

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Message from Dr. Rai

As of October 8, we can officially say that we have made it to the first, though early, milestone under the new academic structure. Last week I issued a report detailing the first 100 days, and in that report you will find candid feedback from faculty and staff in Academic Affairs on how they think the roll-out is going and what we still need to work on. I have to say, I am truly impressed with your collective flexibility, willingness to adjust, and commitment to get this right. Over the next few months, watch for opportunities to discuss what we need to do and create a plan of action to fully optimize MC academics.

Our restructuring efforts are garnering attention from community college colleagues in other states. I visited one such institution at their invitation earlier this month to talk to them about the intricacies of offering quality academics in a multi-campus environment and how we went about organizing our disciplines and resources to best meet the needs of our students.

Also this month our partner

Holy Cross Germantown Hospital opened its doors to patients for the first time.



Yes, this is the first hospital to open on a community college campus and it is the first new hospital in Montgomery County in 35 years; but more importantly, residents of the upcounty and neighboring areas now have proximate access to emergency and specialty healthcare. I am very excited that Montgomery College could play such an important role in bringing that service to residents, and I am thrilled that MC nursing and health science students now have a new opportunity to gain clinical experience on our Germantown Campus. As the anchor tenant of the College's Hercules Pinkney Life Sciences Park, I expect the hospital's opening will signal a noticeable boon in

park activity.

In mid-November I will join with several College colleagues Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett's Sister City mission trip to India with the goal of strengthening cultural, economic, and educational connections with the country. I will send you an update from there to fill you in on the conversations we are having and the opportunities that could flourish with partners both locally and abroad from this collaborative endeavor.

Here at home, we continue to actively seek strong, forward-facing curriculum enhancements, a continuous core priority in Academic Affairs. Throughout the fall semester the General Education Transform & Restructure Committee has hosted information sessions to involve the entire College community in the discussions that surround

the redesign process. Sessions continue on each campus through the first week of November, and you can register through MC Learns.

We also have curriculum enhancement efforts at various stages of approval. Earlier this semester I approved the general studies proposal to be submitted for consideration by the Collegewide Curriculum Committee. At the same time, the College's proposal to offer two fully online degrees—in business and information systems—will be considered for approval by the Maryland Higher Education Committee over the next few months. These efforts ensure that MC students receive the education, training, and preparation needed to achieve their professional and life goals.

Thank you for your commitment to MC.



INSIDE

- Partnerships that drive opportunity for students
- Fab Labs
- Online Catalog
- Open Educational Resources
- Part-time Faculty Resources

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

The Power of Partnerships

When the College learned late last month that its proposal to the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program was successful, we saw in a tangible way the true power of partnerships.

Through the outstanding work of project director Steve Greenfield, dean of business, information technology, and safety in the Workforce Development & Continuing Education Unit, the College's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs, faculty, and administrators, MC is the lead institution on a \$15 million effort that will bring highly trained cyber security professionals to Maryland's workforce.

That exemplary internal partnership was paired with deep external collaboration as the project married dozens of organizations to make this one of the most sweeping workforce development efforts in the state. The consortium includes:

14 Partner Community Colleges

- Montgomery College (lead)
- Allegany College of MD
- Anne Arundel CC
- Baltimore City CC
- Carroll CC
- College of Southern MD

- CC of Baltimore County
- Frederick CC
- Garrett College
- Hagerstown CC
- Harford CC
- Howard CC
- Prince George's CC
- Wor-Wic CC



35+ Partner Employers

Maryland's industry leaders, including IBM, Lockheed Martin, MedStar, and Booz Allen are partnering in the effort in a number of ways, such as serving on an advisory group, mentoring and recruiting students, or working on curriculum development.

Dean Greenfield and his team now begin the important work of implementing the plan. Exciting things are happening at MC!

Above: Dr. Pollard and Dean Greenfield join Maryland community college leaders at the White House announcement of TAACCCT awards. Sept. 29, 2014

Spotlight on...Academic Partners

Montgomery College collaborates with entities of all kinds to enhance the educational experience of our students, faculty, and the greater community. Here is a brief peak into just a few of the many partnerships MC has created with local entities:

- MC has a long-standing partnership with global consulting firm **Accenture** that pairs our business students with the firm's executive leaders; and on Nov. 7, the firm is hosting a career exploration [event](#) at MC for military personnel.
- MC partners with **Amarex Clinical Research** to co-offer a Clinical Trial Project Management course to students both locally and abroad.
- **Discovery Communications** offers MC students access to internships, lectures, and visits with their executives.
- **Holy Cross Hospital** is a strong academic partner to the College's health sciences program, serving as a key clinical site both in Takoma Park/Silver Spring and now in Germantown.
- **Lockheed Martin** has joined with MC to offer cyber security courses focusing on secure software development.
- MC works with the **Montgomery County Correctional Facility** to provide educational and vocational offerings that give inmates the skills needed to join the workforce after their release.
- The **National Institute of Science Technology (NIST)** hosts internships pairing their advisors with MC students, where students focus on research specific to NIST priorities.
- **The Smithsonian Institute** created a unique fellowship program that provides MC faculty with an intensive, year-long professional development opportunity focused on interdisciplinary themes in teaching and learning.

The good work of the Office of Academic Partnerships and that of the academic units and centers provide a rich tapestry of opportunity for MC students, faculty, and the community at large. Whether these relationships lead to grant funding, internships, faculty development, or skills training, they enrich our community.

