Montgomery College Students Uplifted by Community

More than 250 MCPS high school seniors participated in the third annual ACES signing day, signifying their commitment to pursuing a college degree.
Generous Partners Give Hope and Opportunity

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much."

- Helen Keller

This quote perfectly captures the amazing goodness we witness every day. We see it in our hard-working faculty, staff, and especially our students. We also see this goodness reflected in the abundant support Montgomery College receives from the community.

There is no greater testament to the work we do than the support we garner from organizations who share our commitment to the betterment of our community—one student at a time. When those organizations actively demonstrate a belief in our students, it puts immense power behind our ability to "do so much."

Four organizations have chosen to partner with Montgomery College and support the Achieving College Excellence and Success (ACES) program during the 2019–2020 academic year. These partners are:

- The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
- The Herb Block Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Sharing Montgomery Fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation

They have committed to uplifting individuals in the communities they serve, providing them with access to educational opportunities that will allow them to change the trajectory of their lives.

The ACES program creates a seamless pathway of support that helps more than 2,500 participants each year not only to complete high school, but also to obtain their associate’s and bachelor’s degrees. Since fall 2013, Montgomery College (MC), has collaborated with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) on this life-changing initiative that serves students most often underrepresented in college classrooms. ACES started in 10 public high schools (selected because they have the greatest number of students who receive free or reduced meals).

ACES coaches are now working on college preparation activities with juniors and seniors in 14 county high schools. ACES coaches are a staple of this highly impactful collaboration, providing academic support and wraparound services for students in high school and while they study at MC and later at USG.

Indeed, it takes a village of supporters to empower individuals to change their lives. These generous investments remind our students that there are people they do not know lifting them up. The support also shows them that our county, our state, our country, and our world are filled with people offering hope and opportunity—and willing to invest in their personal success.
Since 2014, the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation has supported 141 scholarships for ACES students through a designated fund, along with helping 86 of these young people meet textbook costs and emergency needs. The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation’s new grant will help the ACES program build up its course registration labs and freshman orientation experience for students while continuing its investment in tuition assistance, textbooks, and emergency awards.

The Herb Block Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation each have awarded grants for ACES program needs, including college visits, a summer bridge program, and test preparation for high school participants. In addition, both foundations have invested generously in Montgomery College students through earlier grants.

The Sharing Montgomery Fund of the Greater Washington Community Foundation has been a grant partner for the ACES program since 2014, shortly after the program’s inception. This will be the sixth year that students have benefitted from Sharing Montgomery ACES scholarships.

The ACES program has experienced significant growth over the last few years with the increase of nearly 480 students being served at four additional high schools. Additionally, we have expanded career readiness, family engagement, alumni, and social/cultural programming. We are committed to continuing to meet the needs of our students and families through robust and meaningful initiatives. This is all possible because community support, both financially and through access to hands-on experiences, has been amazing.

—Karen Callender, director of ACES program, who welcomed more than 250 MCPS high school seniors participating in the third annual ACES signing day

When Wendy Mejia Aguilar began high school, college was not on her radar. She credits the ACES program with helping her begin to imagine pursuing a college degree, and then supporting her to ensure she was prepared for the rigors of college. While at MC, Wendy maintained a 4.0 GPA. Her impressive academic performance combined with her commitment to helping others allowed her to stand out from the nearly 1,500 students who applied for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship in 2019—and made her one of 61 students nationally to receive this prestigious scholarship. Now enjoying her freshman year at Georgetown University, Wendy says ACES introduced her to “incredible lifelong mentors,” and that her “high school and college experience would not have been the same without ACES.”

In high school, I joined ACES. This program taught me not only how to access resources I had never heard of, but also helped me to learn valuable information about college. I was my high school’s senior class vice president and the first person in my family to graduate. I am determined to be the first person in my family to graduate from college. Being a DREAMer, I knew my safest option was to attend school within a diverse community. My goal is to transfer from MC to USG and graduate from the University of Maryland. I want to become an FBI agent or criminal analyst. Never in a million years did I think that an immigrant like myself would have the opportunity to write to thank someone for donating money so I could earn a college degree. I am beyond thankful. You have allowed a DREAMer to dream without hesitation.

