

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President  
**Subject:** Videoblog from The Atlantic (Update #92)  
**Date:** October 2, 2020

Good afternoon. Welcome to October.

This week I'm sharing a clip from *The Atlantic* Festival's recent event on higher education. I was interviewed by Ron Brownstein, senior editor at *The Atlantic* about the special challenges that community colleges face. It was a [great opportunity for me](#) to remind his national audience that the greatest degree barrier for our students is poverty. With COVID-19, that barrier has become even steeper for many of our students.

While I work to educate those outside of the community college sphere of our students' needs, I'm deeply grateful to those you who show up day after day to serve students with those realities in mind. Your compassion and awareness go a long way.

Have a safe and healthy weekend.