From: The President
To: MC Communications List
Subject: From a Grateful President
Date: Thursday, November 04, 2010 3:39:38 PM

Dear colleagues,

It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I offer my deep appreciation for the inaugural events that transpired last week. Although not one to find myself at a loss for words too often, I was nearly overwhelmed by the warmth and excitement that was extended to me and my family. The inauguration ceremony was truly one of the highlights of my life, and I look forward to serving this organization with the same enthusiasm, caring, and zeal that has been extended to me.

Every aspect of the festivities was wonderful, and I know that is due to the phenomenal planning and execution by the Inauguration Planning Committee. I am particularly grateful for the efforts of co-chairs Paula Matuskey and Michael Lin, and the creativity of the committee members to craft an event that was both memorable and engaging. I thank each of you: Brian Baker, Wayne Barbour, Liz Brandenburg, Raquel Bunai, Amy Crowley, Bryant Davis, Rita Dodson, Kima Earl, Brett Eaton, Margaret Ebner, Jacob Kallerackeal, Arlean Graham, Debra Hayre, Debi Higbi-Holmes, Donna Hoffacker, Susan Hoffman, Eric Jeffers, Stan Jones, Susan Kryszak, Renate Laine, Lily Lee, Jann Logan, Susan Madden, Denise Matheney, Kim McGettigan, Stacey Miller, Kevin Schramm, Michelle, Scott, David Sears, Susan Sullivan, James Walters, Michael Watson, Robert Wirth, Mary Kay Abby, Jennifer Polm, Francine Wyron, Helen Brewer, and Sharmini Azeez. My gratitude is also extended to the countless number of volunteers who supported the plans of the committee. Thank you!

Also, I would be remiss if I did not single out a few other groups of people. My sincere appreciation goes out to our phenomenal Facilities staff who worked tirelessly to create an excellent venue for the ceremony, and the fine work of our Campus Security staff is to be noted as well. The MCTV crew helped put together a professional production and the Institutional Advancement staff ensured the event was communicated effectively (I appreciated the “simple elegance” of the programs and invitations). The faculty and staff in the Physical Education building have my gratitude for their flexibility over the course of the week and the Auxiliary Services team went above and beyond to produce signs and set up the “MC Crab Shack.” Finally, the delicious food and outstanding service provided by the Marriott Hospitality Program, Chartwells, and J.R. Caterers has to be recognized.

On a personal note, I want to end by sharing with you a magnet quote that one of our colleagues gave me after I admired it in her office. Sitting on my desk, it reads, “Peace. It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.” I have experienced a deep and abiding sense of calm in my heart and soul since joining this phenomenal organization, and I look forward to a long and prosperous future together—and to making Montgomery College the most relevant community college in the country.

Be well,
DeRionne

DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.
President
Montgomery College

www.montgomerycollege.edu

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