

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President  
**Subject:** Expansion of Student Emergency Aid, Vaccines, Town Hall (Update #165)  
**Date:** May 12, 2021

Good afternoon, Raptors. I am back in Maryland and grateful for all your good wishes.

There was some good news from the Department of Education yesterday, which has provided new guidance about distribution of emergency relief funds to students under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). According to the guidance, all students—regardless of their immigration status—are now eligible for Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) under the ARP, including DACA recipients, other undocumented students, and international students. Montgomery College is working to adapt materials needed to apply for such funding as quickly as possible. Please watch this space for updates—and continue to visit MC’s [Federal CRRSAA Emergency Assistance Grant Request page](#). Yesterday’s announcement by the Secretary of Education and the Biden Administration was a welcome breath of radical inclusion that has been long delayed.

More good news from the county is that 43 percent of adult residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while 56 percent have received a single dose. As we all know, these metrics make a big difference in the safety of our community, as we all do our part to control the spread of the virus. If you still need a vaccine, there are [many options for vaccination](#) at the Germantown Campus site as well as others—so please take advantage. A mobile market today on the [Rockville Campus](#) is open to from 2 to 4 p.m.

Today is the last day to submit questions for the Town Hall, which airs May 18. Please send any questions to [ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:ResilientMC@montgomerycollege.edu). As the county moves closer to fuller engagement in social and educational activities, there will naturally be more questions about the College’s next steps. I look forward to addressing these, and other inquiries related to College leadership transitions at this meeting.

I wish everyone well in wrapping up exams and projects this week as we approach the end of our second fully remote semester. Please continue to follow health protocols so we can all end the semester healthy and prepare for the next cycle of teaching and learning.