—Silvia, ACES scholarship recipient
PNC Grant Gives Future Teachers an Advantage

At this moment, the future of our country is represented by small children learning how to walk, share, and read. Sixty percent of children in preschool and not yet in kindergarten spend some time in a nonparental-care arrangement each week. The College wants to ensure those who are nurturing and teaching these children are well trained in the age-appropriate needs of children, the laws governing their welfare, and the resources available to childcare providers.

The Montgomery College Foundation is delighted to announce a two-year grant from the PNC Foundation in support of students working toward the Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential™, a nationally recognized certification for child development professionals. The credential indicates that a teacher has met a core set of competency standards. It will also give them greater opportunities for career growth and mentoring.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the PNC Grow Up Great program, a bilingual initiative that helps children from birth through age five to develop a passion for learning that lasts a lifetime. Grow Up Great focuses on supporting high-quality educational programming for young children, their educators, and their families, because research has shown that the first five years of a child’s life are critical to long-term achievement.

“With the pathway program that Montgomery College has developed through their continuing education classes, the community will benefit by having more high-quality early childhood educators available in the county, many of whom will achieve national accreditation,” said Richard K. Bynum, regional president of PNC Bank, Greater Washington. “This program supports each participant’s entrepreneurial spirit and helps them access high-quality professional development—a win-win for these small businesses and for our youngest students.”

“We live in a world in which we need to SHARE responsibility. It’s easy to say, ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and RESPOND. I consider those people my HEROES.”

—Fred Rogers

Montgomery College is proud to partner with PNC to give our students another resource as they prepare to enter the highly competitive workforce, in our area and around the country. We are excited to watch the first round of students take advantage of this generous grant, and we will follow their progress as they blaze a trail for other MC graduates.
A Fortuitous Gift for Hundreds of Students

Imagine the impact of a gift worth more than $468,000, and think about what it would mean for students at Montgomery College. This was a gift which recently came to the Montgomery College Foundation via a unique set of circumstances.

The foundation received a call from a representative of BB&T Wealth who was handling the estate of the Videt family, all of whom had died, leaving no heirs. The representative knew the family and was aware they had been giving to the foundation for years. He realized the values of the Montgomery College Foundation aligned well with the values of the family, and he chose to bestow this gift on our students. Thanks to this generosity, more than 350 students will receive assistance, with the average scholarship valued at $1,300.

It is remarkable that this gift, which came from strangers in West Virginia, will help hundreds of students advance their education. It is also a testament to the deep and enduring value so many place on education, and it reminds our students that the community invested in their success extends beyond the borders of Montgomery County. As we were delighted to learn, it can be found in the most unexpected places.
A Message From Executive Director Joyce Matthews

It is exciting to stop and consider the lives that will be changed because of what occurs on our campuses each day. Depending on our individual role in the college, we support our students academically, socially, emotionally, and even physically. There are times, however, when financial support is the essential final piece needed to get a student across the finish line. I have seen many examples of this in my first year at MC. It is through these experiences that I am most grateful for and humbled by the power of philanthropy to help fill these gaps.

But part of the way we provide emergency funding concerns me. First, we use the word “emergency,” when in reality it is often just life on its bumpy, normal path. Maybe a job has been lost. Maybe an accident has occurred. Maybe even someone has died. But I believe we should deliver a consistent, reassuring message to our students that they are not alone and that others have faced this situation before and prevailed. So instead of cobbling together discretionary dollars and referring to it as emergency funding, we are creating a new endowment option we named The Completion of Dreams Endowment, which will be for students who have completed at least half of their program and have an unforeseen change in their financial situation.

The endowment will send a powerful message to our students, reminding them that we are a community that will work together to help every student find success. Together, we will ensure that they cross that finish line proudly holding a degree or certificate. Most importantly, the recipients of this endowment will be directly connected to the donors who are on the sidelines, cheering them on as they realize their dream of education.

To support this exciting opportunity, please visit montgomerycollege.edu/give.

