



February 28, 2022

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Montgomery College—it's great to be here with you!

Thank you all for the warm welcome I have already received—even before my very first day. It is wonderful to experience, first-hand, Montgomery College's inclusive spirit. As I begin my learning journey at the College, my partner and sons are also adjusting to a new residence and new schools. There is a lot of change in our midst, and it is exciting for all of us. I look forward to learning from new colleagues about the best places to take two very curious and independent children—who are still working out some of their pent-up pandemic energy.

### **My Plans to Visit You**

During this first week, I plan to visit Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses as well as the Gaithersburg Business Training Center to connect with students, faculty, and staff. I hope to see you at one of these events. I also have a meeting with the county executive later today to discuss fiscal year 2023 budget matters and I am travelling to Annapolis for legislative meetings next week.

### **Presidential Transition Advisory Committee**

As Board of Trustees Chair Michael Knapp announced in his memo to the College community last week, I will establish a Presidential Transition Advisory Committee consisting of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members. I will look to the committee for advice and support to guide this transition period so that it is inclusive, welcoming, informed, and effective. Please watch for forthcoming information on how you can be involved.

### **My Gratitude for Dr. Dukes and Dr. Pollard**

As I begin my tenure, I want to thank Dr. Charlene Dukes for her service as interim president and especially for her tireless support in my arrival at MC. I also want to extend my appreciation to former President DeRionne Pollard. Her leadership, collaboration, and innovative approach led to many of the successes upon which we will build. Dr. Pollard and I met at the Aspen Institute four years ago and I

have a deep appreciation for her vision and dedication. As we look toward the future and all the possibilities for Montgomery College, we all stand on the shoulders of many dedicated, passionate leaders throughout MC's history. I am proud to be following this rich tradition of leadership, which blazed a trail for achievement and growth at the College. I am excited to bring my own unique strengths and experience to Montgomery College. MC's mission resonates deeply with me and I will be guided by engaging our entire community.

I'm looking forward to meeting you soon!

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
President