation

## \$20,000-\$49,999

Apple Pickers Foundation  
Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation  
Bank of America, N.A., Trustee  
City of Bridgeport -  
Office of the City Treasurer  
Barbara Benton Davis Fund  
Gene Haas Foundation  
Pritchard Foundation  
Sikorsky / Lockheed Martin  
Terra Foundation for American Art

## \$10,000-\$19,999

Bannow Larson Foundation  
David and Eunice Bigelow Foundation  
KeyBank Foundation  
John A. Klein Leadership Fund  
Lone Pine Foundation  
Edward S. Moore Family Fund  
Near & Far Aid Association  
Pitney Bowes Foundation  
The Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts  
Stop and Shop Supermarket  
TD Bank Charitable Foundation  
Tunxis Community College Foundation & Advisory Board  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield County

Bedford Family Social Responsibility Fund

## \$5,000-\$9,999

American Association of University Women  
Amour Propre Fund  
Lindy Lee Gold\*  
Barden Foundation  
Connecticut Humanities  
Crabbe and Reinertsen Family Fund  
College of DuPage Foundation  
Fairfield County Bank  
Goldberg Family Fund  
Ed Hajim  
NACCE  
Eileen Harris Norton Foundation  
Patriot Bank

## \$2,500-\$4,999

First County Bank Foundation  
Foundation Source  
Ben Maini\*  
Newtown Savings Bank Foundation  
Reynolds + Rowella LLP  
Dwayne Smith\*  
Yale New Haven Health

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Elizabeth Ball\*  
Alayne and Martin S. Burger Philanthropic Fund  
Carstensen Memorial Foundation  
Judith Corprew\*  
Enrico R. Costantini\*  
The Creative Motif Fund  
Jennifer Cutrali\*  
The Delaney Memorial Foundation  
Gerald T. Fisher  
FLB Law  
Elizabeth Fray  
Frances J. Gerber  
Institute of Museum and Library

Services  
Johnson County Community College Foundation  
Valerie King\*  
Bob and Marianne H. Laska  
Stella Litwinowicz\*  
Aimee Marchetti\*  
Andrew Pelletier\*  
Robbin Zella

## \$500-\$999

Association of Academic Museums and Galleries  
Karen Clarke  
Entrepreneurship Foundation  
Cosmo Filiberto  
Mark Floramo\*  
Marilyn Ford  
Manuel Gomez\*  
Janis M. Hadley  
Jamilet Ortiz\*  
Mike Roer  
Jonathon D. Sedgwick  
Andrew Siegel  
Jackie Starks  
Kim Taylor  
Douglas Wade\*

## Up to \$499

Jennifer Abbott  
Maira Adams\*  
Rebecca A. Adams\*  
Chris Adams  
June Ahrens  
Asher Albaz\*  
Kris Albrecht  
Marilyn Albrecht\*  
Lorena Almonte  
Thomas Anastasio  
Anonymous  
Walter Arader  
Robin L. Avant  
Melissa Baccala  
Aaron Bailey  
Bradford Baker

Lupita Barajas\*  
Robert Barber  
Donna Barkon  
Margaret Barnes  
Sandra Barnes  
Edward Becker\*  
Jiyan Bedawi\*  
Peter Bieri  
JoAnn Brant  
Thomas Brenner\*  
Joan H. Brown  
Sean Brown\*  
Kerry Brown  
Jill Butler  
William & Rachel\* Cain  
Coleen Campbell  
Samantha Campbell  
Kristen Carley\*  
Catherine L. Carley  
Sam Carley  
Shane Carley  
Laurence Caso  
Jenn Castelli  
Paula F. Chapla  
Edwin Chapman  
Paul Churchill  
Thomas Clements  
Brian Clinton  
Diane Clokey  
George Clooney  
Claudine J. Coba-Loh\*  
Michelle Coletti  
Carmen Colon\*  
Barbara Combs  
Randall Corprew  
Daniel Corr\*  
Patrick Costanzo\*  
Andrea D. Cox\*  
Rosalee Creighton-Gordon\*  
Chrystie Cruz\*  
Asantewa Dawson\*  
Dorria DiManno  
Christy Dlugolenski  
Matthew Dunne\*  
Evan Earle

