

From: [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)
Subject: Board of Trustees' Affirmation of Values
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:41:44 PM
Attachments: [Board Statement on Affirming Values 2-20-17.pdf](#)

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

February 22, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: The Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Board of Trustees' Affirmation of Values

The Montgomery College Board of Trustees on Monday night adopted a statement of Montgomery College values. The board voted to reaffirm that the College will continue to craft policies and practices that combat intimidation, harassment, and hate crimes, and to nurture a culture that condemns such affronts, in order to maintain spaces for learning that are welcoming to all people. In reinforcing the College's mission of inclusion for all, the College will continue to defend the rights of all persons to study and pursue opportunity through education, free from fear and discrimination, and to affirm that our institution will continue to be a place where all people are welcomed.

I encourage you to read the board's statement and to share and discuss this with your colleagues and students. The statement is below and attached. I salute the trustees for their courage and principled stand on behalf of our students and our community.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

AFFIRMATION OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE VALUES
Affirming Montgomery College's Commitment to Radical Inclusion

February 20, 2017

Over the course of seven decades, Montgomery College has grown into an institution where radical inclusion—that is, deeply rooted values of welcoming all individuals who seek higher education or continuing education—is an essential element of our identity. By intentionally cultivating our campuses as places where equal opportunity flourishes, we have advanced our own educational mission, contributed to the aspirations of Montgomery County, and added to the vision of our nation.

Despite the incivility of the recent presidential election, several events on our campuses have created engaging, civil discussions of controversial topics. Montgomery College

faculty and staff have gone to great lengths to create robust learning environments where all persons feel safe voicing their perspectives and where intellectual rigor is the basis for engaging across difference.

The Board takes pride in our institution's commitment to the dignity of all peoples. We believe that the rich diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff is one of our unique strengths. At the same time, we acknowledge that many in our community have experienced insecurity rooted in the incivility of the election's rhetoric and several recent debates and actions at the national level. Discrimination against people of color, international or undocumented students, and students of any specific religious tradition have no place in a civil society or in our learning environments. We will continue to craft policies and practices that combat intimidation, harassment, and hate crimes, and to nurture a culture that condemns such affronts.

The College will continue to affirm the rights of all persons to study and pursue opportunity through education, free from fear and distraction. Our institution will continue to be a place where diversity thrives and where difference is celebrated.

As the College celebrates its 70th anniversary, we will continue to reflect upon the history of our institution and the progress we have made in expanding our notions of inclusivity. Our commitment to advancing education in ways that best empower our students has deepened. So has our promise to infuse 21st century education with the timeless tools of tolerance, civility, and respect.