

**To:** The Montgomery College Community

**From:** Dr. Kimberly Kelley, Vice President and Provost, Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences and Rockville Campus

**Subject:** Appointment of the Dean for Education and Social Sciences

**Date:** January 31, 2019

As we conclude a national search, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Eric Benjamin has accepted the position of dean of education and social sciences. He will begin his tenure on February 9, 2019. Dr. Benjamin has over 25 years of experience in higher education and private industry. Since December 2017, Dr. Benjamin has served admirably as the interim dean for education and social sciences. During his tenure, he provided leadership to ensure the successful launch of the first Early College program for the associate of arts in teaching, mathematics education, on the Rockville Campus. In addition, he helped the College write a successful proposal to partner with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to offer para-educators the opportunity to obtain their teaching licensure and an associate's degree to become classroom teachers within the MCPS system. He was also responsible for expanding the College's articulation agreements with four-year partners to increase MC student opportunities to seamlessly transfer in education and social sciences.

Dr. Benjamin has also served in numerous collegewide roles. He was selected to co-chair the 2018 Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) Self-Study process and he also led the development of the 2013 MSCHE Periodic Review Report. Further, Dr. Benjamin served the College and faculty as the Education and Psychology Department chair from June 2014 to December 2017. When Dr. Benjamin first arrived at the College, he also served in the Counseling and Advising unit, an experience that affords him a unique perspective encompassing the entire student life cycle.

In addition to his contributions to the College, Dr. Benjamin has developed, taught, and evaluated courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in previous positions he has held at Johns Hopkins University, Bowie State University, Texas State University at San Marcos, Huston-Tillotson College, and the University of Texas at San Antonio. Prior to his arrival at MC, Dr. Benjamin served as director of clinical care for Riverside Hospital in Washington, DC. In addition, Dr. Benjamin's research experience includes serving as a senior research associate at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation where he led efforts to identify non-cognitive predictors of student success to help educators understand how to increase and expand student success. Dr. Benjamin has also published in the journal *Applied and Preventive Psychology*, among others, concerning school counseling, the achievement gap, and mentoring diverse student populations to ensure their success.

Dr. Benjamin brings a wealth of experience, both academically and professionally, to the Education and Social Sciences Area. His broad experience prior to his arrival at the College, his academic accomplishments in the area of student success, and his leadership throughout the

College, have prepared him well to be the next dean for education and social sciences. His innovative work at the College, including implementing open educational resources, and his work with Early College and MCPS, will assist MC's students in achieving their educational goals and help the College achieve goals in the Academic Master Plan.

Dr. Benjamin earned both a bachelor of arts in psychology, and a doctor of philosophy in counseling psychology from the University of Texas at Austin.

I look forward the continued leadership of Dr. Benjamin to support the programs in education and social sciences and improve student success through implementation of the Academic Master Plan, and furthering the goals of the College's strategic plan.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the search process, especially the search committee. Your contributions have been invaluable and are greatly appreciated. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Eric Benjamin and welcoming him to his new role at Montgomery College.