

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Thanksgiving Message (Update #113)
Date: November 20, 2020

Good afternoon, Raptors. Since this is the last full week before Thanksgiving, I'm pausing communications next week so we can all focus on family and friends. Whether you are reconnecting in person or virtually this year, this will undoubtedly be a different holiday for most of us. Concerns about the coronavirus are separating many of us from loved ones and changing traditions that many of us hold dear.

The [CDC's guidance issued yesterday](#) now discourages travel. The safest way to celebrate is to remain with those already in your current household. Incidences of COVID-19 infection and spread are currently high in our region. Please consider these risks as you prepare for the holiday. If you are gathering, consider the precautions listed on the CDC site, and [get a test](#) if needed. We must take this virus seriously if we are to contain its spread.

While our circumstances are not ideal, I want to express my personal gratitude for the profound commitment I have witnessed in so many forms at the College. It has been an extraordinary year: Struggling students have been lifted up by caring professors and generous philanthropists. Anxious instructors have tackled technology that is now second nature. I have heard from so many of you expressing the same sentiment in different words: Being a part of our College community has made a challenging year easier. Our shared mission has been the focus of our energy, which has, in turn, carried us all. I am deeply grateful for the radically inclusive response to this crisis.

I hope each of you can find ways to give thanks this year. Please reach out to colleagues and friends, especially those who are physically isolated or living with loss. Take care of yourselves, and enjoy a well-deserved break.