

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE COLLEGE COUNCIL



FEBRUARY 2026

I am pleased to share this new, once-monthly report designed to provide a clear and concise snapshot of recent progress across Montgomery College in advance of the College Council's first meeting each month. This report supports participatory governance by expanding communication, equipping Council members with timely updates to share with their constituents, and encouraging continued dialogue as we work together to advance our Strategic Plan and Transformational Aspirations of Access, Completion, and Post-Completion Success.

ACCESS

Enrollment Growth Reflects Strong Student Demand

A 6% increase in [fall 2025 enrollment](#) significantly outpaced Maryland's 4% growth and national community college growth of 3%. Growth was particularly strong among adult learners, with students aged 25 and older increasing by 6%, compared to 0.7% nationally. These outcomes reflect strong community confidence in Montgomery College as an accessible, affordable pathway to opportunity for learners at every stage.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #1: Enhance connections between Montgomery College and our community

New Application Simplifies the Path to Enrollment

A new application launched before winter break enhances the experience for prospective students while transforming recruitment and enrollment workflows. The streamlined, easy-to-follow application features a mobile-friendly design with guided question flow to reduce confusion and increase completion rates. It enables applicants to work at their own pace and return to the application as needed. When fully operational, it will provide automated and timely communications to help prospective students stay on track from the point of their first interest through enrollment.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Hunger-Free Campus Grant Expands Basic Needs Access

A [Hunger-Free Campus Grant](#) from the Maryland Higher Education Commission is strengthening efforts to address student food insecurity. The grant will increase awareness of available resources and

deepen partnerships with community organizations, reinforcing the College's commitment to removing barriers to access.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #2: Cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College

COMPLETION

Student Support Programs Strengthen Persistence

A recent feature story in *The Baltimore Banner* highlighted SPIFFY (Smart Professional Intangibles Free for You), the College's clothing store that provides free professional attire and essential items to students. Since April, SPIFFY has served approximately 330 students, distributing more than 1,800 items valued at \$25,000. These supports help students remain focused on learning and persist toward completion.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #2: Cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College

Aspen Prize Invitation Reflects Strength in Student Success and Equity

Montgomery College was among only 200 colleges invited to apply for the \$1 million 2027 [Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence](#), one of the nation's most selective recognitions of community college performance. The invitation reflects strong outcomes in teaching and learning, equitable student success, transfer, and workforce alignment, as well as sustained improvement over time.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Maker Spaces Highlighted in Video Series to Showcase Applied Learning

Hands-on access to 3D printing and digital fabrication technologies allows students to tackle real-world challenges and build workforce-ready skills. I enjoyed the opportunity to highlight this work in a recent episode of my [Bow Ties and Backpacks](#) video series. The episode showcased how applied learning environments help students translate academic concepts into practical solutions and sustain momentum toward degree completion.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

Biotech Apprenticeships Connect Students Directly to Careers

Registered biotechnology apprenticeships combine classroom instruction with paid, hands-on job training through partnerships with industry leaders. [Recent media coverage](#) has highlighted MC's unique role as an apprenticeship sponsor—a role normally reserved for employers—connecting learning directly to employment, strengthening workforce readiness and supporting a critical sector of the regional economy.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #4: Increase economic impact for our students and community

Statewide Transfer Leadership Expands Bachelor's Degree Attainment

Montgomery College joined the University of Maryland and Prince George's Community College at the Maryland Transfer Intensive Strategic Excellence Plan launch, where the three institutions were selected to present a shared vision for strengthening transfer outcomes statewide. The collaboration focuses on increasing associate degree completion prior to transfer, strengthening advising alignment, and improving bachelor's degree attainment positioning the College as a leader in equitable transfer pathways.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #4: Increase economic impact for our students and community

Alumna's National Recognition Reflects Long-Term Student Impact

Alumna Kara Ball '06 received the [Bezos Courage & Civility Award](#), recognizing her leadership in STEM education and inclusive learning. She credits her Montgomery College experience with shaping her path and directed \$5 million of the award to support individuals with learning and thinking differences, reflecting the lasting impact of an MC education well beyond graduation.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #1: Enhance connections between Montgomery College and our community