

# MONTHLY OUTLOOK

*A Meeting Preview with Data Insights and MC 2020 Progress*

October 4, 2019

## October Meeting Highlights—What to Expect and Why

Your next meeting occurs on Monday, October 21. Following are activities and topics planned at this time.

**Constituent Conversation.** Our Constituent Conversations continue with the theme of the changing nature of work. You will be joined by members of the Faculty Council this month. The session begins at 5:45 p.m. and will feature a brief presentation by Dr. Kevin Long, director of planning and policy. The conversation will again be facilitated by Marcus Peanort, associate dean of Germantown student affairs, and Christine Tracey, Rockville Campus library manager.

**My Monthly Written Report.** Connecting to the theme of the changing nature of work, my October report will discuss the changing nature of work in the biological sciences and its implications for student learning and faculty professional development.

**Biennial Capital Budget.** The biennial capital budget request is presented annually in October to the Board of Trustees as an information item. The budget will be recommended as an action item at your November meeting and subsequently transmitted to the county executive. The FY21 request is the first year of the biennial capital budget and is part of the six-year FY17–22 capital improvements program (CIP).

### The following items are on your consent calendar:

**Personnel Actions Confirmation Report.** This monthly review of personnel actions documents actions taken during August.

**Retirement Resolutions.** Every October the Board receives resolutions and awards of medallion for employees who retired during summer months to honor and appreciate their service. There are nine retirement recognitions and two awards of medallions for consideration.

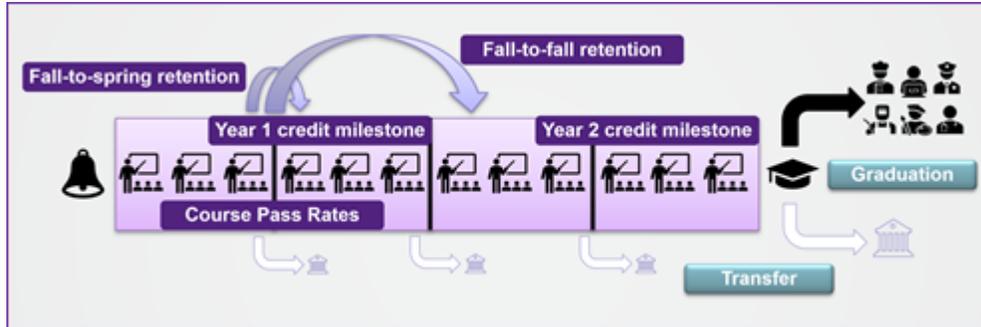
**Vault Replacement Easement for Germantown Campus.** This action would authorize an easement of approximately 1,568 feet on the Germantown Campus to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for the replacement of an existing eight-inch water meter.

## Data Focus of the Month



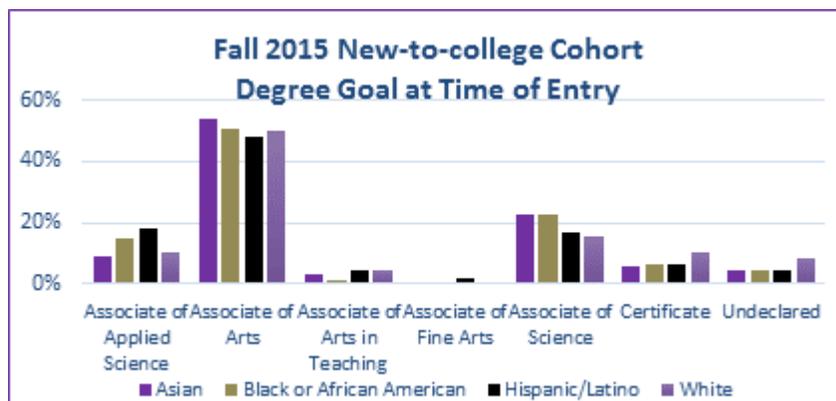
The theme of the Data Focus page this year is the student academic journey as examined through a disaggregated lens in order to gauge how College efforts are making a difference. This series will look at the journey of new-to-college, full-time, degree-seeking students who began in the fall of 2015 to consider their academic journey and key indicators as depicted in Figure 1. This month begins with the start of the journey: choice of major.

