

Sharon Bland, J.D., CPM
Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer
Montgomery College
Office of the President
9221 Corporate Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Office: CT-S420
Phone: 240-567-3080
Mobile: 301-706-0586
sharon.bland@montgomerycollege.edu

Welcome! I am grateful for all for your efforts, actions, courage and commitment to the work of building an equitable, civil, inclusive, welcoming, trusted, safe, and accessible community.

The work of equity and inclusion enables us to elevate the value of different ideas, values, beliefs, perspectives, identities, backgrounds, and cultures. A series of seven town hall meetings, three Pizza for Your Thoughts with students, two fall equity dialogues and one student panel as well as the many individual, department, governance council, student club and senate discussions have been underway the entire fall semester with over 600 individuals in attendance. This has been an important opportunity to integrate issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in to the overall plan for the future of this work at Montgomery College. Our master planning process is about to conclude and the President's Advisory Committee on Equity and Inclusion will present a draft Equity and Inclusion Roadmap for Success in January 2020. Through the work and leadership of PACEI, PEC, SALT and the SVP liaisons to the Office of Equity and Inclusion, we will continue to work on advancing equity, inclusion, and social justice strategic plans and objectives.

I know we recognize that diversity of all types supports our mission of learning, teaching and discovery. We must continue to build a community of diverse cultures where diverse perspectives are valued and uplifted to engage in the complex, fascinating, and transformative work that occurs on and off our campuses.

We know our goals; we understand our purpose; and we acknowledge there is hard work to do. I am pleased with our progress, but there is still much work ahead of us. By working together, we will continue in our pursuit to appreciate and celebrate every aspect of our differences.