

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, Interim President  
**Subject:** **Update on Commencement Plans**  
**Date:** February 25, 2022

I am happy to announce that the College has revised its commencement plan to allow graduating students to participate in person at the ceremony and receive recognition for their academic achievements. This revision is in response to ardent requests from MC students who asked to have an in-person commencement experience.

Last week, as you may recall, I announced our intention to conduct a fully virtual commencement to minimize risk of COVID-19 infection for graduates and their families and friends. After meeting with several of our graduating students and hearing their ideas, we revisited our commencement plan and developed a format that we believe allows graduating students to participate in person while still minimizing infection risk. Earlier this afternoon, student representatives endorsed the revised commencement plan.

Under this new plan, commencement will still take place on May 20, 2022, on the Rockville Campus at an outside location to be announced soon. Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, MC's new president, will welcome the graduating students and deliver an inspiring commencement address. Degrees will be conferred, then students will walk the stage and pose for individual photos with Dr. Williams.

To minimize infection risk, only graduating students are permitted at the commencement ceremony, but the entire event will be livestreamed by our MCTV team to allow family and friends to participate virtually. Our last two commencements were successfully presented virtually by our extraordinary special events team and MCTV, so I am confident that this year's event will be equally compelling for viewers here and around the world.

The College has many more end-of-year events planned for our graduates, so graduating students should watch your MC email for those details as well as important deadlines for ordering graduation gear, photos, and more. I encourage everyone to watch for more information on how you can participate and join in making commencement day special for our graduates.

As interim president of Montgomery College, this commencement decision is probably my last official action, but it is also quite gratifying to have worked directly with MC students who showed such leadership and fortitude in helping us find a solution. This graduation is clearly just an early milestone in your academic and professional journeys. Congratulations!