**Who are the students of this cohort?** First, a quick look at the 1,998 students in this cohort. This group of students has no majority race with 13 percent Asian students, 24 percent Black or African American, 28 percent Hispanic/Latino, and 20 percent White (these are categories defined by the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, IPEDS). Males outnumbered females, 56 percent to 44 percent.



**Figure 1.** The student academic journey, noting leading indicators in purple and final outcomes in green.

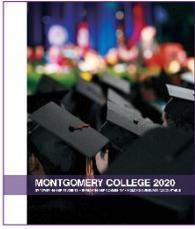
**What are students' degree choices?** Program majors fall within six award categories. The (1) associate of arts degree is the most popular degree goal across race/ethnicity—with the highest percentage among Asian students. The next highest degree goal is the (2) associate of science degree, with similar representation of Asian and Black students. A larger percentage of Hispanic students intend to earn the (3) associate of applied science compared to other student groups. Regardless of race, a much smaller percentage of students express interest in the (4) associates of arts in teaching, and even fewer in the (5) associates of fine arts—and those percentages are lower than the intent to earn a (6) certificate. However, a certificate as a degree goal is highest among White students.



**Figure 2.** Fall 2015 students' choice of degree at time of entry to College.

**What are students' choice of majors?** Montgomery College offers a wide variety of programs of study. General studies and business round out the top two enrolled programs for every race category. Computer science is a program of choice across race. Mechanical and computer engineering are in the top five programs among Asian students; life science and criminal justice are in the top five programs among Black, Hispanic, and White students. Of particular note is that Hispanic students were the only student group with 10 or more students declaring a major in accounting, automotive technology, and teacher education.

## Montgomery College 2020 Update of the Month



Since 2012, the *Montgomery College 2020* strategic plan has driven significant changes in support of student success. As we come to the end of *Montgomery College 2020* this year and prepare to launch a new strategic plan, this is an ideal time to look back on how the College has grown towards the goals envisioned in 2012.

When I arrived at MC in 2010, the economic climate was still recovering from the recession. All employees were furloughed my first year. Enrollment had contracted, which caught many people off guard, since it had been growing consistently in the preceding years. Fall enrollment went from 26,000 students in 2012 to 23,000 by 2019, with fewer full-time students in the latter category—only 35 percent in 2019 compared to 39 percent in 2012. The tighter economy made it less likely that students could study without working at all. The changing nature of work in higher education has also made it more likely that faculty at MC are hired part time. In 2012, 60 percent of the total professoriate (786) was part-time by headcount, while in 2019, 65 percent of instructors (879) are part-time. While tuition and fees have, of course, risen during this time—from \$174 per credit hour for in-county students to \$201 per credit hour—the increase has not been extraordinary. An increase of 15 percent over seven years is in contrast to most four-year institutions rates, which have been climbing much more quickly. Attention to the College’s affordability has been constant.

Keeping the College accessible was part of the vision embodied in our new strategic plan in 2012. Among other concepts, a new emphasis on equity, diversity, inclusion, and student completion were introduced. The new plan was developed with input from across the institution. It was produced collaboratively through painstaking outreach across the campuses and workforce development sites and beyond. While these ideas were not entirely new, their prioritization was.

The next seven years saw some notable changes: Demographic changes were especially marked among Hispanic students, whose enrollment totals grew from 18 percent of the total in 2012 to 24.5 percent in 2019. Overall completion rates improved over the period, with 2,560 students earning a degree or certificate in 2012, while 2,880 earned one in 2019. The College’s operating budget grew as well, from about \$217 million in 2012 to \$265 million in 2019. One marked difference was the amount of the College’s budget that derived from local funding, which grew from 43 percent in 2012 to 54 percent in 2019.

While many things at the College have changed, our mission and vision have remained steady: serving our students and community in fiscally sustainable ways. I look forward to working with the new strategic plan, *Montgomery College 2025*, which will anticipate what our classrooms will need to do for students as we move into our next chapter. I am so glad that you will be on this journey with me.

Be well,

DeRionne P. Pollard, PhD

*We empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results.*