



June 13, 2022

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Greetings! We are now into the third week of summer classes, and ambitious students are eagerly engaged in the academic work that will advance their goals. In my travels on campuses, I have walked by several classrooms and seen the College's dedicated faculty engaging with students. One student invited me to pop into her remote course and say hello as she was participating outside the Bioscience Education Center on a beautiful day. As much as I wanted to do so, I also did not want to interrupt the educational opportunity. I am sure several of us are still feeling the glow from commencement and also hoping that it inspired those close to the graduates to continue pushing their own dreams forward. Speaking of which, our three Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship recipients have chosen their destination schools: American University, Georgetown University, and Stevenson University. I look forward to hearing more about their educational journeys!

### **Community-engaged Education**

Just last week I heard about community-engaged teaching and learning at a special conference. I was impressed by the wide range of experiential learning opportunities that students enjoyed in diverse disciplines: cataloguing plants (environmental science); interviewing community members on accessibility (sociology); conducting surveys on vaccine hesitancy (community health); and designing a curriculum for students in the United Arab Emirates (education). I encourage faculty to consider ways to include experiential learning in your instruction, and students to seek out these uniquely vivid learning opportunities.

### **Observing Juneteenth**

As you likely know, Juneteenth is next Monday, the second year that an official federal holiday has marked this historic date. The date warrants recognition as African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were finally liberated from slavery there, two-and-a-half years after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Educational [resources on Juneteenth](#) abound and I encourage you to visit some of them, including the [Library of Congress](#) site. MC's International and Multicultural Center will

host Dr. Sylvea Hollis, assistant professor of history, as [guest speaker](#) tomorrow at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The title of her keynote is, "The History of Juneteenth: Transcending Politics & Teaching African-American History."

### June is Pride Month

Human dignity is being celebrated in several important corners this month with LGBTQIA+ Pride Month celebrations in full gear. For a fascinating history of LGBTQIA+ in D.C., visit the [Capital Pride Alliance](#). We actively celebrate Pride in my home, and the family had a great time showing support in D.C. yesterday. The [MC Pride and Allies](#) page has helpful resources for the College. I hope you will search out some ways to learn more about the achievements and struggles due to persecution experienced by LGBTQIA+ community members or join the June 29 [Let's Talk](#) discussion on the topic, "LGBTQIA+ Young People and Mental Health."

I continue to be energized by MC's commitment to social justice and hope each of you will take advantage of one or more chances to grow in this direction. One final illustration of social justice that many of us just celebrated yesterday is Loving Day. Considering that this historic court decision, *Loving v. Virginia*, occurred just next door in Virginia, I am confident many are familiar. If you are not, then take a moment and check it out.

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'J' and a cursive 'F'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
President