

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Welcome to Spring Semester (Update #126)**

Date: January 25, 2021

Good afternoon. Welcome to the spring semester! As we enter our third remote semester, most of us have some valuable lessons already under our belts. But for those of you stepping into new classes, let's remember to help our new students along with all of our knowledge. Please take the time to make those human connections that have helped so many of us be successful in these challenging times. New faces and new content always mean some adjustment in our virtual worlds, and the extra effort pays off.

For students, please reach out to your peers for connection and use your instructors as resources. The College has [tutoring](#), [library](#) support, and regular updates on the College's status and protocols around [COVID-19](#). Please review these if you will have any contact with a campus or any College personnel. Safety continues to be our first priority.

If you are looking for information on the latest COVID-19 [county data](#), updates are frequent. If you need a [COVID-19 test](#), they are available through the county. Updates on [vaccine](#) eligibility and schedules are posted, so keep your eyes on that evolving information. In the meantime, continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

You can find [basic needs](#) resources, including food, mental health, and community through the Student Health and Wellness Center. There are some exciting extracurricular events coming up, including my conversation with our [county health officer](#), Dr. Travis Gayles, and Amanda Gorman's virtual visit, which we are working hard to open to more participants. You may recall that Ms. Gorman, who was the first national youth poet laureate in 2017, wrote and read an extraordinary poem at President Biden's Inauguration last week.

Have a wonderful week—and stay safe.