

NOVEMBER 2026

Montgomery College is advancing student success through targeted support, innovative teaching practices, and programs that connect education with career and community engagement. From expanding resources for student veterans and students with disabilities to investing in faculty development and creating new pathways into the workforce, these efforts address the needs of learners at every stage of their journey. Together, they demonstrate how the College is working to remove barriers, support student progress, and advance its Strategic Plan goals.

ACCESS

Fall Enrollment Grows for Fourth Consecutive Year

Students from across Montgomery County and around the world are choosing Montgomery College to pursue their educational and career goals. For the fourth consecutive year, the College has seen year-over-year growth in its credit enrollment, with 20,292 students enrolled in credit-bearing courses this fall. Our students continue to mirror the diversity of Montgomery County, with 30 percent identifying as Hispanic, 26 percent as Black/African American, 17 percent as White, and 12 percent as Asian. International students remain an important part of our community as well, with 2,016 international students enrolled this fall. Most students taking credit courses are attending on a part-time basis, with 67 percent enrolled part time and 33 percent enrolled full time—reflecting the many students who balance college with work, family, and other responsibilities. Beyond credit, more than 9,000 students are pursuing education and training through our Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs.

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

Butterfly Indicator Program Advances Access and Belonging

On October 15 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, Montgomery College celebrated the launch of its Butterfly Indicator Program, which allows students to add a butterfly to their College ID card. This provides a visual cue to faculty and staff that a student may have communication, cognitive, developmental, or other disability-related needs and may benefit from additional patience or accommodations. The program is free, voluntary, and requires no medical documentation. Developed with the support of MC student Eric Carpenter-Grantham and his mother Linda, the initiative reflects how individual advocacy can lead to institutional change that benefits an entire community. The College is also expanding training beyond Public Safety to frontline staff and faculty and will use student and stakeholder feedback to continue developing the program.

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

Federal Grant Creates Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success
Montgomery College received nearly $1.9 million to establish a collegewide Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success. One of five institutions nationwide—and the only recipient in Maryland—to receive this award from the Department of Education, MC will build on its Combat2College program to coordinate academic, financial, health, and career support for student veterans. The center will serve students across the College's three campuses and the East County Education Center, with a goal of increasing service from 495 veterans in 2024–2025 to at least 545. The initiative will also draw on regional partners to help veterans navigate barriers, complete their education, and prepare for careers.

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

COMPLETION

Faculty Development Invests in Student Success
To help faculty foster meaningful learning experiences for students, Montgomery College is building a coordinated "faculty success ecosystem." Through the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Part-Time Faculty Institute, and additional partners, the College is connecting professional learning, instructional support, and technology. Faculty professional learning pathways emphasize applying new classroom approaches, analyzing their effectiveness, and sharing successful practices with colleagues. FY2027 priorities include connecting students with advising and support services, developing career-connected assignments, strengthening communication skills across disciplines, expanding accessible learning, and promoting thoughtful use and evaluation of artificial intelligence and other technologies. The College will assess changes in faculty practice and student learning to guide improvement.

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

Addressing Basic Needs for Economic Mobility
Montgomery College joined higher education and workforce leaders at the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area's Regional College Hunger Conference, where I participated in a panel alongside President Gregory Washington of George Mason University and Amazon strategic planning senior manager Maggie Moran. The conversation brought an important reality to light—access to education is only part of the foundation for economic mobility. Students also need the ability to sustain their education when they are navigating challenges related to food security, transportation, childcare, housing, and financial stability. The College is already taking steps to address these interconnected barriers, including through the mobile farmers market launched in June at our Germantown Campus in partnership with Holy Cross Health and Community FarmShare.

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

Local News Lab Connects Student Learning with Community Impact
The new MC Local News Lab gives students hands-on experience in journalism, media literacy, digital storytelling, and community reporting on issues affecting Maryland communities. Created with support from the Montgomery College Foundation, the initiative includes a Local News Fellowship for students interested in journalism, media, and communications. Fellows receive editorial mentorship, a stipend, and opportunities to develop original reporting on public interest issues affecting Maryland communities. Through research, interviews, fact-checking, and storytelling, students build professional portfolios while contributing their skills and perspectives to the communities they serve.

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

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

State Grant Supports Life Sciences Workforce Training
Montgomery College received a $150,000 EARN Maryland grant that targets the life sciences sector in Central Maryland, reinforcing the College's role in preparing learners for career advancement and meeting evolving workforce needs. The award is part of more than $4.7 million in statewide workforce training awards announced by Maryland Governor Wes Moore last week. This round of funding is expected to help more than 1,700 workers access training and credentials, with nearly 600 connected directly to jobs in fields including healthcare, cybersecurity, emerging technology, and skilled trades.

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

Preparing Students for Civic Participation
I have joined College Presidents for Civic Preparedness, a coalition convened by the Institute for Citizens & Scholars that brings together more than 125 college leaders from diverse institutions and backgrounds. The coalition focuses on preparing students to engage across differences, discern facts from fiction, and work collaboratively to solve problems. For Montgomery College, this work builds naturally on our longstanding commitment to civic engagement through initiatives such as MC Votes, civic learning forums, our hosting of the Supreme Court of Maryland, and the guiding statement on civic engagement developed by College faculty last year. As a leading community college, we have the responsibility to help students develop the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to participate thoughtfully in their communities and contribute to a healthy civic life.

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

Fall Alumni Social Exceeds Fundraising Goal
More than 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered at Fallen Oak Distilling in Olney on October 14 for the 2026 MC Fall Alumni Social. Hosted by the Montgomery College Alumni Association, the event featured networking, MC trivia, pumpkin painting, a pumpkin pie-eating contest, a photo booth, and other activities. The evening raised more than $3,500 for student scholarships, including a $1,000 donation from Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union.

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