**From:** The President
**To:** MC Communications!
**Subject:** Responding to Feedback about Monday"s Incident at Rockville
**Date:** Friday, November 16, 2012 12:17:24 PM

---

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Office of the President

November 16, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Montgomery College Colleagues and Students

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Responding to Feedback about Monday's Incident at Rockville

Thank you for sharing your feedback and concerns about an incident that transpired at the Rockville Campus on Monday, November 12, 2012. In response to that event—in which a student who had made a threatening remark was reported to campus security and then detained by police—I sent a message to the College community on Tuesday, November 13. The nature of the incident generated broad interest among students, faculty, and staff, and I want to take this opportunity to provide additional information and to reassure you that throughout the situation on Monday, the safety of all members of the College community, including the student involved, was of paramount concern.

Based on initial witness statements and concurrent research, security officers determined the student involved in this incident did not pose an immediate threat to students and employees. However, they were concerned about the student's own welfare, and felt the best decision was to detain the student. Our security officers do not generally have the authority to detain individuals, and, therefore, they call police for assistance in sensitive situations involving the safety of the College community. In consultation with our security office, local police made the determination to take the student into custody. After an interview lasting about an hour, police escorted the student from the campus.

Our security office handles situations of all types professionally every day. Certain incidents rise to the level of requiring collegewide notification by law. When appropriate, the police are called. In this instance, it appears that news media learned about the actions on campus from their police scanners. The first television news truck appeared on campus shortly thereafter. Throughout the evening, our security and communications teams refused to share any specific details concerning the student involved, despite repeated requests from reporters. They will continue to keep the student's name from the public to respect his privacy.

For our students, so many aspects of their lives—classes, jobs, finances, and relationships—can serve as stressors and cause them to feel overwhelmed. We hope that students struggling with such challenges would reach out and seek help, but I know that does not always occur. As I shared in my message on Tuesday, police issued a letter of trespass against the student because threats of violence, no matter the reason, are prohibited. I want to assure you that this

incident does not automatically mean an end to the student's education at Montgomery College. The trespass was an immediate action in response to a potential threat. Our campus student services dean and associate dean are working together with the student to ensure him due process through the student code of conduct procedure.

As I write this, I remain convinced that the security office made an appropriate and thoughtful response to the situation. Thanks to the feedback from our students, faculty, and staff, the College will review what occurred and find opportunities to improve our practices for the future.