

From: [MC Communications](#)
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February 12, 2024

Good morning, and welcome to the second full week in February. I hope everyone is settling into learning routines, finding the resources they need, and looking for new, exciting ways to learn.

Special Student Video Conversation

I want to share a special conversation with MC student Donyell Harris Jr. Donyell is a communications major, secretary of the Student Government Association and vice president of Phi Theta Kappa at the Rockville Campus. My chat with Donyell highlighted the importance of student engagement for propelling completion and planning for post-completion success.



Smithsonian Faculty Fellows Drive Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is a powerful tool of completion. Among many faculty who create such experiences for their students, Smithsonian Faculty Fellows use local museum resources for powerful impact. For example, Professor Lizz Fillion has taken students into the [Museum of American History](#), Professor Alzira Lena Ruano has taken students to the [National Portrait Gallery](#), and Professor Victor Provost has taken students to the [National Museum of African Art](#). In each of these instances, students were able to engage more deeply with history, music, psychology, and art. Bringing their lessons from the classrooms into exhibit halls creates more holistic learning experiences. Such approaches are not limited to Smithsonian Fellows. I encourage all faculty and staff to see how you might embed your students' experiences in one of the many rich cultural and educational resources at our disposal, thus advancing our vital completion efforts.

MC Student Serves on President's Advisory Commission

I am so proud that a recent MC graduate, Luiz Mata Lopez, 2023 Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship Recipient, was recently invited to participate in a panel discussion as part of President Biden's Advisory Commission on Advancing Education Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. Luiz was the only student perspective on the panel, and he shared how MC helped connect him to a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates and his experience as a computational biology intern at that National Institutes of Health. These experiences led to extended research opportunities that he is continuing while attending the University of Maryland, as he crafts a long-term career path. We are so grateful to Luiz for representing his MC experience and being such a model of post-completion success.

With Raptor Regards,



Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

President

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