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# INTERSECTIONS

*The Academic Affairs Chronicles*

## **A Message From Dr. Rai**

We are a month into the fall semester, and I know how busy and engaged you have been. As we continue on with initiatives that support the College's MC2020 Plan, I am hopeful about our students' futures. With our Plus 2 Initiative, together with Program Success Strategies and DFW Reduction Initiatives, your efforts will help students meet our standards and prepare them for their futures. I remain impressed by your thoughtfulness, innovation, and passion for the work you do to support your students and colleagues. Thank you. I hope you can hold on to that feeling throughout the semester and the rest of the academic year. This edition of *Intersections* introduces a couple of faculty resources, The HUB and REACH. Please take advantage of both opportunities to learn about student success opportunities from your fellow faculty members and to share your own. Also, please join us on Saturday, October 22nd, at the 70th anniversary faculty and staff picnic held on the Germantown Campus. Please RSVP via <http://www.cvent.com/d/9vgzb4> by October 17, 2016. I look forward to sharing the day with you.

*Sanjay*

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## **Faculty-Driven Student Success HUB Goes Live!**

Over the course of the last year, faculty have developed strategies/microinterventions to improve Program Student Success and DFW Reduction Initiatives, all with the goal of meeting MC2020 success targets: increased enrollment, graduation rates and transfer rates, and decreased time and cost to degree. A microintervention is a "brief, focused, high-impact exchange between students and faculty and staff members that fuels student success."

ELITE organized workshops on microinterventions providing opportunities for faculty and staff to discuss the teaching and learning process and share ideas of what has worked for them, as well as thinking together about the learning challenges presented by our students. Discussions started with a conversation about what might make a microintervention effective, and how might it make the student more successful, before moving on to what conditions enable students to learn most effectively and what faculty can do to create these conditions in the classroom.

Faculty used many such microinterventions last year, including outreach to students early in the semester or even prior to starting classes, providing timely referrals to learning centers, and employing learning focused exam reviews. The HUB is a blog that discusses various learning

concepts and shares microinterventions that may be applicable to your classroom.

As you progress throughout the academic year, please visit the HUB, not just to read about what your fellow faculty are doing in their classrooms, but to share what you are doing in your classroom to help your students meet our high academic standards. Your efforts may help a fellow faculty member as well as their students. You will also have the opportunity to participate in microintervention student success workshops throughout the year. To access the blog and share your thoughts, please visit: <http://mcblogs.montgomerycollege.edu/thehub/2016/08/26/microinterventions-for-student-success/>

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## Academic Master Plan Implementation Update

After all of the hard work developing the Academic MasterPlan, including focus groups and think tanks and following through with feedback from the College community, I am pleased to share that Dr. Pollard has approved our Academic Master Plan! With that approval in hand, the implementation of the Academic Master Plan started this month with the First Five-Year Initiative assignments. There is a lot to be accomplished with these initiatives, and it's important to begin immediately to support student success and address the achievement gap at MC.

Each initiative will have a working group to move it forward with the leaders of each working group making outreach to governance for recommendations on membership. The First Five-Year Initiatives and their leaders are:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Initiative 1: Embed Classroom Support                                       | Brad Stewart     |
| Initiative 2: Offer Alternative Scheduling and Delivery                     | Margaret Latimer |
| Initiative 3: Implement Alternative and Customized Assessment and Placement | Kim Kelley       |
| Initiative 4: Design Alt. and Customized Credentials and Guided Pathways    | George Payne     |
| Initiative 5: Enhance Student Pathways from MCPS and to USG                 | Elena Saenz      |
| Initiative 6: Expand Global Partnerships and International Opportunities    | Mike Mills       |

In addition to the First Five-Years Initiatives, the AMP also requires implementation of the Academic Review Program. This working group will be led by Carolyn Terry and Cassandra Jones.

Please visit : <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/academic-master-plan-2015/drafts/> to view the approved AMP.

There is a great deal of work to do over the course of the next five years, and progress will be shared periodically through *Intersections*.

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## Part-Time Faculty Office Opens at Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

On August 25<sup>th</sup> of this year, the newly renovated Part-time Faculty Resource Center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus officially opened for business. The office was established specifically to support part-time faculty members. We invite you to visit our facility and take advantage of the services available, prepare for class, meet with students, use a computer, phone, exchange ideas with other part-time faculty, or simply relax and enjoy a cup of coffee.



Please feel free to stop by on **October 11th between 3-5 pm** for an informal celebration of the center opening. You are welcome to come have a cookie, explore the center, and mingle with your colleagues. Welcome!

Services provided by the Center include:

- Departmental Mailboxes
- Duplicating
- Computer stations and Scanner
- Desks and work tables
- Lockers
- Telephones
- Notices of college events and schedules
- Guidance on college processes and procedures
- Newsletters
- Start-of-semester orientation/information programs



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## MCOPEN

The Office of E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) has launched MC Open, an initiative that focuses on faculty redesigning courses using Open Educational Resources (OER) to leverage pedagogy that fosters student success while reducing costs and increasing access to course materials.

Approximately 100 sections of MC courses this Fall semester are being taught as a Z-course, meaning there is zero textbook course.

The MC Open initiative aims to:

1. Promote student success by encouraging faculty to redesign courses using OER and pedagogy that engage, connect and support student learning.
2. Make education more affordable by reducing or eliminating required costs for course materials.
3. Decrease time to degree completion by giving students the option of applying money toward an additional course rather than to books or other required course materials and by providing clear paths to degree completion.

Montgomery College was the recipient of a \$100,000 grant from Achieving the Dream to offer at least one section in selected General Studies pathways using OER. In addition, the College is part of a research study to examine how OER impacts learning outcomes.

Academic Affairs is also working with Criminal Justice and Business faculty to offer at least one section of the courses in those degree paths as a Z-course. Thanks to Follett for supporting those efforts.

Details about MC Open, including links to faculty resources, can be found at:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mc-open/>



## Middle States Listening Tours

Starting this past week, listenening sessions have been set up to provide participants with a broad overview of the accreditation process as well as updates from some of the standard workgroups.

Group A Sessions focus on Standard II, Misison and Vision; Standard III, Ethics and Integrity; and Standard VII, Leadership and Governance.

Group B Sessions focus on Standard III, Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience; and Standard IV, Support of the Student Leaning Experience.

Group C Sessions focus on Standard V, Educational Effectiveness Assessment; and Standard VI, Planningm Resources and Institutional Improvement.

Please register through MCLearns - your participation is important to the accreditation process.

# MC FACULTY

**REACH Seminar:**  
Strategies to Foster Student Success

**Wednesday, October 19**

**6:30-9:30 p.m.**

Dinner will be provided

Rockville Campus, Science Center 152

- Help improve graduation rates, completion, and student success.
- Roundtable discussions among faculty to share strategies to increase student success.
- Dr. Pollard will share why faculty must

### Registration Instructions

Log onto My MC and click on:

1. Training and Professional Development
2. MC Learns
3. Schedule of Classes and Events

- be more engaged in the lives of students.
- Earn Professional Development Credits.

4. Pedagogy and Instruction
5. Scroll down to see REACH seminar on Oct 19



Relate, Engage, Adapt, Care, and Help (R.E.A.C.H.)  
is an initiative of Montgomery College's Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement and Support.

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