From:	The President
To:	MC Communications List
Subject:	County Executive"s Recommended Budget for Montgomery College
Date:	Wednesday, March 16, 2011 12:49:50 PM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

March 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The College Community

FROM: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

SUBJECT: County Executive's Recommended Budget for Montgomery College

The Montgomery County Executive released his fiscal year 2012 budget recommendation yesterday; the news is of serious and significant concern for Montgomery College. We had asked for level funding—the same amount in county aid as we received last year. Instead, our county funding was reduced by $7.4 million, which amounts to a decrease of 7.6 percent.

While we appreciate the fiscal challenges faced by Montgomery County, we will advocate for additional county funds before the Montgomery County Council, sharing the message that our College educates and trains the workforce so essential to a thriving local economy. I will tell our councilmembers that our College has been a responsible and accountable steward of our allocated resources. I will tell them that our College has engaged in hard work to reduce our expenditures, while still providing academic excellence to our students. And I will tell them that our College employees have done their part as well.

Because of the efforts of our faculty, staff, and every unit at the College, we have already made budget reductions, reallocated resources, and identified cost savings necessary to produce a balanced budget request. Our budget request reflected an awareness of the fiscal environment, a continuing commitment to be a good steward of county funding, and the significant internal reductions that we had already made. Our request absorbed increased benefit costs and additional expenses associated with the opening of the new Rockville Science Center, as well as making up the cost savings from last year's furloughs. It also included a modest tuition increase of $3/6/9.

We have done our best to assist the county during these challenging times. This fiscal year, we absorbed an $8 million reduction in county aid—the largest cut in our College's history. As you know, Montgomery College employees have taken up to eight furlough days and our students experienced a greater-than-planned tuition increase of $5 per credit hour for those paying in-county rates.

Given all this, I am grateful for what you have done to better position the College during

these challenging fiscal times. I know you have made sacrifices professionally and personally. While the County Executive's budget recommendation will have a significant impact on Montgomery College, we are relevant to our community now more than ever. We are the community's college, and our institutional operations must continue to reflect this. We will remain affordable and accessible, while at the same time working towards improving completion rates for our students and building the county's workforce. We will share this message with the Montgomery County Council, as they are the next step in the budget deliberation and decision-making process.

As the budget situation develops, I am committed to keeping you informed. Thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to our mission.