

Subject: Appointment of Vice President for STEM and Health Sciences
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Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Deidre Price, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/College Provost
Subject: **Appointment of Vice President for STEM and Health Sciences**
Date: June 2, 2025

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Nawal Benmouna as vice president for STEM and health sciences as of June 7, 2025.

Dr. Benmouna began her Montgomery College career as associate professor of physics in 2006 and became a professor in 2009. She was appointed chair of the Rockville Campus engineering, physics, and computer science department in 2014 and Collegewide acting dean of science, engineering, and technology in 2022. Reflective of a student-centered approach and commitment to equity and inclusion, Dr. Benmouna's leadership has resulted in nearly \$3M in grants supporting underrepresented students in STEM.

Her new appointment continues the collegial and innovative work she has done as interim vice president for STEM and health sciences where she led transformative initiatives that advanced inclusion and improved access in STEM and health sciences. She established innovative academic pathways and strategic partnerships, as well as nurtured a culture of achievement and academic excellence within her unit of 30 academic programs. Her leadership resulted in strengthened K-12 STEM pipelines, integration of cutting-edge technologies, and enhanced student engagement, as well as supporting the launch of the new Licensed Practical Nursing program at the College's East County Education Center this past spring.

Dr. Benmouna's collaborative and engaging leadership style has led her to partner with many in academic affairs leadership to advance initiatives on operational effectiveness, strengthened academic support for gateway and high-enrollment courses, and collegewide efforts with fellow academic vice presidents to align academic programming with institutional goals and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. Dr. Benmouna led a cross-functional team to address a Strategic Plan priority to design targeted initiatives and a comprehensive assessment plan to elevate academic excellence, enhance student learning outcomes, and drive continuous improvement. This work has resulted in a renewed focus on strengthening the support structure for foundation courses. In addition, Dr. Benmouna's contributions have been instrumental in creating a path forward for a collegewide transition to the Starfish advising platform that will provide a more student-centered advising experience. She provided vital leadership in shaping STEM, health sciences, and broader instructional and academic support strategies in the College's new Academic Master Plan, helped to coordinate Advising Day activities, planned for East County

Education Center programs, and evaluated procedures related to division operations.

In Dr. Benmouna's prior acting dean role, she, alongside two chairs, oversaw seven academic programs including three of the top five highest enrollment programs. She led the alignment of academic programs with evolving industry needs to keep these disciplines current and responsive. She implemented targeted student success initiatives and strengthened transfer pathways to support student outcomes and academic progression.

Dr. Benmouna earned a bachelor of science, a master of science and a doctor of philosophy in physics from American University in Washington, D.C.

Thank you to all who participated in the national search process. We appreciate your contributions of time, reflection, and engagement that resulted in a comprehensive, collaborative, and successful search as we look ahead to Academic Year 2026.

Please congratulate Dr. Benmouna on her appointment as vice president for STEM and health sciences.