Jonathan Diehl’s ’16 Legacy

When Jonathan Diehl was a student at MC, he majored in construction management. Even as a young boy, he loved to build things. On what would have been his 29th birthday, October 21, 2019, his parents, family, and friends made sure he also built something very important for the future: a legacy.

The Jonathan Diehl Endowed Scholarship in construction management will be awarded to students in perpetuity honoring a life that ended too soon, but was filled with meaning. During a ceremony on the Rockville campus, Jonathan was remembered as someone who noticed details others missed. His mother, Cristina Rabadán-Diehl, recalled Jonathan noticing the trees on campus—some with commemorative plaques on them. He wondered how it came to be that someone was recognized in such a significant way. She told him, “They must have done something important.”

Jonathan was a beloved son, brother, and grandson. He was a treasured friend and colleague. He will be remembered for the relationships he built and for how he thrived at MC. Dr. Mario Parcan, professor of Applied Technologies, was instrumental in connecting with Jonathan when he was a student. The family is profoundly appreciative of his mentorship, coaching and kindness. Jonathan’s mother said his graduation day was one of the happiest of his life.

At the ceremony celebrating his life, Dr. DeRionne Pollard spoke of the power of his new scholarship that will help many students realize their dreams. Dr. Kimberly Kelley, vice president and provost of the Rockville Campus, commented on the strong sense of community at MC and how Jonathan’s scholarship symbolizes the bonds that are built among our students, faculty, and staff.

Today, Jonathan’s name is on a plaque, beside a tree, along a path on which he walked to class—a path on which he often paused. He reflected. He paid attention.