INTERSECTIONS

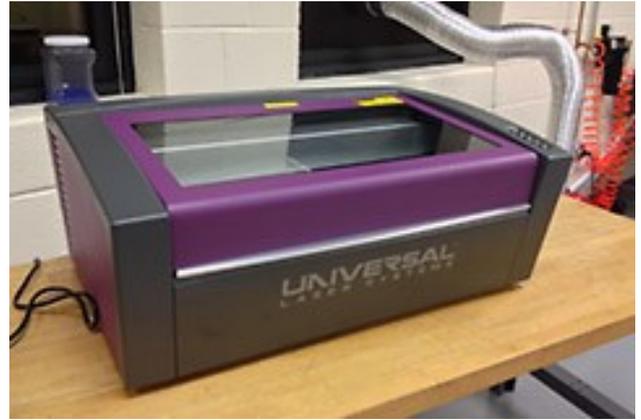
THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

MC Enters the World of Fab Labs

The College's Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education (GITE) is home to a digital fabrication laboratory, a state-of-the-art workspace popularly known as a Fab Lab. An inventor's candy store, fab labs were originally crafted as an educational outreach tool to foster local entrepreneurship by giving community members access to technology-driven equipment to create prototypes of their designs.

MC's Fab Lab includes a new commercial-grade 3D printer, CNC router, and digital laser and vinyl cutters that allow users to turn computer-generated designs into physical forms made out of plastic, vinyl, acrylic, glass, wood, and more. These tools will give students the benefit of hands-on testing of their designs, not to mention experience using digital software and hi-tech equipment. We look forward to seeing the amazing fabrications that students build as they begin using the equipment.

Visit the [MC Fab Lab](#) website for more information.



Online Catalog Coming Our Way

The College is in the process of creating its first online catalog to bring information to students the way they want it, on the web and on their mobile devices. The e-catalog will be launched next semester, so your feedback is needed now to aid the implementation team as they refine content and technical features over the next few months. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to browse the test site using the left-side navigation menu and the search features in the upper-left corner and submit your feedback to catalog@montgomerycollege.edu. Access the online catalog test site at catalog.montgomerycollege.edu.

The new online catalog will not replace the print catalogs, but will serve as an interactive companion that provides users with the most up-to-date and connected information. It will offer students one-stop admissions and registrations functions made easier with powerful search and mobile features and personalized portfolios that can be shared with school admissions counselors, among other features that are only possible in the interactive format.

Special thanks to the advisory and implementation teams who have been working over the course of the past year to develop the e-catalog with your input in mind. You may recognize the newest member of the team, as our new catalog production coordinator, Mr. Scott Price, has taught print and digital management courses to MC students. Welcome, Scott!



INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Open Educational Resources—MC Gets in the Game

By Dr. Buddy Muse

As the costs of educational materials rise, more and more attention is given to finding ways to reduce those costs, while not sacrificing quality in courses. Over the last few months Montgomery College, and the Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) in particular, has been busy raising awareness to the concept of Open Educational Resources (OERs). OERs have been around for many years. Often referred to as learning objects, they are any kind of tangible learning resource that can be used for free. MERLOT.org, a leading repository system for OERs lists about 20 types – from simple lectures to full courses – all available for free, most with just minimal attribution requirements.



One of the main catalysts for the movement towards OERs at MC is the growing cost of textbooks and other required materials. Numerous initiatives underway in higher education and the government are addressing this issue. To get a head start at MC with OERs, ELITE has created a October 2014

comprehensive approach to inform the learning community about OERs and their uses. A workshop named “What Are OER’s And Why Should We Care?” has been developed and delivered. Workshop sessions are scheduled on each campus through the fall semester. In addition, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Sanjay Rai and Vice President of ELITE Dr. Michael Mills have reached out to academic departments asking if they would like to learn more about OERs. The response has been positive. During these overview sessions, faculty are introduced to OERs, are shown the benefits of using them, and are provided with examples of OERs, both in their field and the field of higher education. For every overview, ELITE prepares a list of OERs that relate to the fields of study in that particular department. A follow up and an offer to conduct one-on-one sessions with interested faculty members are included with every department visit.

But much more is happening in the area of OERs – ELITE staff and faculty are attending OER conferences and workshops, faculty are sending in OERs that have been located by their students, and faculty are creating their own OERs. Professor Bill Witte of the Germantown Mathematics and Statistics department has created a vast array of OERs for

various math subjects. Professor Witte uploads his lecture videos to YouTube, and his most recent YouTube report indicates his sites have been viewed over one million times. Professor Witte receives a number of thank you messages every day from the general math community for the wonderful resources he has provided – all for free. “They can have them and do whatever they want with them,” he says.

Other faculty members are doing similar things with OERs. A physics class is using an open textbook; astronomy professor Carrie Fitzgerald is building her own lectures and content and placing them on YouTube; Professor Emily Rosado has created writing videos available to faculty members and students. And now, many more faculty members are searching for existing OERs to include in their courses. They have literally

thousands to choose from.

There is much ado about OERs. To make an even greater impact on the learning community at MC, a General Studies/OER Fellowship is being launched to redesign high-impact courses using OERs.

To learn more, visit the OER website at Montgomery College by clicking <http://montgomerycollege.edu/elite/oer/>

Dr. Muse is the program coordinator in Montgomery College’s Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence.

Part-time Faculty Taskforce

This semester a committee of more than 30 full- and part-time faculty, staff, and administrators convened for the first time to create a dynamic structure--both physical and virtual--that serves the unique needs of our part-time faculty who provide outstanding service to our students and the College as a whole.

The group will meet several times during the fall and spring semesters, with subgroups meeting more frequently to address specific issues, to conduct research into best practices on the national stage, and to develop a workable plan for Montgomery College.

If you are interested in serving as a resource in this crucially important initiative, please contact Dr. Clarice Somersall, associate senior vice president for academic affairs and convener of the taskforce.