

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: CARES Act, Updates, and Blood Drive
Date: May 6, 2020

Well, it is a rainy Wednesday, but at least the weather gives us all time to focus more intently on studying and working. Those of you doing exams and final projects may even appreciate the lack of distraction.

Some very good news for those struggling with financial need: this week alone, \$2.4 million has been awarded to more than 5,000 spring semester Pell grant students from the CARES Act funding. These students should check their MyMC account and College email for notifications. The next round of grants will happen in the coming weeks, after students submit a simple web application, stating their need and certifying their eligibility. Further information will be communicated—along with a link to the required form—later this week by the senior vice president for student affairs.

We heard some cautious optimism from Maryland Governor Larry Hogan today, who reported several critical COVID-19 metrics trending in the right direction in our state. He stressed that we have all saved lives by abiding by the restrictions needed during this critical period. To continue to flatten the curve, he stressed that we must protect each other by maintaining physical distancing, practicing good hand and face hygiene, congregating only in small groups, and wearing face coverings. The State Superintendent of Schools also announced that Maryland public schools will remain closed for the remainder of the year. The College is already working to develop protocols to navigate the impacts of this decision on our employees.

Some more good news is that the MC Germantown Campus will be the site of a much-needed, three-day blood drive run by the Red Cross next week. As you know, our state's stay-at-home order has meant regular volunteers have been unable to donate. The American Red Cross has been authorized to stand up this blood drive in order to replenish supplies that are critically needed. You must have an appointment in order to maintain adequate social distancing, so please visit their website to [participate](#). The College is partnering with the Red Cross to ensure that proper COVID-19 protocols are followed by participants, including social distancing, as well as cleaning during and after the events.

Finally, I know that many of you have questions about summer and fall, and we're working hard to plan for the many contingencies that may arise between now and then. The College will have more information to provide next week, to be considered in concert with the fall course catalogue scheduled for Monday, May 11, release. Just a reminder that on Friday May 8, the College will suspend operations for one hour for faculty and staff to view MC's Closing Meeting. So, from 10 to 11 a.m., College employees will not be responding to student requests—but employees will be back online at 11 a.m. for the rest of the day.

Thank you in advance for your patience. I realize the unknowns of this pandemic are many, but the commitment of so many students to their education is what motivates all of us at the College. I continue to be inspired by this every day.