

OCTOBER 2026

Montgomery College continues to expand opportunities for students to access financial support, navigate educational pathways, and prepare for what comes next. Across the College, faculty and staff are supporting students as they make the most of their MC experience, from building skills and finding community to achieving academic and professional goals. These updates reflect our continued focus on Access, Completion, and Post-Completion Success and advancing our Strategic Plan goals.

ACCESS

MC Weighs in on Proposed Federal Higher Education Regulations

Montgomery College submitted a public comment to the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) regarding proposed changes to federal accreditation regulations. The College emphasized the importance of an accreditation system that supports access and recognizes the varied pathways and outcomes of community college students. The comment highlighted transfer, credit for prior learning, and flexible educational pathways as important methods to expand opportunity while maintaining academic quality and accountability.

Strategic Goal Supported:
Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

FAFSA Day Event Helps Students Prepare for Financial Aid Process

The Montgomery College financial aid team hosted both a virtual Financial Aid Night in September and "FAFSA Day: Fund Your Future" in early October at the East County Education Center. New, prospective, and current students received personalized assistance completing the 2027–2028 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Maryland Higher Education Commission One-App Scholarship Application. College staff and community partners answered questions about financial aid, scholarships, and financial literacy. The event provided students and families with direct support as they prepare for the next academic year.

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

Raptor Ready Scholarships Reach Milestone

This fall, Montgomery College reached its goal of offering 1,000 Raptor Ready Scholarships to recent Montgomery County high school graduates. Each $1,000 scholarship helps reduce financial barriers for eligible students enrolling in an MC credit program or select Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs. Since the program began in 2022–23, the College has offered scholarships to

more than 4,000 recent Montgomery County high school graduates. Reaching this milestone demonstrates how College resources are helping more students take their next step toward a credential or transfer pathway.

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

COMPLETION

Advising Month Equips Faculty and Staff to Support Student Success
October is Advising Month at Montgomery College, bringing faculty and staff together to deepen their understanding of holistic advising and the many ways they can support students. Activities include advising resources and videos, an advising and communication showcase, professional development sessions, an Achieving the Dream coaching visit, and a collegewide Advising Day on October 20. Participants will explore advising roles, work through realistic student scenarios, learn about College resources and referral partners, and use tools such as Starfish, Degree Works, and Degree Planner. The month reinforces a shared approach to ensuring students receive consistent advising and know their next steps.

Strategic Goal Supported:
Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Information Literacy Week Builds Skills for the AI Era
The third annual Information Literacy Week brought the Montgomery College community together around the theme of “Receipts Required: Information Literacy Across the Disciplines.” Hosted by the MC Library, the week featured activities, games, and workshops focused on media literacy, accessibility, data management, artificial intelligence, academic research, fact-checking, and critical thinking. The programming gave students and employees opportunities to consider how to evaluate sources, recognize misinformation, and use AI and other tools responsibly.

Strategic Goal Supported:
Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

Beyond the Classroom Podcast Centers Student Voices and Belonging
Montgomery College has launched “Beyond the Classroom,” a new podcast series that gives students a platform to share the experiences, connections, and pivotal moments shaping their journeys at MC. The first three episodes feature students pursuing different academic and career paths, including business, leadership, and athletics, while reflecting on finding community and building confidence along the way. By placing students at the center of their own stories, the series offers a window into what belonging at Montgomery College looks like and the many ways students discover their paths to success.

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

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

Transfer Fairs Help Students Plan for Their Future
Montgomery College's October Transfer Fairs are connecting students with representatives from four-year colleges and universities across the region. Held October 5–7 at the Rockville, Takoma Park/Silver Spring, and Germantown campuses, the fairs provide students with information about admission requirements, financial aid and scholarships, transfer credit, and other considerations as they plan the continuation of their academic and professional journeys The events are part of the College's broader focus on helping students understand pathways and make informed decisions as they progress toward completion and post-completion success.

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

Alumna Reaches New Professional Milestone on Broadway
Montgomery College alumna Awa Sal Secka '15 is making her Broadway debut this fall as Flo in the musical "Wanted," more than a decade after graduating from MC as a theater major. Secka credits her MC experience, including close faculty relationships and opportunities to pursue professional work, with preparing her for a theater career. After graduating, she built a professional résumé through performances across the Washington, D.C., region, including award-winning roles at Signature Theatre and Ford's Theatre. Her journey from MC's Summer Dinner Theatre to the Broadway stage reflects the lasting impact of faculty mentorship and hands-on learning.

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

Alumna's Persistence Leads to News Role at Telemundo
Turning a longtime interest in journalism into a new professional opportunity, Montgomery College alumna Ashley Neyra '24 has joined Telemundo 44 as a digital news intern for the remainder of the academic year. A graduate of the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program, Neyra initially enrolled at the College as a nursing major before discovering her passion for communications. She contributed to MC Voices and served as editor-in-chief of The Globe, MC's Germantown Campus student newspaper—building skills and relationships that shaped her path. She later transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park, where she is pursuing a journalism degree while building experience through internships, fellowships, and student media. After applying multiple times to NBC and Telemundo internship programs, her persistence led to her working at the same Spanish-language news station that she grew up watching with her family.

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