From: The President
To: MC Communications!
Subject: FY15 Budget Decisions from County Council
Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014 4:45:58 PM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

May 15, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: FY15 Budget Decisions from County Council

This afternoon the Montgomery County Council made its funding decisions for the largest source of funds for our budget—county support. We had requested an additional $18.9 million over our current year budget from the county for the FY15 operating budget. The county executive and council had agreed to $11 million earlier this spring.

I am so very pleased to share that the council voted today to support an additional $6.8 million in new county resources to help fund our operating budget for a total increase in county funds of $17.8 million for FY15, which is an 18 percent increase. This is the largest dollar increase in county funding in recent history. Coupled with a $3 million increase from the state, this budget enables the College to catch up, reinvest, and build for our future students and our community.

The majority of the new county funds will cover increased employee compensation and benefits costs. The council and the county executive clearly recognized your significant sacrifices and commitment to our students during the recession.

Included in the $6.8 million supported today is funding for the new positions that are essential to opening the Bioscience Education Center this fall. The council's actions will also fund new full-time faculty that will serve increasing numbers of students in high-demand disciplines, permanent staffing for the nursing program and our Welcome Centers, new staff in financial aid, enhanced advising for students, ACES coaches here at the College, as well as funds to expand language translation services in order to help ensure even more Montgomery County families can access their community's college.

I am also pleased to share that the county supported our goal of affordability. Over the past five years, the number of College students applying for financial aid has grown by 60 percent, and students have had to shoulder a greater amount of the institutional operating costs as public funding declined. The operating budget currently assumes a modest tuition adjustment recently approved by the Board of Trustees of $3 per credit hour for local residents, $6 per credit hour for state residents, and $9 per credit hour for out-of-state residents.

The council also made decisions about the College's capital budget by providing resources to

complete the renovation of Rockville's Science West Building, begin a new parking garage also at the Rockville Campus and to keep the renovation of the Math/Science Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus on schedule. In total for FY15, the council will provide $53 million to the College's capital budget including $13 million for information technology support.

We are extremely grateful to the county council and the county executive for their support and belief in the College and our mission. And I personally want to thank our employees, organizations, and individuals who helped to develop and support this budget effort. Underlying all of these efforts has been the leadership of our Board of Trustees. Our trustees had the vision to boldly seek resources to meet our needs and have strongly supported this budget effort.

Finally, I want to recognize the sacrifices made by our employees and the burdens borne by our students during the trying economic times of the recent past. Though we faced the most challenging of financial situations—perhaps the most challenging in College history—at no time did we lose sight of staying true to our mission. For that I am deeply grateful.