

# HANDBOOK MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Welcome!

These are very exciting times for College of the Mainland as we continue advancing the student experience through a variety of innovative and dynamic learning opportunities to meet the unique needs of every student. I encourage you to explore this publication to learn more about how our outstanding faculty and dedicated support staff can help you design an academic road map that can lead to your future success. Here you will find a welcoming, supportive environment in which our top priority is your success.

That commitment to success will truly be heightened with the recent passing of the 2023 bond as we now create endless new opportunities to further expand and grow our facilities and programming to better serve the growing needs of our students. Several new programs have recently launched or are on the horizon. The College has expanded its allied health offerings to include Radiology and Dental Hygiene programs. Additionally, we are excited to have launched our new Mitchell Chuoke Jr. Plumbing Program to ensure that COM students are ready to fulfill jobs in the fast-growing plumbing industry.

With the top strategic goal of College of the Mainland being student success, we are taking steps to further enhance students' experience in new and innovative ways. COM has merged the Instructional and Student Services divisions into the newly formed Division of Academic and Student Affairs (DASA). By merging the two divisions, COM sees

an opportunity to take a holistic approach to ensuring student success by connecting every student touchpoint from academics and support services.

Furthermore, COM is looking to help students balance their educational and life commitments through our new 8-week session format beginning Fall 2024. The 8-Week Advantage offers huge benefits to students including increased focus on fewer subjects, boosted momentum to keep students motivated, more balance and flexibility, and the ability to more easily attain full-time status.

In a unique distinction, COM has been awarded more than \$9 million in Title V funding to further propel the College's ongoing commitment to serving its diverse student population through a variety of innovative strategies to improve success rates, increase persistence and provide better overall outcomes for COM students.

Additionally, the Aspen Institute named COM as one of the 150 institutions eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The institutions selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and improving levels of student success as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

Whether you're looking to transfer to a university, attain a baccalaureate-level degree or prepare for a new career or trade, College of the Mainland is the best place to begin your educational journey to a rewarding future. Let us help you design the roadmap to your success!