MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AWARDED MARYLAND OPEN SOURCE TEXTBOOK (M.O.S.T.) INITIATIVE INSTITUTIONAL AWARD

Montgomery College, through ELITE, was awarded a Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) Initiative Institutional Award to continue its work in Decolonizing the Curriculum. MC was one of three Maryland institutions awarded an institutional grant this year. The award will support significant advances in Open Educational Resources (OER) adoption, scaling, and sustainability in support of student success throughout the College.

The Decolonizing the Curriculum OER Project (Project) is designed to complement the current social justice goals and initiatives of MC. Utilizing a participatory action research model, faculty, support staff, and students will be used to inform the design, development, and refinement of a set of coordinated OER that will be used to meet institutional goals through targeted professional development offered by ELITE.

The Project will include a faculty/support staff/student academy consisting of ten faculty/support staff and ten students (introduced in the spring) from across various college disciplines who will meet throughout the fall and spring semester to support the design, development, and refinement of 12 OER aligned to the principles of Decolonizing the Curriculum under the guidance of content experts/guest speakers. Academy faculty/support staff will be able to integrate their knowledge into their curricula and/or learning centers in real-time throughout the grant to expand the Project's initial impact. Academy participation (at the faculty/support staff and student level), course adaptations and modifications, peer reviews, student engagement, and faculty/support staff and student surveys and testimonials will be collected and analyzed from all the participating faculty's courses to assess the OER impact.

The OER developed under this grant (e.g., interactive learning modules, how-to instructional guides, self-reflection checklists, etc.) will be available to all MC faculty and staff on the ELITE and M.O.S.T. Commons websites and promoted using the MC Open initiative. The availability of these OER will help expand the infrastructure and faculty/support staff knowledge necessary to promote change in all MC courses and student support services. This level of open access will not only encourage faculty/support staff and student collaboration through the intentional integration of decolonizing principles but will lead to a sustained system that supports the needs of all members of the college community based on trust and mutual respect.

If you are interested in learning more about the Project or would like to participate in the academy, please contact Dr. Paul Miller, ELITE Professional Development Director.

FACULTY VIDEO SPOTLIGHT WITH PROFESSOR KATEEMA LEE

In this edition of the ELITE newsletter faculty spotlight, Dr. Buddy Muse sits down for an interview with Kateema Lee, an associate professor of English in the English and Reading department at the Germantown campus.

She's been teaching full-time at MC for 12 years. Currently, she's teaching English 101 and 102.

Watch the video interview to learn more about Professor Lee.

MICROCREDENTIALS AT MC

Montgomery College offers programs, units, and discipline areas the opportunity to create microcredentials. A microcredential is a digital form of certification, also known as a badge, that assesses specific competencies. They represent certain skillsets that align educational programming with business needs and allow badge earners to validate career readiness competencies through attainment.

The badge certifies that the earner has demonstrated specific skills/competencies and it becomes part of the earner's personal digital portfolio. By clicking on the badge icon, shared in a resume or online profile, the reader will see the list of competencies and what is required of the earner to attain the badge. For a full listing of current badges visit MC's Credly platform.

As of today, more than 200 badges have been issued to MC students and employees (more than 90% of badges have been earned by students!)

The interest in badging continues to grow as it becomes increasingly apparent that the development of microcredentials is an enticing benefit for MC's employees, students, and external future employers. The microcredentials initiative helps future job seekers, also known as our students, stand out during recruitment and potentially closes any "skill-gaps" that current valued MC employees are experiencing.

To find out more, visit Microcredentials at MC, or contact christine.crefton@montgomerycollege.edu for information on how to apply. You can also register in MC Learns to attend an upcoming information session on September 23 or October 20, 2:00-3:30 pm.

ADOPT LIBRARY E-BOOKS FOR Z-COURSES

The Library is excited to support MC Open and the College's efforts at expanding Z-course offerings through its new service tool Faculty Select. **Faculty Select** assists faculty in their efforts to offer free access to textbooks in their Blackboard courses and to support equity of access and college affordability for students. Faculty Select is an online self-service platform that MC faculty can use to locate and adopt high quality, no cost e-books for their courses. Students in classes where faculty have used Faculty Select and worked with MC librarians to adopt a library owned e-textbook will have access to their course textbook through their online class site in Blackboard, completely free of charge and with no barriers to access.

