From:	The President
To:	MC Communications List
Subject:	Board of Trustees Vote to Support Maryland Dream Act
Date:	Friday, June 29, 2012 10:50:20 AM
Attachments:	Resolution 12-06-063 Dream Act.pdf

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

June 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Board of Trustees Vote to Support Maryland Dream Act

I am proud to lead a community college that believes in and supports affordable higher education for everyone. In a meeting held Thursday night, the Montgomery College Board of Trustees voted to take a position in support of the ballot question on the Maryland Dream Act, a law that provides in-state tuition rates to undocumented college-aged students who meet certain requirements. The law has not yet taken effect because it was petitioned to referendum, and will be placed on the November 2012 ballot.

The Maryland Dream Act aligns with the Montgomery College mission to empower students to change their lives and enrich the life of our community. I believe the board's vote is consistent with the College's long-standing practice to provide the lowest tuition rates to all recent Montgomery County Public Schools graduates.

The resulting resolution, approved at the meeting, says: "…there are many reasons for support of the Dream Act, including that it benefits both the students and the community by providing a valuable, better educated workforce, encouraging not only high school graduation but enabling higher education training at a tuition cost that is affordable and otherwise, without this Act, out of reach for most of these students; it leverages the public investment already made in these students in the K–12 school system; and it costs the taxpayers and the College very little and, in fact, the College may actually lose money if these students were not eligible for the lowest rate of tuition."

As a College community, we stood united in our support of the passage of the Maryland Dream Act before the Maryland General Assembly, and I will continue to lend my voice, with the board's support, to the multitude of others who believe that voting to support the Dream Act on the referendum will open doors of opportunity to all Marylanders. We are blessed at Montgomery College to see the American Dream become reality for so many of our students and to be a safe place where all can pursue higher education as the pathway to a better life. Thank you to all of you for your dedication and continued support of all of our students.

I invite you to watch a short video that highlights the thoughts that Board Chair Stephen Kaufman and I had immediately following the vote. If you are interested in reading the board resolution in its entirety, it is attached to this message.