Joyce Matthews, vice president for development, said, “When we walk across the campus and see Jonathan’s tree, we will be reminded to stop and appreciate the memory of someone who loved his family, loved MC, and made a difference in this world.”
AAUP Scholarship in Honor of James T. O’Brien*  
Judy E. Ackerman, PhD*  
Judy E. and Michael J. Ackerman ACES Endowed Scholarship  
Gladys and Robert Lipton Endowed Scholarship  
Gladys and Robert Lipton Scholarship  
Mr. William H. Anderson  
William and Jane Anderson Montgomery Scholars Endowment  
William and Jane Anderson Montgomery Scholars Scholarship  
Ms. Rose Garvin Aquilino  
Garvin Aquilino Family Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Florence H. Ashby  
Muriel Ashby Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Patricia M. Bartlett, PhD  
Dr. Patricia Maxey Bartlett Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Patricia Maxey Bartlett Scholarship  
Ms. Kani Bassey  
Ekamem Bernadette Bassey Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Peggy J. Bebee  
Bebee Distinguished Staff Endowed Award  
Thomas L. Bichy Transfer Scholarship Award Fund*  
Dr. Eric M. Benjamin  
Raymond J. Lockett Endowed Scholarship  
Raymond J. Lockett Scholarship  
Dr. Monica R. M. Brown  
Dr. Monica R. M. Brown Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Anne M. Bunai Spokas  
Bunai Family Engineering Endowed Scholarship  
Betty Page & Otto Spokas Endowed Scholarship  
Stephen D. Cain, PhD  
Dr. Stephen D. Cain Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Stephen D. Cain Scholarship  
Ms. Karen K. Callender  
Karen Callender Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Stephen M. Campanella  
The Campanella Technical Theatre Scholarship  
Mr. William E. Campbell  
Wilfred S. and Ruth C. Campbell Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Lisa Marie Carvallo  
Dr. Richard L. and Barbara A. Beaudin Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Robert S. Cohen  
Shirley R. Cohen Charitable Endowed Fund  
Dr. Louise T. Crissman  
John and Louise Crissman Endowed Scholarship  
John and Ada Thorpe Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Donald K. Day  
Donald Day and Karen Gruner Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Patrick L. Devlin  
Eamon and Grace Devlin Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Jennifer J. Dobbins  
Audrey T. Hill Endowed Transfer Scholarship  
Ms. Elaine M. Doong  
Mohammad R. Siafaan Scholarship  
Dr. Mary Theresa Furgul  
Ruth B. Dinerberg and Jean M. Furgul Endowed Scholarship  
Gabonese Association of Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area Scholarship*  
Dr. Mary F. Gallagher  
Anthropology Rookie Research Endowed Scholarship  
Connie Tonti Anthropology Endowed Fund  
Ms. Ada Garcia-Casellas  
Casellas Scholarship  
Casellas Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Robert L. Giron  
Robert L. Giron Global Humanities Lecture Series Endowment  
Robert L. Giron Global Humanities Lectures Series Fund  
Dr. Melissa F. Gregory  
Joseph J. Fouchard Memorial Scholarship  
Ms. Bernice G. Grossman  
Louis and Robert Grossman Memorial Endowment  
Ms. Donna E. Hoffacker  
Donna E. Hoffacker Scholarship  
Ms. Susan T. Hoffman  
Frances Hoffman Memorial Summer Dinner Theatre Endowment  
Mr. Robert W. Jacobs  
Robert W. Jacobs Family Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Eric T. Jeffers  
Anne and Eugine Jeffers Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Collins R. Jones  
Evan A. & Catherine C. Jones Memorial Biotech Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Stanley J. Jones  
Jones Family Endowed Scholarship  
Jones Family Scholarship  
Thomas E. Kenney, PhD  
Thomas Kenney Chemistry Endowed Award  
Mr. Raymond Joel Kimball  
Raymond J. Kimball TechLEAP Scholarship  
Ms. Judith F. Kneen  
Judith F. Kneen Transfer Endowed Scholarship  
Judith F. Kneen Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Margarita Kranidis, Ms. Joan Murray Naake, and Ms. Patricia M. Ruppert  
Rita Kranidis Global Humanities Endowed Fund  
Rita Kranidis Global Humanities Scholarship  
Ms. Katie Kumukumian  
Linda E. Kumukumian Endowed Scholarship  
Linda E. Kumukumian Scholarship  
Joan and Edward Corboy Endowed Scholarship  
LDI Leadership Legacy Endowed Scholarship*  
LDI Leadership Legacy Scholarship  
Mr. Robert T. Laycock  
Robert T. Laycock Endowed Scholarship  
Robert T. Laycock Scholarship  
Ms. Beverly S. Lloyd  
John M. Lloyd Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Joseph R. Manno  
Dr. Joseph R. and Mary H. Manno Management Endowment  
Ms. Ruth J. McClelland  
Ruth McClelland Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Mary Elizabeth McDevitt Mukherjee  
Freda B. McDevitt Endowment Scholarship  
Ms. Ruth H. Meyer  
Ruth H. Meyer Scholarship  
Mr. Marshall Moore  
Rosiie Moore Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Nancy J. Nuell and Mr. John B. McLean  
Michael Riddle Endowed Memorial Scholarship  
Dr. Charlene R. Nunley  
Charlene R. Nunley Endowed Scholarship  
Hone Family Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Mary E. Owens  
Anne and Eugene Jeffers Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Robert E. Parilla  
The Parilla Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. George M. Payne  
George and Mary Payne Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Donna M. Pina  
Pina Family Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. DeRonie P. Pollard  
Carnegie Corporation of New York—ACES Scholarship  
Myles Julian Pollard-Jones ACES Scholarship  
Myles Julian Pollard-Jones ACES Endowed Scholarship  
P. Paul Pollard Generational ACES Scholarship  
Dr. Deborah E. Preston and Dr. Benjamin Parker Nicholson  
Preston & Nicholson Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Rebecca H. Razavi  
Rebecca and Michael Razavi Scholarship  
Dr. Rodney W. Redmond  
Dr. Rodney W. Redmond Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Edward J. Roberts  
Edward Roberts Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Lois D. Robertson  
Janet and Russell Dech Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Carol D. Rognrud  
Stella S. and Roger T. Rognrud Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Patricia M. Ruppert  
Global Humanities Justice Endowed Fund  
Global Humanities, Justice Scholarship  
Dr. Carlo Alberto Sanchez  
Carlo and Mary Sanchez Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Carolyn P. Schick  
Irvin H. Schick Endowed Fund  
Dr. Michelle T. Scott  
Frank and Maxine Scott Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Douglas J. Smith  
Douglas Jay Smith Scholarship  
Douglas Jay Smith Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Sara W. Smith  
Sara W. Smith Endowed Scholarship  
Mr. Peter B. Stein  
Zachary Stein Memorial Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Yvonne H. Stephens  
Yvonne H. Stephens Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Bradley J. Stewart  
Leslie and Brad Stewart Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Susan Sullivan  
D. Jean and D. Clayton Davidson Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Nenedia J. Tucker  
Robert and Edna Johnson Endowed Mathematics Award  
Ms. Joan F. Van der Slipe  
Paul Van der Slipe History Scholarship Endowment  
Ms. Martha C. Vaughan  
Martha Vaughan Endowed Scholarship  
Ms. Francene T. Walker  
June and Willie Turner Endowed Scholarship  
June and Willie Turner Scholarship  
Dr. Kenneth S. Weiner  
Adele and Hy Weiner Memorial Endowed Honors Scholarship  
Ms. Kathleen A. Wessman  
Scholarship established by multiple donors  
List accurate as of October 7, 2019*
We Play So Others Can Learn

Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening—and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented.”
—Arnold Palmer

The late Arthur Becker, former board member, generous donor, and father of our current board chair, Ken Becker, created the tagline We Play So Others Can Learn to reflect the mission of our annual golf and tennis tournament. For 34 years, the students of Montgomery College have benefitted from the generosity of sponsors and players who support the Montgomery College Foundation Golf and Tennis Classic. This year was no exception. On Monday, October 21, individuals and organizations gathered together to enjoy a game of golf or tennis, all while supporting student scholarships.

The golf and tennis committee welcomed two new members, Mary Pat Alcus and Sol Graham, who joined Carl Buch, Peter Bulcavage, Steve Bulcavage, Bill Hard, David Lee, Morgan Sullivan, and Sam Spiritos. Committee members work diligently to promote the tournament and secure sponsorships.

All proceeds from the tournament provide scholarships to Montgomery College students.

Steve Bulcavage, vice president of interiors at Buch Construction, is a dedicated member of the golf and tennis committee.

Longtime board members and tournament participants Mike Paukstitus, second from right, and Ken Cook, far right, are joined by Mike Manders, left and Marc Gordon, second from left.

In addition to joining the golf committee this year, Mary Pat Alcus also was elected to the office of treasurer of the foundation. Her foursome included from left, Katherine Novikov, Sonia Barros, Mary Pat, and Rebecca Shaffer.
Vice chair of the MC Foundation Board of Directors Steve McAuliffe is joined by Ryan Grzybowski, Rick Evans, and Mitchell Rubenstein.

A record number of tennis players participated in this year’s tournament due to the efforts of tennis chair David Lee, front row, third from the left.

Sol Graham, who joined the golf and tennis committee this year, brought the same dedication to the committee that he does to all things related to the success of our students.

Tennis uses the language of life. Advantage, service, fault, break, love—the basic elements of tennis are those of everyday existence, because every match is a life in miniature.

Andre Agassi
SPOTLIGHT ON OUR BOARD

Anne Gunsteens

When foundation board member Anne Gunsteens decides a cause is close to her heart, she jumps in with both feet. As the former executive director of The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, Anne is known as someone who truly cares about her work. She treats everyone with kindness and respect, yet is always honest in her feedback. During her 20-year tenure, she oversaw tremendous growth at the Marriott Foundation, both in the size of the endowment and in the complexity and sophistication of the grantmaking. She spearheaded more than $35 million in annual grants focused on civic and human services, fostering educational achievement, expanding opportunities for youth and adults, developing the next generation of hospitality leaders, and leading innovation in health and medicine.

Her dedication to helping those in need took a global turn when she led the development and sustainment of the China Hospitality Education Initiative, an innovative program impacting thousands of students and professors across mainland China. Closer to home, she developed and managed 9/11 and Katrina Disaster Relief Funds and was a founding member of the Marriott Disaster Relief Fund Committee. Upon her departure, the Marriott family honored her and her longtime support of MC by establishing an endowed scholarship fund in her name that will benefit students in perpetuity.

While Anne’s list of volunteer commitments is extensive (she currently serves as a member of the DC State Early Childhood Development Coordinating Council, the Leadership Council for Raise DC, and the Montgomery County advisory board for the Greater Washington Community Foundation), we are most grateful that students and board members alike will benefit from her latest role as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Montgomery College Foundation.