Faculty Select combines three types of resources: e-books the MC Library already owns that may be suitable for use as e-textbooks, e-books the MC Library can license upon request by faculty members, and Open Educational Resources (OERs) from a variety of high-quality repositories. OERs are freely available, openly licensed materials that may be adopted as alternatives to traditional textbooks that students are required to purchase for the course. Faculty can search the Faculty Select platform to identify an appropriate title(s) and adopt that title(s) for use in their classes with just a few clicks.

The adoption of free course materials in higher education can represent a significant savings to students who use library-provided or open access course materials instead of having to take on the significant cost of purchasing the texts themselves. During AY21, the library purchased both electronic versions of print textbooks used in courses during remote learning and worked with faculty across the College to identify alternative library licensed e-books for adoption in their courses. All told, over 200 library licensed e-books were available for use by students for free in 169 courses. These e-books were used over 19,000 times by students enrolled in these courses.

Working with the library to identify alternative library licensed e-books suitable for adoption in your course, makes it easier for students from all economic backgrounds and financial situations to afford and access a quality education for a reasonable price. MC Library is proud to support these efforts at Montgomery College.

For more information on Faculty Select and to learn how the library may assist you, please see the Adopt E-Textbooks for Z-Courses webpage.
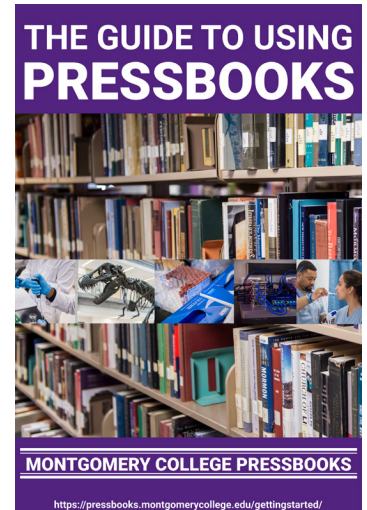
MC LAUNCHES PRESSBOOKS ACCOUNT

Montgomery College now has an institution-wide Pressbooks account that allows faculty to create their own Open Educational Resources (OER) and further engage students in the teaching and learning process.

Pressbooks is an accessible, open-source platform that allows for the easy creation, writing and publishing of books, and formatting them into different readable formats (PDF, ePUB & Web version). With Pressbook-sEDU, faculty can adapt, revise, and append to openly licensed textbooks, courseware, and academic content, all within the Blackboard course management system.

The Pressbooks Directory features almost 2,700 books across more than 100 networks. MC faculty can clone, revise, remix, and redistribute all the openly license content in the directory. In addition, faculty can create content available through the Montgomery College Pressbooks Directory. Math Professor Ram Subedi has created a book title Statistics Calculators.

According to the book information, "There are many calculators freely available online that can more than fulfill the computational requirements of a typical introductory statistics course. We take a look at several online calculators as well as the good old Ti 83/84+ ones for computational aid in introductory statistics courses."

For more information about Pressbooks, go to https://pressbooks.montgomerycollege.edu/

MC ENTERS INTO AGREEMENT TO HELP BUILD COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN PAKISTAN

Montgomery College has entered into an agreement, under guidance from the United States Department of State, with an organization interested in building community colleges in the Pakistan province of Punjab.

The Punjab Higher Education Commission, in collaboration with the Higher Education Department for the government of Punjab, has launched a Community Colleges Pilot Program on the model of community colleges of advanced countries geared towards creating well trained workers.

The Smart Technical Education Program (STEP) aims at providing and supporting interventions that could help community colleges develop a better learning experience for students, help create job opportunities for them, build capacity of faculty and administrators, and integrate international best practices.

