

## **Making It Better: A Message of Hope**

Statement By Montgomery College  
Released in Recognition of LGBT History Month  
October 2011

Montgomery College seeks to create an inclusive educational environment where everyone is supported and welcome, without regard to sexual orientation, gender expression, or any other difference. We have long embraced the diversity of our Montgomery College community of students, faculty, and staff. We are, in fact, stronger and richer for our differences.

At the same time, we recognize that we live in a world that is not always welcoming, safe, or supportive to people who are different. When members of our College community are bullied, it negatively affects each one of us. Therefore, Montgomery College does not condone bullying or anti-gay harassment in any form. Students should never have to suffer alone; we encourage everyone to reach out for help.

Montgomery College is committed to making our community college better for our students, our faculty, and our staff. A dedicated group of faculty and staff have formed MCPride to promote diversity and greater understanding. The College also offers students support through LGBT groups on our campuses, led by faculty advisers Dr. Deborah Stearns (Rockville), Professor Sonja Fisher (Germantown), and Dr. Loraine Hutchins (Takoma Park/Silver Spring).

If you or anyone you know is experiencing bullying or harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity, Montgomery College offers assistance through its Counseling Offices ([www.montgomerycollege.edu/counseling](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/counseling)) and through specially trained faculty and staff who can provide Safe Zones for LGBT students. Look for the small rainbow signs on office doors or contact Professor DJ McCullough at 240-567-8019 or Laura White at 240-567-4297.

Additional local and national resources can be found on the College website at: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/personalcounseling](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/personalcounseling). More information is available at The Trevor Project, [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org); Campus Pride, a resource for LGBT students and allies at [www.campuspride.org](http://www.campuspride.org); and GLSEN [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org), the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**  
Rockville, Maryland

Agenda Item Number: 8  
October 24, 2011

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE MAKING IT BETTER STATEMENT**

**BACKGROUND**

Recent media coverage and the public response to a number of student suicides around the country last fall has brought attention to the problem of bullying and how prejudices against LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) students adversely affect their lives, and, in some cases, even contribute to the tragic decisions to commit suicide.

Concerned about this nationwide issue, a group of Montgomery College faculty and staff formed MCPride to raise awareness and to educate the College community about creating an inclusive, supportive environment for LGBT students. MCPride collaborated on the development of a College statement in an effort to take a stand against bullying and to support a diverse community.

President Dr. DeRionne Pollard will announce the statement during October, which is designated as LGBT History Month.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board endorse and accept the Making It Better statement.

**BACK-UP INFORMATION**

Board Resolution  
Making It Better Statement (attached)

**RESPONSIBLE SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR**

Dr. Cain

**RESOURCE PERSON(S)**

Ms. Homan

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**  
Rockville, Maryland

Resolution Number: **11-10-132**  
Adopted on: **10/24/2011**

Agenda  
October

Item Number: 8  
24, 2011

**Subject: Acceptance of the Making It Better Statement**

WHEREAS, Montgomery College seeks to create an inclusive and supportive environment for all, including LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) students, staff, faculty, and administrators; and

WHEREAS, recent news coverage has brought attention to the problem of bullying and how prejudices against LGBT students adversely affect their lives; and

WHEREAS, MCPride, a group of College faculty and staff, collaborated on the development of a statement to take a stand against bullying and to support a diverse community; and

WHEREAS, the month of October is designated as LGBT History Month; and

WHEREAS, the President recommends that the Board approve the following resolution; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees endorses and accepts the Making It Better statement as a declaration of the College's stand on the importance of creating an inclusive and supportive environment for LGBT students, staff, faculty, and administrators; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees encourages the President to announce and disseminate the statement broadly throughout the College community.

DPP: abg