

February 23, 2009

Marshall Moore's Comments before County Council Education Committee CIP Briefing

Good morning Chairman Ervin, Councilmember Knapp, and Councilmember Andrews.

Thank you for this opportunity to review Montgomery College's CIP with you today. I know budget time is never easy, but I am sure this year will be right up there with the worst of them. With that said, the College is very grateful that the County Executive funded most of our requests. The College continues to experience substantial growth which we are planning for, but we are unsure as to whether this continual downward trend in the economy will bring even more students to our doorsteps.

The two most important projects for us in this year's Capital Budget are the Biosciences Education Center on the Germantown Campus and the Health Sciences Expansion on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. This is the culmination of years of planning and will be a hallmark on the Germantown Campus.

We don't support the decision to take the road leading to the Center off today's agenda until the alignment issue is worked out. I must stress how critical it is that full funding for the entire Biosciences Center project is included in the FY10 CIP or we risk losing the state funds for their half of the project.

The College community is also excited about the Health Sciences Expansion project. This is a win/win for everyone. In the fall of 2007, we had to turn away 150 students who wanted to enroll in our nursing program because of a lack of space in our health sciences facilities. This project will now move our growing Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs into the second floor of the Cafritz Arts Center, giving the WDCE new, enlarged space for offices and classrooms. But more important, their former home will be renovated to provide the much-needed space for our health sciences program to accept all those who want to go into these critical professions. So you see that this project is very important to many of our goals.

Again, I thank you for your continued and strong support of the College. And I look forward to working with you this morning.