To: **Montgomery College Community**

From: **Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President**

Subject: **Radical Inclusion and International Students**

Date: **July 8, 2020**

I hope many of you saw yesterday's statement from the College about the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) recent rules regarding F1 visa holders. International students bring great value to our classrooms, making cultural and intellectual contributions to our shared educational processes. That they would be forced to leave the country to participate in fully online classes necessitated by the ongoing public health emergency would be a great loss for them, and for our institution. The College is committed to supporting these students in their efforts to continue their MC education. We will be closely following evolving legal challenges to this rule. In the meantime, please reach out to your F1-visa-holding students who may be experiencing anxiety around these developments. Radical inclusion means that we work to make room for everyone, not build barriers based on race, legal status, or country of origin.

As you know, planning for Montgomery College's possibilities around Return to Work continues. So that we all can participate more directly in these dialogues about College operations, I'll be hosting another Conversation with Leadership on July 29 at 1 p.m. As I did for my last event, I'll be joined by the four senior vice presidents who will help me respond in greater detail to any questions you might have. Please submit your questions to ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu and watch for information on how to participate in this virtual event.

Finally, as Montgomery County moves cautiously toward more public activity, please remember that the virus is still among us. While face coverings have become somewhat of a politically charged practice, the science says that they prevent the spread of COVID-19. In fact, they are required in public where social distancing is not possible. For our radically inclusive college community, it's also the right thing to do.