LET’S GET PERSONAL! WHAT’S...

YOUR FAVORITE LOCAL SPORTS TEAM?
Being from Chicago, I am a die-hard Bears and Cubs fan, but I do love going to Nats games.

YOUR FAVORITE PLACE TO EAT LUNCH AROUND THE COLLEGE?
A&J Restaurant—most like the food in China—yum!

THE LAST GOOD MOVIE YOU SAW?
Lion

YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF ADVICE TO GIVE?
The same advice my father gave me: “Anything worth doing, is worth doing right.”

THE FIRST CAR YOU REMEMBER DRIVING?
Pontiac Lemans Sport Coupe—I loved that car.

YOUR FAVORITE SPORT TO PLAY (OR FAVORITE PASTIME)?
Anything in or near water and with my dog.

THE JUNK FOOD YOU FIND MOST IRRESISTIBLE?
Pizza

THE BEST CONCERT YOU’VE ATTENDED?
Jethro Tull

AN ADJECTIVE YOUR FRIENDS WOULD USE TO DESCRIBE YOU?
Generous, kind, trustworthy

YOUR BIGGEST GLOBAL WISH?
Peace, happiness, and protect the earth.
James G. Muir III

Jim Muir ’75 is vice president at Hughes Network Systems. He is responsible for the corporate real estate and facilities for EchoStar. He has 40 years of progressively responsible experience in the areas of real estate, facilities management, maintenance, security, safety, and administration. Jim has been active in the Montgomery County community and currently serves on a number of local boards, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. He is a past chair and chair emeritus of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce where he was instrumental in the establishment of the (GGCC) Scholarship Committee and the creation of an endowed scholarship benefitting Montgomery College students.

In recognition of his years of service, Jim was inducted into the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber Hall of Fame in 2009. He is the current board chair of the Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology, which supports the College’s Innovation Complex at the Germantown Campus by providing an integrated academic, business, and research environment. He is a past board member of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and a 2001 graduate of Leadership Montgomery. Jim holds a B.S. in criminology from Florida State University, an A.A. from Montgomery College in criminal justice, and is a proud honorary degree recipient from Montgomery College in recognition of his dedication to public service. Mr. Muir lives in Montgomery Village with his wife, Julie, and their two children, Patrick and Taylor.

YOU MAJORED IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND WORK IN SATELLITE NETWORK TECHNOLOGY. HOW DID THE EDUCATION YOU RECEIVED AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE INFLUENCE AND IMPACT YOUR CAREER?

Through my time and studies at MC, I was able to build a solid foundation in and love for criminal justice. Through the excellent faculty, I was able to gain the knowledge that allowed me to finish my education at Florida State University and successfully join the workforce.

YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE IS EVIDENT THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS YOU SEE FOR TODAY’S STUDENTS TO HAVE A MONTGOMERY COLLEGE EDUCATION?

First, the professors are among the best around. MC enjoys an excellent reputation both as a community college and among other universities. An MC student who works diligently with excellence and engages with their professors will have no issues to contend with as they look at transferring. Additionally, professionals in the workforce can benefit from courses at MC that will enhance their knowledge and skills as they look to enhance their careers.

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS THE NEXT GENERATION NEEDS IN ORDER TO BE PREPARED FOR THE MODERN WORKFORCE?

Communication—listening, writing, and presenting.

WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE FOR YOU TO MENTOR MONTGOMERY COLLEGE STUDENTS?

Priceless—all of the students I have had the opportunity to mentor have demonstrated so much maturity, poise, and an energy level that continues to inspire me each and every day. I know that all of them have a bright future ahead, and will have a positive impact in our community and beyond.
As I meet and get to know students, I am always impressed. They show up every day in the singular pursuit of a local, high-quality, affordable education. It cannot be assumed that the road is smooth and easy for every student, particularly in this time of national change and, some would say, challenge. It is my privilege, and the privilege of the members of the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors, to support our students representing 156 countries of origin, to work tirelessly to help them fulfill their true purpose and potential.

