

Subject: Kickoff of Honors College and Appointment of Interim Dean
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Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Deidre Price, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/College Provost
Subject: **Kickoff of Honors College and Appointment of Interim Dean**
Date: July 3, 2025

I am pleased to announce the formal launch of the MC's Honors College and the appointment of Dr. Fiona Glade as interim dean effective July 7, 2025. For the past year, faculty and staff from across the College have been instrumental in shaping the vision and structure of the Honors College, ensuring it reflects our shared commitment to academic excellence, equity, and student opportunity. As interim dean, Dr. Glade will assume leadership for the continued implementation of the Honors College plan, working collaboratively across the institution to bring this critical initiative to life.

The Honors College is designed to elevate academic excellence, promote inclusive access to high-impact learning opportunities, and support the College's most academically promising and talented students. In this role, Dr. Glade will provide strategic leadership, administrative oversight, and advocacy for the Honors College, ensuring its alignment with the College's strategic plan. Dr. Glade will lead information-sharing about the Honors College this fall.

Dr. Fiona Glade currently serves as the dean of communication studies, English language for academic purposes, and linguistics, overseeing all aspects of the department, including curriculum and budget, and leading a faculty and staff of 100. In this role, she developed and implemented a new *Check-In Coach* faculty role for wraparound student support and launched a successful paid peer tutor program at the Writing, Reading, and Language Center. She also manages the Paul Peck Humanities Institute and oversees the Athenaeum Speakers' Series. From October 2024 to April 2025, Dr. Glade served as the acting dean of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, where she engaged extensively with community leaders, elected officials, local businesses, schools, faculty, and staff to represent the College and campus with distinction.

Previously, Dr. Glade held several leadership roles at the University of Baltimore, serving as assistant provost for undergraduate studies and executive director of the Bank of America Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology from 2016 until joining Montgomery College in 2020. In addition, Dr. Glade oversaw the Helen P. Denit Honors Program, expanding options for students to customize their academic experience through honors courses; promoting experiential learning through enhanced courses to bring the classroom into the community and the community into the classroom; and establishing an Honors Student Lounge.

Dr. Glade earned an associate of arts in English from Antelope Valley Community College; a bachelor of arts in English from the University of California, Santa Barbara; and both a master of arts in English and a doctor of philosophy in rhetoric and composition from Washington State University.

As interim dean of the Honors College, Dr. Glade will work closely with the directors, coordinators, and the department chair of all affiliated honors programs to promote a shared institutional identity, fostering collaboration and mutual support while honoring the unique academic missions of each program. Her leadership will focus on building a strong, connected honors community where programs retain their distinctive qualities but benefit from more coordinated support and visibility. She will also collaborate with academic departments and faculty to ensure a rich, interdisciplinary honors

curriculum centered on research, service, leadership, and global engagement.

I want to recognize the dedicated faculty and staff from our honors programs whose voices were instrumental in the development of an inspiring Honors College proposal and Dr. Elena Saenz, associate senior vice president for academic partnerships and programs, with whose leadership the team catalyzed progress toward an inclusive and innovative plan. Faculty and staff participation in focus groups, thoughtful review of multiple iterations of the plan, and candid feedback throughout this process were invaluable. I am inspired by your advocacy for students and dedication to expanding access to exceptional learning experiences for Montgomery College students. We embark on the implementation journey with open invitations for you to continue sharing your perspectives and student stories that will help to inform next steps as we move forward together.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Glade on her appointment and in celebrating this exciting new chapter for Montgomery College.