

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Updates and Resources
Date: April 2, 2020

Good evening. Some very spring-like weather is one thing I'm choosing to be grateful for today. Focusing on the positive helps me keep motivated and progressing toward my goals. Like many of you, several of my long-term goals will need revision. (I may run that half marathon on my treadmill, for example). Smaller goals are being altered, sometimes day to day. But I'm trying to re-map some of my broader intentions, in response to the COVID-19 emergency, taking stock of what I still have and re-imagining how to move forward.

A few points of Raptor progress to note for today:

- MC got a public shout out for transferring [personal protective equipment](#) from our Health Sciences Division to those who need it!
- There were a record 470,000 student logins to Blackboard in March
- 279 e-tutoring sessions have been held this week alone
- Several support programs have successfully made the online transition including [Boys to Men](#) and the MC-[Future Link](#) partnership. Now more than ever, students will need guidance and mentorship for the changing world.
- The College transferred 64 laptops from classrooms—which are not currently in use—to personnel working to support the county during this crisis. County employees are heavily engaged in emergency management processes that are keeping essential services running for our neighborhoods.
- The Montgomery College Foundation has received almost 900 requests for assistance, awarding \$200,000 so far for laptops, software, and food assistance

Speaking of assistance, responding to the Census2020 is now more important than ever. Resources are allocated to states and counties according to their populations, and current COVID-19 driven circumstances may force more of our neighbors to rely on them. Please make sure you are [counted](#).

Finally, many of us have shared how draining it is to work at home while supervising children who are out of school. At the other end of the spectrum are colleagues and friends who live alone. The isolation that COVID-19 has created may be especially stressful for them. We all need human interaction, so if you know someone in these circumstances, I hope you will reach out to them. And for all of us, keep in mind that mental health and wellness matter. Help is there if you need it. I'll be in touch tomorrow again with a video blog and some messages directly from colleagues in home-offices and classrooms.