

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: **Academic Support and Messages from Home**

Date: April 7, 2020

Good afternoon, MC. I'm writing to share some updates on MC's response to the Coronavirus.

I received a number of positive messages about MC's grading policies, which were announced on Friday. I was personally inspired that MC students and faculty are working harder than ever to stay on track and channeling their energies into excellence in teaching and learning. What a wonderful way to approach our current circumstances. To those students who are still anxious about their ability to succeed in the online environment, I want to remind you that MC online has the same support mechanisms in place as face-to-face services—just in a virtual environment.

Virtual tutoring is [here](#). You can get help from an [MC librarian](#) as well; or [technical support](#) with Blackboard or Collaborate. [Counseling and advising](#) are just a click away. For students, I want to urge you to reach out for academic help now if you need it. We're all adjusting to a lot of change, but if you keep your momentum going, you'll have the best chance of succeeding. As you know, the College will also be providing you extra time at the end of the semester for work with faculty members to complete needed assignments. But if you can stay on track now, you'll be better positioned in the long run. Please see more details communicated this morning about [final grading policies](#) on the Coronavirus website.

On a lighter note, if you would like to see how your colleagues and classmates are handling the stay-at-home orders, please view these [short videos](#) made from inside their homes. I'm so impressed with how creative and positive we are striving to be. Remember, staying in touch helps all of us. [Speaking up if you need help](#) is critical. Let's all reach out to someone who may be alone or struggling academically. You'll be doing yourself, and them, a good turn.