

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: **Federal Assistance to MC and Virtual Commencement**
Date: April 10, 2020

Good afternoon, Raptors. Well, we have made it through another week. Here are two good-news items to launch you into the weekend:

The US Department of Education notified higher education institutions, including Montgomery College, that federal emergency aid will be provided through the recently adopted CARES Act. It appears that the College will receive almost \$11 million, of which \$5.5 million is to be used only to support students in need. We are working to understand how to access the funds from the federal government and devising plans to disburse the aid to students with demonstrated need. More details will follow as we obtain additional guidance from the federal government.

The College has decided to host a virtual commencement event, along with a separate student awards ceremony, to replace those traditionally held in-person. The details are still being ironed out but they will be shared within the next two weeks. I can tell you that a lot of creativity is being channeled into celebrating our soon-to-be-graduates, so please watch for more information on these plans. (Not to worry, all 2020 graduates are still welcome at the 2021 in-person ceremony as well).

Every day there are changes wrought by the pandemic, and every day I am impressed by the quality of your responses. Many of them don't get the attention they deserve, so I'm sharing a few in [my weekly video](#). Thank you for your continued feedback and encouragement. I'm so proud to be a part of the MC community.

Have a safe and restful weekend.