

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE COLLEGE COUNCIL



MARCH 2026

As we approach the mid-point of the spring semester, we can take pride in the progress we are making across our Transformational Aspirations of Access, Completion, and Post-Completion Success. These updates reflect coordinated efforts across the College, as well as sustained advocacy at the state and county levels to protect operating and capital priorities. March also provides an opportunity to recognize Women's History Month and the leadership, scholarship, and contributions of women across our College community. Together, these efforts demonstrate continued alignment with our Strategic Plan and measurable impact for our students and community.

ACCESS

Student Trustee Shares Dual Enrollment Journey

In a recent episode of [Bow Tie Chats](#), Student Trustee Renata Podlesny shared her experience in Montgomery College's dual enrollment program. Renata described how taking college courses while still in high school has provided rigorous, affordable academic preparation and accelerated her pathway toward degree completion. Her story highlights how dual enrollment expands early college access, reduces cost barriers for families, and empowers students to begin their higher education journeys with confidence and momentum.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Multilingual "Ask Monty" Expands Access for Families

Montgomery College enhanced its "Ask Monty" chatbot to automatically translate responses when users submit questions in other languages. With students representing more than 140 nations, this tool reduces language barriers and provides accurate, real-time information directly from College webpages, strengthening equitable access for multilingual learners and their families.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Enrollment Offices Extend Service Hours

Enrollment management offices expanded in-person hours across all College locations, including evening service on Tuesdays. Raptor Central, Records and Registration, and Financial Aid offices are providing greater flexibility for students balancing coursework, employment, and family responsibilities.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Translation and Interpretation Services Strengthen Inclusion

Translation and interpretation services remain available through the Office of Community Engagement to ensure students, employees, and residents can fully access College resources. Materials are available in multiple languages, and interpreters support events and advising. These services reinforce inclusive and equitable access across our community.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

COMPLETION

ATD 2026 Leader College Designation Affirms Student Success Gains

Montgomery College has been named an Achieving the Dream 2026 Leader College following a comprehensive national review process. The three-year designation recognizes measurable gains in student success and equity through sustained, collegewide reform.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Performing Arts Students Earn Regional Honors

Eighteen Montgomery College performing arts students competed at the American College Theatre Festival Region 2, representing the College among students from 80 institutions across nine states. Students advanced to semifinal rounds and earned honors in performance, direction, and collaboration, reflecting academic rigor and strong faculty mentorship.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Data Science Program Ranked #5 Nationally

Montgomery College's online associate of science degree in data science was ranked fifth nationally in [TechGuide's 2026 Best Online Associate Programs](#). The ranking reflects faculty support, graduation outcomes, and student success metrics in a high-demand field.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

Alumnus Becomes Youngest UMB Engineering Graduate

Alim Saidkhodjaev, who began at Montgomery College through dual enrollment, became the youngest graduate of the University of Maryland's Cyber-Physical Systems Engineering program at age 19. He now serves as a research engineer, exemplifying accelerated pathways to high-demand careers.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

***Eleva Tu Futuro* Highlights Latinos in STEM**

Season two of Montgomery College's Spanish-language podcast [*Eleva Tu Futuro*](#) highlights Latino alumni in STEM fields, beginning with bioengineer Viviana Bentley. Her journey reflects the impact of access, mentorship, and culturally responsive support.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Students Engage in Advocacy in Annapolis

Students traveled to Annapolis for Student Advocacy Day last month, meeting with elected officials and participating in civic engagement activities. The experience strengthens leadership skills and prepares students for active participation in their communities.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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