Yolanda M. Edwards  
Scott Empric\*  
Peter Everett\*  
Vickie Fabrizio\*  
John Favret\*  
Amy Feest  
David Femi\*  
Lawrence Forte\*  
Meg Francis  
Assunta Franco\*  
Theresa K. Frazier  
Jennifer Galluzzi\*  
Dennis Gehr  
Eugene J. Gentile  
Henry Gilbertie\*  
Matthew Giordano  
Graciela Gomez  
Leonangel Gomez  
Estrella Gomez  
Robert E. Gonzalez  
Mark Gore\*  
Theodore L. Grabarz\*  
Earl Graham\*  
Susan Greene\*  
William R. Griffin  
Valerie Griffin  
Sara Hamilton  
Mona Hanna  
Janet V. Hayes\*  
Adair W. Heitmann  
Richard Hubbard\*  
Kirk T. Hughes\*  
Kya Hunter  
Jisette Irizarry  
Kristy Jelenik  
Kellyn Jeremy\*  
Sherly Jimenez\*  
Jerome Kapp  
Alethea Kavarnos\*  
Deborah Kaye  
Matthew Keaney\*  
Niki Ketchman  
Stephane Kirven\*  
Michelle Kocay\*  
P Koetting & Assoc LLC  
Helena Kolarich  
Migdalia M. Kollar  
Helen and Richard Koven  
Gratitude Fund\*  
Teresa A. Kozek\*  
Michael J. Kozlowski\*  
Brian Kuchmas  
Deborah Kuchmas\*  
Seth Kweller

Hattie Kweller  
Michael La Barbera\*  
Sue Lallay\*  
Harold Lamboley  
Colin Lamboley  
Graham Lamboley  
Maureen Lamboley\*  
Mark Lamoureux\*  
Juliana Lasser\*  
Beverly A. Lavin\*  
Mopelola Lawal  
Mark Leach\*  
Mary K. Lee-Dubon  
Cinzia Lettieri  
David Levy\*  
Michaela Lewis  
Cynthia A. Lidman\*  
Robert Litzie  
Omar Livingston\*  
Joan Lloyd\*  
Kristin Lund\*  
Jennifer J. Lutris\*  
Carla Mackintosh\*  
David S. Majewski  
Michael Mandel\*  
Gani Manelli\*  
Margaret Marcarelli  
Steven Mark\*  
Richard Mark  
Leona May  
Jesse McAllister\*  
Ryan McAneany  
William C. McBride\*  
Glenn McCue  
Joan Mcdonald\*  
Carmen Medina-Ruiz\*  
Evelyn Melendez\*  
Bill Meyerson\*  
Charles Meyrick\*  
Kathleen F. Micinilio\*  
Patrick Micinilio  
Sam Micinilio  
Benjamin Micinilio  
Josephine Milano\*  
James R. Miron  
Letizia Morales\*  
Olivia Morales  
Alyssa Morales  
Takyia Morales  
Emily Munk\*  
Simran Murjani  
Bruce Murray  
Debbie Nadan\*  
Network for Good

