

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Nursing Heroes and Precautions
Date: April 9, 2020

Good afternoon, everyone. We are on the downhill side of another busy week. I hope you are taking care of yourself and your families as we continue to push through this extended period of adjustment. I'm continuing my own daily gratitude list to keep my attitude positive, and a faculty member even shared hers with me—what a gift!

In that spirit, I'm sharing a few bright spots in our hard work fighting COVID-19 infections in the state. As you may have heard, the state of Maryland's Institute for Emergency Medical Services System put out a call for nursing students to use their skills in patient care, even if they have not yet graduated. The announcement explained nursing students can be assigned to certain limited duties, for which they are already trained. This can potentially help the management of very heavy patient loads in our state. I am proud to say that 31 MC nursing students have already stepped up to participate. What a courageous step in the midst of so much uncertainty. And what a great example of #MCStrong.

Another nursing story from this week comes from a recent donor to the Montgomery College Foundation, Dawn Harris. An alum of the MC nursing program, Ms. Harris is currently an assistant nurse manager at Holy Cross Hospital, and commented that she "wouldn't want to be anywhere else" at this time. She says that she "chose this field to be on the front lines and to make a difference, especially during times like this current national crisis." I appreciate even better now why nursing has a reputation for courage and compassion.

While there are many reasons to feel hopeful, I'm also keeping a close eye on continued health precautions. I'm wearing a mask outside the house and I'm staying alert to more potential scammers. The Maryland attorney general posted another warning about fraudsters who may target students and others via [CARES Act communications](#). Please review this warning about how bad actors may attempt to secure such funds from any of us. I will be providing updates on the College's benefits from the CARES Act in the next few days.

Speaking of funding, please remember to respond to the [US Census](#)! Our numbers determine how much funding we receive, and the impact of COVID-19 increases this urgency.

I hope you all are staying strong—and in community with one other.