

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

**Subject: Interim President, RTC Forums, Student Vaccination Days
(Update #175)**

Date: June 9, 2021

I hope you saw [yesterday's announcement](#) from the College's Board of Trustees that Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes will serve as the interim president of Montgomery College beginning August 7, 2021. She will serve in this role while the College conducts a search for its next president. I am thrilled that Dr. Dukes accepted the Board's offer to come out of retirement for this important role. Dr. Dukes is a higher education leader with [42 years of experience](#) in administration, policy development, and national service and her background positions her optimally to step into this role and support the College's mission during this transition. I am grateful to the Board for their careful selection of Dr. Dukes and their attention to the needs of the College during this transition. I have every confidence that the College's senior leaders will work seamlessly with Dr. Dukes to continue advancing the vital initiatives that have begun over the last few years. I look forward to helping to introduce Dr. Dukes more thoroughly to the College in the near future.

Even as this leadership transition occurs, the success of our students remains our top priority. The College remains focused on supporting them in multiple ways that will increase their academic success. Please continue to share with students the resources of which they can take advantage during this period, including emergency support through the [American Rescue Plan](#), food resources such as today's [Mobile Market](#) on the Rockville Campus, and mental health supports such as the Student Health and Wellness Center for Success's free [student support group](#) beginning Thursday June 10 and running through July 15. Student vaccination days begin today at the vaccination site on the Germantown Campus and go through Saturday. Please spread the word that students of any age (over 12 years, through college students) are welcome. They can [schedule an appointment](#) or walk up on June 9, 11, and 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and June 10 from 12 to 7 p.m. Some special treats will be given out as well for the first comers.

I know many of you participated in the Return-to-Campuses forum yesterday and there were some terrific questions. If you missed it, please take the time to [watch the video](#) and review the updated [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs). The College is working tirelessly to respond to all questions relevant to our return; we are aware that new ones will emerge while we gradually return, so please continue to submit questions. The next virtual forums are scheduled for [June 10](#) and [June 17](#) (registration is required). An additional special forum for supervisors is being hosted [June 15](#).

County metrics related to COVID infections continue to trend in the right directions, which means our work is paying dividends. Thank you all for your attentiveness to health protocols and for continuing to participate in our efforts to get out details about the process of returning to in-person teaching, learning, and working.

Until next time, be well.