The MC Foundation’s ability to serve students has been greatly enhanced as we welcomed five new members to our board, raising the member number to 28. Bringing backgrounds in healthcare, finance, automotive technology, higher education, and philanthropy, these new members allow us a more robust presence and a wealth of new paradigms, new ideas, and new energy. Together, we commit to sharing our time, talent, and treasure to lift and support the students of Montgomery College, helping them to proudly become the next generation of employees in our county.

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome New Foundation Board Members

William Foote, CPA, is a partner in Financial Advisory Services at Aronson, LLC.

Dawn Harris ’13 RN, BSN, is an assistant nurse manager at Holy Cross Hospital.

Robert Hydorn ’71 is a trustee emeritus at Montgomery College and a retired vice president at Fitzgerald Auto Malls.

Connie McGuire is a retired adjunct professor of business at Montgomery College.

Kathryn Pong is the vice president of operations for the Nora Roberts Foundation.
Employee Pays It Forward

Rose Garvin Aquilino  
Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs

AS A COLLEGE EMPLOYEE, HOW HAS YOUR WORK IMPACTED YOUR DECISION TO ESTABLISH A SCHOLARSHIP?

My husband, who is a full-time artist, and I were amazed to learn that we could establish an endowed scholarship for just $10,000, payable over five years through payroll deductions. I’ve always been inspired by our donors’ generosity and commitment to our students, so I was delighted to join them in support of students at Montgomery College. We chose to establish the Garvin Aquilino Family Endowed Scholarship supporting students who are majoring in visual arts or music. On a personal note, this choice celebrates the many artists, musicians, and arts educators in our families.

AS THE DIRECTOR OF GRANTS AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS, WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK PHILANTHROPY HAS ON OUR COMMUNITY?

Philanthropy truly opens doors. Whether it comes from an individual, an organization, or a community, it demonstrates a belief in our students and paves the way for them to reach heights many would have considered unattainable. When I see public and private funders in our community, I know they are investing in Montgomery College students as our future workforce and that makes me incredibly optimistic about our future. Philanthropy offers individuals and organizations a way to support causes close to their hearts. I am able to use my philanthropy to advocate for the arts and humanities as a profession.

HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME?

As a recipient of financial aid when I was in college, I am grateful for the gift of education, and the investment in a student’s and a community’s future. I believe that it is of paramount importance that I pay it forward and support students as they pursue their educational dreams.

WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR LEGACY TO BE?

My husband, John, and I want our legacy to be successful artists and musicians pouring forth from Montgomery College. We believe that the cultural arts bring value and vitality to a community and we are grateful that we can play a role in supporting these aspiring artists.

FOUN DATION FOCUS

Montgomery College Foundation’s newsletter is produced by the Office of Advancement and Community Engagement.

Joyce Matthews, vice president of development and alumni relations, executive director of the Montgomery College Foundation

Katie Kumkumian, donor relations and stewardship director

Pete Vidal, photographer

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240-567-7900  
montgomerycollege.edu/foundation

www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving

For gifts, contact Joyce Matthews, executive director of the foundation, at 240-567-7493 or joyce.matthews@montgomerycollege.edu
MC Students Shine at Networking Breakfast

Patricia M. Ruppert wears many hats at Montgomery College. Known by her students in the World Languages and Philosophy Department as Professor Ruppert, she is also a generous scholarship donor. In the past few years, she has assumed yet another role: networker.

In May, Ruppert hosted the second annual networking breakfast for approximately 50 Montgomery County business leaders and an equal number of Montgomery College students at her family’s business headquarters.

On a picture-perfect spring day, the business leaders gathered at the headquarters of Ruppert Landscape to meet and get to know students—all of whom had been prepped in advance by Professor Ruppert—to make the case for being hired as interns. Armed with their polished resumes, including relevant information about the days and times when they were available for internships, the students exemplified poise and professionalism.

According to Joyce Matthews, vice president for development and alumni relations and executive director of the Montgomery College Foundation, “This was one of the most well-organized and productive student networking opportunities I have attended. Pat orchestrated this with such precision that everyone was prepared, engaged, and made meaningful connections before the breakfast was over.” She continued, “I was relatively new to MC when I attended this breakfast, and it showed me what sets us apart: community support, the unwavering personal and professional commitment of our faculty, and the resourcefulness of our students.”

