

From: [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)
To: [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)
Subject: Sabbatical Plan (July to December, 2018)
Date: Friday, January 19, 2018 9:29:59 AM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

January 19, 2018

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Sabbatical Plan (July to December, 2018)

As I said in my address at the Spring Opening Meeting on Tuesday, the College's years of innovation have brought us to a new phase. After many years of creating and nurturing new programs, we are moving gradually into the work of sustaining and collaborating.

This shift provides a good opportunity for me to take a step I have been considering for some time. Several previous Montgomery College presidents, including Dr. Charlene Nunley and Dr. Robert Parilla, have spoken to me about the value that their sabbaticals brought to their thinking and planning. In this tradition, I plan to take time away from the College from July 1 through December 31, 2018, to concentrate on writing and strategic thinking related to long-term planning at the College. These projects will require some uninterrupted focus on my part, an opportunity that is rarely available to me with the busy daily schedule of my responsibilities. So, I will step away from those duties for six months, in order to devote more time to these priorities. The Board of Trustees has approved this decision, and even encouraged it, stressing the value that it will bring to my leadership and our collective long-term planning efforts at the College. As you know, our current strategic plan, *Montgomery College 2020*, is coming to an end shortly, so a new one is ripe for development, a process that we will begin in the new fiscal year.

During my sabbatical, Dr. Stephen Cain will serve as acting president and the activity of the College and my office will continue full steam ahead. I have every confidence in Dr. Cain, who has been my chief of staff and chief strategy officer for seven years, and will take over my responsibilities while I am on leave. Dr. Cain has been at the College for nearly 30 years, and has extensive experience at almost every level, including teaching, administration, and numerous leadership roles. You can find out more about Dr. Cain's experience on my office's [homepage](#).

I know that the College will continue to function smoothly and productively while I shift my focus to some additional, important projects. Our institution is filled with many talented, dedicated people whose daily work keeps the complex gears of the College moving in synchrony.

At the end of the sabbatical in January of 2019, I will return to the College. When I do, I anticipate celebrating the growth that I know will occur as the College's multiple programs and initiatives continue to come to fruition.