Jennifer Nohai-Seaman\*  
Lindsey Norton\*  
Aliss Obeid\*  
Teresa Oravetz\*  
Patrick Padden  
Kathleen Padden  
James Pandaru  
Antonios Pappantoniou\*  
Bernard Pasierb\*  
Kyle Pepin\*  
Ramon Peralta\*  
Fabie Petit-Homme  
Francis Pfeiffer\*  
Marina E. Philips\*  
Mario Pierce\*  
Heather Pierce  
Brayden Pierce  
Pam Pirog\*  
Lydia Pizarro-Quesada\*  
David Platt\*  
Jessica Quesada\*  
Tatiana Rampino\*  
Ken Ratner  
Farshad Ravanshad\*  
Kevin Redmond\*  
Carlos A. Reinoso\*  
Amber Rivera  
Richard Rodriguez  
Donald W. Rogers\*  
Timothy Romano  
Tonya Rondinone\*  
Andrew Rondinone  
Thomas Rondinone  
Christopher Rosario  
Colette Rossignol\*  
Larisa A. Rowe\*  
Jill Rudnick  
Magda Salvesen  
Rebecca Samberg\*  
Daniel Sandford  
Kristin Santa Maria\*  
Barbara Santa Maria  
Alyssa Santiago\*  
Linda Schultz  
Richard L. Shafer  
Susan Sharp  
Geoffrey Sheehan\*  
Catherine Smith  
Karyn Smith\*  
Marc Solis  
Patria Spignolio\*  
Sara Sterling  
Gloria Suarez\*  
Thomas J. Sullivan

Georgette Sussman  
Noelle Taddei\*  
William Taufic  
Anisha Thomas\*  
Shelley Tomey\*  
Janet M. Toplansky  
Angelo Torres  
Ellen P. Tower  
James Travers  
Renate Troy  
Hyoja Tully\*  
Laura Turiano  
Derek Uhlman  
Peter Ulisse  
Mary A. Vlahac\*  
Sokratis J. Vlantis  
Erika Vogel\*  
Nancy von Euler\*  
Jazmyne Washington\*  
Janiel Watson  
Marilyn Wehr\*  
Trevayne Whyte  
John R. Williams  
Deneva M. Wilson\*  
Kimberly Wood\*  
Robert Wyckoff\*  
Hui Jin Ying  
Karla Zepeda

\* Current CT State College Employee

\* Current Foundation Board Member

Scan the QR code below to visit  
Housatonic's Foundation website.



We strive to keep our list accurate.  
If you notice any errors, please contact  
Ally at [Alethea.Kavarnos@CtState.Edu](mailto:Alethea.Kavarnos@CtState.Edu)  
or call 203-332-5191.



# Impactful Opportunities

Your generous support can have a profound impact, and there are countless ways to make a difference in the lives of others through meaningful donations while tributing a cherished loved one or contributing to your field of study by making a gift to one of Housatonic's educational programs. Let us guide you in creating a positive change that resonates throughout our community.

## Give Opportunity of Learning Through Scholarships

Establish a meaningful tradition with your family or business giving club by supporting Housatonic scholarships. By embracing the spirit of generosity, you not only enhance the educational prospects of local students but also pay tribute to the cherished members of our community. Your contribution can lead to lasting change and empowerment for future generations.

## Give Stocks and Securities Through Your Brokerage

Consider the significant tax benefits that gifts of stocks and securities can provide. Simply inform your broker and us at Housatonic Foundation, and we'll expertly handle the direct transfers for you.

## Give With Ease Through Payroll Deduction

Divide your donation into manageable amounts throughout the year. Reach out to your payroll department to set up your contributions to our non-profit. At year-end, we will provide confirmation of your total donation for tax deduction purposes. Don't forget, many employers offer matching gift programs that can amplify the impact of your generosity.

## Give a Gift of a Legacy Through a Bequest

Please include a bequest to our Housatonic Foundation in your will. We can assist you in fulfilling your philanthropic vision through a one-time contribution or by establishing a substantial endowment fund. Your family can carry on your legacy by contributing to this endowment over the years. This not only honors your memory but may also provide valuable tax advantages for your family's estate.

## Give Through Your Donor Advised Fund

Your investment firm, commercial bank, or community foundation can effortlessly request grants that benefit the Housatonic Foundation through your donor-advised fund. This approach allows you to maintain your privacy, ensuring your identity and social security number stay confidential while contributing cash and certain types of property now and in the future.

## Calls and emails are always welcome at the HCC Foundation!

*The HCC Foundation Inc. is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*



**Housatonic Community  
College Foundation, Inc.**

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