

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Successful Face to Face Pilot

Date: August 19, 2020

Good afternoon, Raptors. As we inch our way toward fall semester, I am pleased to report the success of a pilot face-to-face class in summer session II, Introduction to Automotive Technology (AUTO 101). With close oversight from the College's Coronavirus Advisory Team, the class was selected as a face-to-face pilot due to the nature of its instruction—students are naturally spaced at least 12 feet apart as they work on multiple cars at workstations—and the class is relatively small in comparison to other classes. For these reasons, it was an ideal setting in which to implement several new health protocols in a relatively controlled setting with access to increased ventilation—two large doors that were left open during the instruction periods.

The class met 14 times for an average of three hours per session with seven students plus two instructors and a lab assistant. I am pleased to report that, 15 days after the last class meeting, none of the participants has reported symptoms of COVID or positive tests. Several lessons learned may be useful for our upcoming classes: strict protocols around enhanced cleaning as well as mandatory use of masks, gloves, and face shields (in specific instances) were enforced. All participants had taken COVID-safety training and an exam before beginning the class. Several adaptations to instruction had to be made in real time, including the use of enhanced audio so that students and professors could hear each other over the noise of fans and face shields. Finally, there was intense cleaning of workstations, and students did not share tools as has normally been the case—to prevent possible contamination. I am grateful to the students in the class and to the instructors, Professors Debra Anderson and Michael Carretta, for their willingness to host this class, collaborate with the CAT, and share their learning with the College. This experience was an important step in the College's capacity building around creating safe, healthy instructional spaces while learning to minimize the risks of transmitting the coronavirus.

While the large majority of MC students will not be on campuses this semester, I am proud of the intensive work that is being conducted to prepare for those who will. The health of our faculty, staff, and students continues to be the College's first priority.