November Meeting Highlights—What to Expect and Why

Your next meeting occurs on Monday, November 14. Following are major items and topics planned at this time.

**Constituent Conversation.** This month’s constituent conversation will be with students from across the College. We continue with the “The Finish Line” game, along with conversation facilitated by Dr. Denise Simmons Graves and Professor Shinta Hernandez.

**FY18 Capital Budget.** Following your preview of the FY18 capital budget in October, the final budget comes to you for approval at the November meeting. Recall that FY18 is the second year of the FY17–18 biennial capital budget of the six-year FY17–22 capital improvements program (CIP).

**Educational Excellence SWOT.** The second in a series of SWOTs under the Board’s Envisioning the Future effort will be presented. The SWOT—a review of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats—addresses issues related to the Board’s designated theme of Educational Excellence through Completion and Student Success.

**College’s Website Update.** The vice president of communications will provide an update on the College’s redesigned website and highlight its features, data on usage, and feedback from users.

**Focus Report.** My November President’s Focus report will continue with the theme of impacts and look at the College’s participatory governance system: why it is important, how it has evolved, and how it supports communication and involvement in decision-making processes. A brief video will highlight the report.

**Designated Awareness Days.** This action sets special awareness days and months to honor and recognize members of our College community. This is a standard annual action.

**Fall Graduates.** You are asked to ratify the completion of the students who are expected to graduate with a degree or certificate at the end of this fall semester. This is a standard end-of-semester action.
Data Focus of the Month

Preparing Students for Jobs in Biotechnology, Life Sciences, and Health Care

Biotechnology, life sciences, and health care are three industries that are critical to the workforce in Montgomery County. With several large hospitals in the area, including the one on our Germantown Campus, the need for nurses and other health care professionals is significant. With 350 bioscience companies in our region, as well as federal agencies such as NIH, FDA, and NIST, graduates in the life sciences and biotechnology also have a host of opportunities to work in their fields. In the last few years, the College has created several programs that help students apply for scholarships or internships that support their career goals. Our students’ success in these processes has soared as we have worked more intentionally with partners that offer such opportunities.

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Biotechnology, Life Sciences, and Health Care

- **Total Jobs 2015**: 65,079
- **Projected Job Openings (2015-2025)**: 21,186
- **Average Annual Earnings**: $88,483

Typical Educational Requirement

- 12% High School or Less
- 30% Career Training or Associate’s
- 58% Bachelor’s or Higher

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Where do they work?

- Federal Government (Civilian): 16,009 (24%)
- General Medical and Surgical Hospitals: 7,438 (11%)
- Offices of Physicians: 7,151 (11%)
- Scientific Research & Development: 4,501 (7%)
- Nursing Care Facilities: 3,344 (5%)

Montgomery College Completions

![Graph showing Montgomery College Completions from 2011 to 2016]

Montgomery College Partnerships

- Amarex: Trained 130 Clinical Trial Managers
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Summer Program: 24 winners from MC in 2016
- Bio-Trac: 110 research scientists participated in 7 workshops

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Most Unfilled Jobs in 2015

- Physical Therapists: 101 Avg. per month
- Medical and Health Services Managers: 216 Avg. per month
- Natural Science Managers: 227 Avg. per month
- Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists: 450 Avg. per month
- Registered Nurses: 659 Avg. per month

Data Sources: Economic Modeling Specialists, International; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau.

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The College has been implementing the strategic plan Montgomery College 2020 since 2012 and it has driven significant changes in support of student success. The preferred future envisioned under Theme II—Access, Affordability, and Success—states that Montgomery College will provide students with a successful experience, from the first connection through the completion of students’ desired goals. Partnerships among K–12 and higher education institutions provide students with a strong support system throughout their educational experience. One of the FY13 Initiatives was to “engage in the MC-MCPS-USG partnership to establish the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program.”

**What has the impact of the ACES partnership been?** ACES began in the fall of 2013 to improve the academic success and increase college readiness for first-generation, low-income students, and those underrepresented in higher education. Currently in 10 high schools in the Montgomery County Public Schools system, ACES serves more than 1,900 students: 1,200 in the 10 high schools, 700 students at Montgomery College, and 12 students attending the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). To date, ACES has served more than 2,400 students.

**How do ACES staff members assist students?** ACES academic coaches provide student services and case management support on site at each high school. They assess the needs of each student and create individualized plans for them. A variety of interventions are implemented, according to students’ unique needs. Some of these include: individual and family meetings; college information workshops; instructional classes taught by college faculty after school; online instruction; college visits; admissions, financial aid, and scholarship application assistance; in-person tutoring and self-advocacy workshops; and annual summer programs.

**What do the ACES coaches at the College do?** ACES academic coaches at each Montgomery College campus establish a connection to high school students and provide additional support during the transition to MC, as students work towards their associate degrees and into the transfer process. There is also an academic success coach at USG who is part of the team serving high school students through an annual summer program, who assists MC students with the transfer process and progress to degree there. Additional assistance is provided for students completing a graduate school application or applying for career placement opportunities.

**What is next for the ACES program?** The ACES program is expanding in several ways: we will hire new counselors who will pave the way for the addition of three new high schools—and 180 additional students in spring 2017 plus another 180 new students in fall 2017. Parent engagement activities at the high schools are also being planned. An assistant director and two additional campus coaches will be hired. The success of ACES has been extraordinary and I look forward to its continued growth, as it aims to propel more students to academic success and college completion.

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.