

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President

Subject: **Academic Support and Math Resource**

Date: April 15, 2020

Good afternoon, MC. As you know, the College prides itself on the bounty of academic support services available to students. Faculty and staff are clearly responding to students' needs, as the rate of student withdrawal from classes is actually *lower* than this time last year. Over the past few weeks, personalized phone calls were made to 454 students who had not signed on to remote learning since the suspension of face-to-face classes. I'm thrilled that 200 of those students have now re-engaged, a sign that the human touch—even when remote—makes all the difference. Thanks to the Achieving the Promise Academy (ATPA) coaches for their extra work reaching out to students. Here are a few more examples of how students are relying—successfully—on MC's remote academic support systems:

- 1,543 virtual e-tutoring sessions during the past three weeks
- Number of hours logged on Blackboard has risen by 60 percent in three weeks
- 588 new e-books have been added to the MC Libraries
- Nearly 7,000 people have visited the MC Library webpage
- Last week ATPA held 126 embedded support sessions and 169 one-to-one coaching sessions

I hope you are inspired by these numbers, which show just how well MC is meeting the challenges posed by our current conditions. Every one of us is leaning into some aspect of this reality that is out of our comfort zone. Since math is one of those areas in my homeschooling household that causes some consternation (advanced math for seventh graders can be tough), I thought I would share a fascinating resource from the [New York Times](#). It combines coronavirus reporting with terrific data sets. If your math skills could use some sharpening, this analysis may prove the perfect motivation.

I realize that many of you are eager for details about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act: The College is working diligently to understand the process by which funds will come to us and how students will be eligible for them. We will convey additional information as soon as we have it.

By the way, I miss my formerly regular connection to students and thought I might drop in on a remote class or two next week. I welcome suggestions about classes that could make room for me. I hope you are making it through the week and staying in contact with friends and colleagues.