

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: **Building Virtual Communities (Update #80)**
Date: September 2, 2020

Good afternoon. By now most of you have met in your new virtual classrooms and seen some new faces on your screens. While it may take some extra time to get to know people through our new medium, the communities that are built in classrooms go far beyond academics. I hope instructors will take the time to help their classes bond in ways that will complement learning.

I am already hearing about special activities instructors have designed to accomplish this. If you have one that works well, please write to me at President@montgomerycollege.edu. I'll share the very best. In fact, I'm missing my traditional first-week-of-classes visits. If you have room for me in a classroom visit, please let me know and I'll work you into my schedule.

To our new and returning students: many students last spring said their friendships carried them through a rocky semester. Making friends virtually with classmates can drive academic success. There are also many [virtual Student Life](#) activities that can help you make connections.

To instructors who may have questions about the spring class schedule, academic affairs has compiled a thorough list of answers to [frequently asked questions](#). Please take a look and join the conversation about meeting our students' needs in these uncertain times.

In another shout-out to civic engagement, you can do your part by [registering to vote](#) (through October 13) and [completing the Census](#). We all need to make our voices heard in these tenuous times.

Remember, keeping yourself healthy protects everyone: wear your mask, wash hands, and maintain physical distance!