

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Innovation Works Grants, Employee Survey, and Vaccines (Update #135)
Date: February 15, 2021

I hope you had a restful weekend.

We are starting a new week with continuing good news about COVID infection rates: the test positivity rate in the county continues to fall. Our efforts are working, so let's stick to them. The county's [vaccine distribution dashboard](#) is a new tool to follow how widely vaccines are getting to county residents. I am keeping an eye on it myself in order to temper my expectations about how quickly we will see changes in county restrictions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has long said that widespread vaccination is essential to control the spread of COVID-19, and I know we are all eager to see that realized.

While we do not have control over vaccine production, there are some meaningful areas for action. Three opportunities this week have great potential: the Montgomery College Foundation's [Innovation Works](#) grants are a wonderful way to scale up the best strategies to improve remote teaching, learning, and student support services. This Wednesday's information session is a terrific way for faculty, staff, and students to explore how to submit proposals.

Another opportunity this week should be in your email inbox already. The 2021 "Your Voice, Your MC" Employee Experience and Culture survey is an important tool for measuring attitudes and experiences on our campuses and worksites. It consolidates many of the components of earlier employee surveys—the Employee Engagement Survey, the Equity and Inclusion Survey, and the Ethics Survey—in a comprehensive model. The survey is confidential and anonymous, and I encourage you to share your thoughts honestly, so that the College can better understand areas of strength and possibilities for improvement. The results will be shared with all College employees later this semester.

Finally, my next Conversation with Leadership on Thursday, March 4, will address Healthy People, Safer Spaces—what the College is already doing to plan for our next phase. Please send your questions regarding this topic to ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu before Friday, February 26.

Have a wonderful week. Stay safe and warm!