

# President's Corner



**Monday March 30, 2020**

Good morning. Welcome to Week Two of fully remote teaching, learning, and working at MC. I hope everyone was able to enjoy a breath of fresh air on Sunday, whether on a balcony, a front porch, or at a safe distance on the streets. A few quick updates on progress at the College:

- The Montgomery College Foundation has received 411 student requests for assistance, with 295 awarded so far
- SHAW Center brought food packages that students were not able to claim to Progress Place, which serves people without homes in Silver Spring
- The national stimulus bill passed last week has some higher ed benefits which are still being assessed; updates will follow
- Blackboard Learn log-ons by faculty last week jumped 30 percent over the second week in March
- Similarly, student log-ons to Blackboard Learn last week rose 27 percent over the second week in March
- Blackboard users on a single day last week averaged 2,060 for faculty and 22,533 for students
- Students and faculty are also using Zoom in large numbers

While we are all continuing to adjust to the new normal, I am reminded of my hometown of Chicago, where the former mayor—Rahm Emanuel—once said, “You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that is, it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before.” Montgomery College is adapting and growing in this crisis by expanding our tech-savvy, which may benefit us in the long run. While our current conditions have some serious impacts that we can't control, I'm choosing to highlight at least one thing a day in Emanuel's “opportunity” realm. A focus on what we can control in these stressful times may actually help us grow more successfully—and encourage our spirits.

Speaking of which, the many guides to working and learning from home all mention making a schedule (hour by hour if needed), taking breaks, staying connected to others, and even, getting exercise. I hope

you are all heeding some of this advice as we settle into the new normal, and sharing your own tips with friends and colleagues. (Myles and I have a little push-up competition going on here). Don't forget to visit the [MC Coronavirus](#) website for more resources on this and other topics. Have good Monday!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DeRionne". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'D' being particularly large and stylized.

DeRionne P. Pollard, PhD

*We empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community.*

*We are accountable for our results.*