A Legacy of Service

Everyone who had the good fortune to meet Cokie Roberts was struck by her graciousness. The country mourns the loss of someone who adhered to the highest principles and who led her remarkable life with such strength of character.

Ms. Roberts was a staunch advocate of public service and a true friend of Montgomery College. Whenever she had an opportunity to directly address students, she was certain to stress this important calling. Speaking to the graduating class of 2015, she said, “As you go forth, I’d like you to seriously think about going into public service. Take what you learned from the mighty force of Montgomery College and make some history for yourselves.” Roberts used her stature as an award-winning journalist to further local, and even national, agendas. In doing so, she encouraged students to follow a similar path. Her example will continue to positively impact politics, news, and culture for generations to come.

“Montgomery College is grateful for the generosity and inspiration that Cokie Roberts provided over the years,” said MC President DeRionne Pollard. “Each time I met her it was as if we hadn’t finished our last conversation—we just picked right back up. Her smile was contagious.”

Whether she and her husband, Steve—both of whom received an honorary degree from the College in 2015—were interviewing Dr. Pollard or emceeing the Leggett Legacy event alongside Trustee Bob Levey, Ms. Roberts epitomized grace, generosity, and impact.
FY 2019 Gifts and Pledges

$4,301,705
Total gifts and pledges received as of June 30, 2019

- **Foundations and Organizations**
  
  - 48%
  - $2,082,047
  
  The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation was one of 89 foundations and organizations that provided gifts and support to the foundation.

- **Individual Donor-Advised Funds**
  
  - 4%
  - $160,398
  
  38 individuals made gifts through their donor-advised fund, including Melinda and Bill Becker, who established an ACES Pathway Champions Scholarship.

- **Faculty, Staff, Retirees**
  
  - 5%
  - $205,505
  
  Dr. Eric E. Benjamin, dean of education and social sciences, and 251 other faculty, staff, or retirees pledged or contributed gifts.

- **Corporations**
  
  - 20%
  - $859,443
  
  The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and 102 other corporations supported our mission.

- **Alumni**
  
  - 7%
  - $292,529
  
  492 alumni supported our mission, including Alumni Association President Jane C. Smith ’76.

- **Friends of the Foundation**
  
  - 16%
  - $701,783
  
  Ike and Catherine Leggett were among 680 friends of the foundation who pledged or donated gifts.

- **Fees**
  
  - 3%
  - $132,218
  
  The foundation pays legal fees, bank fees, and audit fees.

- **Grants**
  
  - 20%
  - $852,801
  
  Emergency assistance grants help students address sudden, urgent needs or unexpected expenses, such as food, transportation, or housing costs, that might delay or stop their completion of a degree or training program. Other grants support signature programs, such as the Southern Management Leadership Program, Macklin Business Institute, and the Global Humanities Institute.

- **Fundraising**
  
  - 9%
  - $399,469
  
  The Annual Golf and Tennis Classic, direct mail, and the Annual Fund drive are examples of our fundraising efforts.

- **Scholarships**
  
  - 68%
  - $2,867,415
  
  Scholarships include need-based, honors, transfer, and book awards.

FY 2019 Support Provided by Gifts

$4,251,903
Total support provided by gifts as of June 30, 2019

- **Grants**
  
  - 20%
  - $852,801
  
  Emergency assistance grants help students address sudden, urgent needs or unexpected expenses, such as food, transportation, or housing costs, that might delay or stop their completion of a degree or training program. Other grants support signature programs, such as the Southern Management Leadership Program, Macklin Business Institute, and the Global Humanities Institute.

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To make a gift online, visit montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving
SAVE THE DATE: SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Join members of the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors, Donors, and Students at this year’s Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on Friday, April 3, 2020.

WHERE STUDENTS AND DONORS MEET. For more information, please call Katie Kumkumian at 240-567-7499.

Help us reach the MC2020 Campaign goal by June 30, 2020. Text 41444 with the message "MC2020" to donate and support MC students.