STEP will foster an innovative and sustainable model, accounting for all the limitations and constraints within the public education system in Pakistan. STEP will collaborate with Montgomery College to bring the United States community college experience to Pakistan. Funding for this project is provided to National Examination and Evaluation Foundation by the U.S. Department of State.

The project will include virtual leadership workshops for 225 Community Colleges to be attended by

principals and vice principals of colleges alongside PHEC and HED officials, virtual entrepreneurship workshops to be attended by career counsellors and senior faculty members, a 100-lecture series by faculty and administrators associated with Montgomery College, and a compressive report on Curriculum Development for Community Colleges.

UNIVERSAL DESIGN CENTER LAUNCHED AT MC

This Fall, Montgomery College launched its highly anticipated Universal Design Center (UDC). The UDC is designed to support the College community by removing barriers and promoting inclusion in our working and learning environments. Resources on the UDC's website include accessibility information and communication technology (ICT), inclusive physical environments, social justice, and cultural competence.

"We are so excited to officially launch the Universal Design Center," said Christopher Moy, Director of ADA & Title IX Compliance with the Office of Compliance, Risk, and Ethics. "It is our mission to not only remove the barriers in our working and learning environment, but build an awareness of the importance of intentional design in all that we do to create an inclusive environment where everyone can be successful."

With a focus on inclusive environments, universal design, universal design for learning, and accessibility, the UDC's networked approach will establish or reinforce policies and processes necessary to minimize risk for the College. Through the coordination of a comprehensive system of supports (professional development, job-embedded coaching, action research, and web-based resources), tools will be made available in support of MC's vision and mission.

Visit the UDC website to learn more and how to get involved, or contact Stacy Ford, Coordinator of the UDC, at stacy.ford@montgomerycollege.edu.

How do I get involved?
- Interested in getting involved but do not know where to start? Complete the online UDC interest form to talk to someone about an area that interests you.
- Join a book circle–identify which circle interests you by completing the UDC online book circle form.

THIRD PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Dr. DeRionne Pollard led the third cohort of the Presidential Innovation Leadership Institute (PILI) October 2020-May 2021. The purpose of PILI is to give MC staff, faculty, and administrators the chance to participate as a cohort to enhance and advance their level of leadership.

Twelve participants graduated from the program that explored topics such as strategic planning, advocacy, fostering innovation, agility and transformation, and the role of government in higher education.

As part of the cohort, participants experienced a group reading of Brené Brown's *Dare to Lead* and

developed and presented innovative ideas and potential initiatives for the College. PILI is a collaboration between the Office of the President and ELITE.

The 2020-2021 PILI cohort members. From left to right starting from top row: Tracey Smith-Bryant, Christine Crefton, Ali Fadl, Christopher Moy, Kimberly Jones, Rebecca Thomas, Joseph Marshall, Shinta Hernandez, Clevette Ridguard, Elizabeth Benton, Milton Nash, DeRionne Pollard, Jamie Karn, and Fizie Haleem.

DR. BUDDY MUSE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Dr. Buddy Muse, ELITE Program Manager, has announced he will be retiring from Montgomery College after 23 years of service effective mid-October.

Dr. Muse began working at Montgomery College in 1998 as the Distance Learning Director. Over the years he has provided support for students, faculty, administrators, and staff through a variety of initiatives. Most recent projects include working with faculty to get courses reviewed by Quality Matters, helping lead the College's OER efforts, and overseeing the ELITE newsletter every semester.

He was president of the Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA) (2000-2002), president of College of the Air (2004-2006), chair of the Maryland Online Distance Learning Initiatives Committee (2007-2009), and treasurer of MDLA (2011-2015). Dr. Muse was named MDLA Administrator of the Year in 2011 and was the first recipient of the Barbara Zirkin Award in 2021, presented by MDLA and MOL. He taught online courses in Information Systems at UMUC for five years, and online/hybrid courses for the Educational Technology department in the Graduate School of Loyola University for 10 years.

Contact Us

Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence
900 Hungerford Drive, Mannakee Building (MK), Suite 342
Rockville, MD 20850

askelite@montgomerycollege.edu | 240-567-6000
https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/elite