

**To:** Montgomery College Community

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

**Subject:** **Spring Semester Will Be Remote (Update #120)**

**Date:** December 16, 2020

Good morning, Raptors. Winter is definitely making its mark today. In the past, a day with inclement weather might have cancelled final exams, but, with remote operations, we can keep the College running and exams can continue without disruption—perhaps a little silver lining in these challenging times.

In the spirit of giving students, faculty, and staff advance time to plan, I am announcing today that the spring 2021 semester, which begins January 25, 2021, will continue with remote teaching and learning with a limited number of on-campus labs—in the same manner as the fall semester was structured.

Our priority continues to be the health and safety of employees and students. It has become clear that bringing additional classes back to campus in the spring semester will put people at too great a risk, given the high levels of COVID-19 in our region. While vaccines are beginning to be distributed across the country, it is an enormous undertaking to vaccinate the nation. It will take some time. Spring classes were scheduled with this contingency in mind, so the College is well positioned to continue in this fashion.

Staff will also continue to work remotely, with limited on-site work for approved positions in phases and staggered shifts through February 28, 2021. All College-sponsored travel will continue to be restricted through February 28 as well. No student-sponsored events will be hosted on campuses or College locations through April 1. In addition, community use of campus facilities and athletic field rentals are suspended through April 1. Conditions affecting these restrictions will be re-evaluated on a regular basis throughout the spring semester.

I am so proud of the many success stories in our remote classes and the many exciting innovations by our faculty, some of which were on display during the ELITE Faculty Showcase last Friday. Student services and student activities have also adapted effectively to remote delivery. Staff have been invaluable in helping to maintain the College's operations. In addition, we have learned how to overcome many of the challenges faced by students and faculty. I have been touched by the generous outpouring of so many donors who have made gifts to the Montgomery College Foundation to support students' needs. The good news is that students' educational journeys are continuing to move forward.

Best wishes to students who are taking exams this week, and to faculty who will be busy grading them!