

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Return-to-Campuses, College's FY22 Budget, Student Resources, Hate Violence (Update #171)**

Date: May 28, 2021

Happy Friday. I hope you all have been following the Return-to-Campuses [operational planning](#) this week. It is lot of information to process but there will be forums coming up starting June 2 to ask questions and talk through any concerns. Five virtual forums are currently scheduled but more will be added as needed. Please register to participate by selecting a date under the “Forums” section in the [Employee Guidance](#) section. We are working methodically to plan for health, safety and equity in our next phase, while continuing to monitor local health conditions. I am grateful for all of the careful planning and collaboration that have gone into these efforts to increase access for our students and, ultimately, increase their opportunities. On a related note, the COVID-19 vaccine center on the Germantown Campus has administered more than 58,000 shots to date. [Appointments](#) are readily available there and at other sites in Montgomery County.

In addition to the intensive COVID responses on our campuses, I am also grateful for the Montgomery County Council's approval of the College's FY22 operating budget request. This means the College will be able to protect affordability for students by keeping tuition flat for a second year. It also allows for the College will move forward with two County-led initiatives—expanding the Montgomery Can Code program as well as implementing the Innovation Hub in the Mannakee Building, benefitting our students as well as entrepreneurs across the county. For the College's FY22 capital budget request, the Council approved the College's request for the furniture and equipment funding for the Leggett Math and Science Building in addition to needed construction funds for a total of \$13.1 million. The Council had high praise for the College's work this year in the midst of the pandemic and particularly for the sacrifices of our faculty and staff over the past year—accolades that are well-deserved.

Many of our students still need financial assistance and the College has now updated its application for emergency grants to reflect [newly eligible students](#), including Dreamers, DACA holders and international students. I am very pleased that these students are now included in wider efforts toward radical inclusion.

Speaking of radical inclusion, I have been disturbed to see rising incidents of violence in the U.S. connected to conflicts in the Middle East. There is no place in our communities for anti-Semitism or anti-Arab sentiment. Such behavior goes against the grain of our national—and local—efforts toward civil discourse and inclusive communities. My Office of Equity and Inclusion is working with the Office of Advancement and Community Engagement to set up a Let's Talk dialogue to address some of these topics. It will take place on Tuesday June 8, and I will share the details in this space as they are confirmed.

As we head into the holiday weekend, I urge everyone to take a much-needed rest. Our work this year has been very taxing and we all deserve to recharge. Please stay safe.