January Meeting Highlights—What to Expect and Why

Happy New Year! Your next meeting occurs on January 26, which is also the first day of the spring semester. The following are major items and topics planned at this time.

Constituent Conversation. This, your fourth constituent conversation of the year, will be held with the Administrator Council. The discussion about closing the achievement gap will again be facilitated by Dr. Monica Brown and Jason Rivera with these questions:

- How can my department and I help all students be successful?
- What data do we need to understand and address the achievement gap?
- Are there new policies or practices that would help student success?

My Monthly Written Report. My January Focus report looks at the College's implementation of recommendations in our Closing the Achievement Gap task force report, which was completed in 2013. Recall that a presentation about this report was made at your March 24, 2014, meeting.

Montgomery College 2020 Update. Our annual report on the College's strategic plan, *Montgomery College 2020*, will again be presented in a video format. In addition to my monthly updates on the plan, this annual video report features progress and activities across the College.

Banking Services Actions. Two resolutions will come before you in January. The first is an action required every five years to approve the bank for the College's primary banking services. The second is an action required by banks to authorize the College to establish certificates of deposit.

New Involuntary Medical Withdrawal Policy. This new policy provides a means of involuntary withdrawal for those students engaged in certain inappropriate behaviors resulting from medical or psychological reasons that present a direct threat to the health and safety of others or otherwise interfere with the educational process and orderly operation of the College.

TAACCCT Grant Employer Engagement Contract. As the lead College of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant for the Cyber-Technology Pathways Across Maryland (CPAM) consortium, MC is responsible for implementation-related actions, including employer engagement and advisory services. This sole source procurement action awards the contract to the organization identified in the grant to render this service.

FY16 Operating Budget. The proposed Fiscal Year 2016 operating budget comes to your for acceptance at this meeting. It was developed after extensive input and review across the College community and has been reviewed by the Board's Budget and Finance Committee. After your action, this budget will be submitted to the county executive and county council for their adoption.

Data Focus of the Month

MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGES: How do we stack up?

Next month you are invited to join your trustee colleagues from across the state at the Maryland Association of Community Colleges' (MACC) annual conference and legislative reception in Annapolis. In anticipation of that event, I am providing important data about our peer colleges this month. Every one of Maryland's 16 community colleges serves a vital role in its community, though the colleges differ in size and scope. Let's take a look at how MC compares.

Where are the colleges? Each of Maryland's 23 counties as well as the city of Baltimore is served by a community college. Thirteen counties have a county college, often with more than one campus or location. Two colleges, the College of Southern Maryland and Wor-Wic College, each serve three counties. And one college, Chesapeake College, serves five counties on the Eastern Shore.

Who came first? Two colleges opened in 1946: Hagerstown Community College and Montgomery College. Hagerstown actually opened first, so it is often cited as Maryland's oldest community college.

How many students are in the state's community colleges? In fall 2013, over 139,000 students were enrolled as undergraduates—that is, taking credit courses. This is just shy of half of all undergraduates in the state, with 119,000 attending four-year public institutions and 30,000 attending independent/private institutions.

How do our sizes compare? Statewide, credit students accounted for 86,000 FTE in FY13. MC has the largest number of undergraduates with 16,755 state-funded credit FTEs. By comparison, the Community College of Baltimore County was 88 percent of our size, Anne Arundel Community College was 61 percent, and Prince George's Community College was 49 percent. The other colleges had from 3 to 37 percent of our credit FTEs.

What about continuing education enrollments? Enrollments in noncredit courses are tracked in three categories: workforce development, contract training, and community service/lifelong learning. There are typically over a half million enrollments in such courses each year. These amounted to 26,000 FTE statewide in FY13. Prince George's Community College led with 4,500 FTE, followed by the Community College of Baltimore County, Anne Arundel Community College, and Montgomery College, respectively.

Are the colleges funded the same way? Yes, with one exception. Fifteen Maryland community colleges operate on a combination of tuition and fees, state support, and local support from the county(ies) they serve. Baltimore City Community College receives no local funding, only state support. As such, it is considered a state institution. Laws and regulations regarding its operations are unique compared to the other community colleges.

Are any colleges similar to Montgomery College? The most similar is the Community College of Baltimore County. Like MC, it has three campuses and a vibrant continuing education operation. Our total FTE are often similar—MC had almost 20,000 in FY13 and CCBC had 19,000—though MC historically has more credit FTE than CCBC, and CCBC tends to have more noncredit FTE. One difference between us is that MC grew into three campuses one at a time, while CCBC became a single college through the merger of three established community colleges.

How do our trustees compare? State law establishes community college boards as having seven members who serve staggered six-year terms. Some counties have variations of this model in their county sections of state law to provide different size boards—MC has 10 seats; different lengths of term—some have five-year terms; student members—three colleges have a student trustee; and other variations. All trustees are appointed by the governor, but how they are nominated varies. Montgomery County's nominating committee is unique in the state.

Montgomery College 2020 Update of the Month

The *Montgomery College 2020* strategic plan is a seven-year effort that began in Fiscal Year 2013. The preferred future envisioned under Theme IV, Community Engagement, stated that "Montgomery College will foster community building, civic responsibility, and intercultural understanding, and serve as the place for neutral public dialogue to advance social justice and enrich the life of the community." Last month we reviewed progress with the Hercules Pinkney Park, Community Engagement Centers, and the College Town Plan. Here are additional projects and steps we are taking to bring the College to the community and the community to the College.

A New Logo and Branding Effort. The College's Marketing Office is working on a new logo that will more distinctly brand the College. The office will conduct the project this spring with a branding and marketing firm. Having a new logo that complements the new College colors and mascot will be the platform for launching a new advertising effort to enhance the strong awareness of the College in the community. It will take several months to fully roll out a new logo on everything from signage to stationery, but, in the end, we will have a logo that truly reflects Montgomery College.

Interpretation and Translation Services. As part of the continuing efforts to build awareness and intercultural understanding, the Community Engagement Office has contracted for interpretation and translation services. The services provide the ability to translate College publications such as admissions brochures into other languages from Spanish to Amharic, from French to Farsi. It also allows for the College to have simultaneous translation available for event attendees with limited English proficiency. These services are a significant step that builds upon our use of the language line and our plans to improve the translation of major web pages into Spanish and other languages as part of the upcoming web redesign.

Partnerships and Collaborations. The success of community engagement hinges on partnerships, both internally and externally. Last month, the College was recognized with a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for collaboration with the Montgomery County Correctional Facility and Montgomery County Information Technology Office to provide secure tablets for our courses being taught at the county correctional facility. In this program that serves as a bridge to educational opportunities, inmates are provided academic support and counseling and may even begin the application process to MC. Classes are offered in building trades and digital literacy. For many inmates, this is their first opportunity to engage with technology. Partnerships such as this are successful due to the unwavering dedication of faculty and staff who are willing and to take themselves and the College to the community.

What's next? Each of these efforts represents our continuing commitment to engage our community members in their own languages, in their own neighborhoods, and in a more connected way. As we strengthen the brand of the College, enhance collaboration, and improve the ways we communicate with our diverse communities, we continue to show the College as a vibrant leader in meeting the community's needs. Watch for continuing stories of new partnerships, unveiling of the new logo, and the success stories from our community engagement centers.

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.