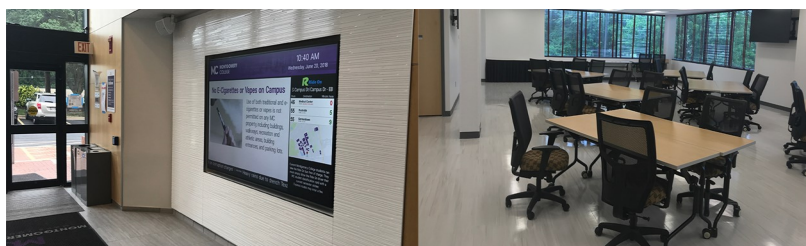


Center for Training Excellence: Renovated Space for Teaching and Learning



Montgomery College's Center for Training Excellence is up and running!

The newly renovated space on the first floor of the Mannakee Building boasts 12 classrooms and one computer lab, all equipped with smart work stations and white boards.

According to George Payne, Vice President and Provost for Applied Technologies, the Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, and Workforce Development & Continuing Education, the new training space will meet several training needs using a [shared service model](#) and will serve multiple audiences including students, faculty, staff, and community partners. The Center will host the following types of courses:

- [Open enrollment courses](#) offered through WD&CE
- ELITE professional development training courses
- Contracted and customized training courses with outside partners

The Center will feature courses in [business processes, safety, and information technology](#), as well as other professional development training. The Center's location enables the College to consolidate courses previously held at multiple locations into one convenient space. In addition, the Center's presence will raise the visibility of MC's courses and services, potentially expanding partnerships with local partners and fostering greater collaboration with Montgomery County governmental agencies.

Scheduling for space in the Center will be handled by [Mary Philbin](#), ELITE's Administrative Support Coordinator.

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FY19 Cohort Professional Development Programs: Registration Deadlines

MC Management - August 30
 26th Leadership Development Institute - September 13
 Dialogue Circles: Speaking Truth to Power - September 14
 Tapestry Institute for Cultural Competence - September 28
 Dialogue Circle: Migration, Immigration, Globalization - May 10

Cohort programs foster relationships, increased retention and development of stronger skills. Visit MC Learns - cohort programs to review class descriptions for each cohort and to obtain the registration form. Contact Laura White or Cynthia Mauris about your training and development goals.

MDLA Information

Gloria Barron, Instructional Designer at ELITE, has been elected Vice President-Programs at the Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA). Gloria's term ends in 2020. Congratulations to Gloria!

Wired Wednesday

MDLA sponsors a professional development series called "Wired Wednesdays". The webinars alternate between technological and pedagogical topics for online faculty.

A [Wired Wednesday Webinar](#) is offered most months. Wired Wednesday's Webinars are FREE for MC faculty and staff (those with a Montgomery College email address) and you can participate from your computer at work or home.

MDLA is always looking for interesting topics. If you would like to submit a proposal to facilitate a Wired Wednesday webinar, please contact the MDLA VP for Programs. An honorarium is paid to presenters.

Fall 2018 Conference

[MDLA Fall Event](#) - Tuesday, November 13th at Anne Arundel Community College, Arundel Mills Campus.

You do not want to miss this popular conference featuring keynote speaker and breakout session, exhibitors, quality presentations, and a networking breakfast!

Summer 2018 Instructional Professional Development: Faculty Discussing Teaching Techniques for Meaningful Learning

In 1985, Saturday Night Live's Father Guido Sarducci introduced his idea for a Five-Minute University. What the comedian Don Novello illustrated with his skit was how much of the content taught in college merely reaches students' short-term memory, long enough for the test but soon to be forgotten after the course ends. Unfortunately, more than thirty years later, his ridiculed student learning outcomes still ring true for many learners.

During the Summer I term, ELITE offered a 3-workshop series on collaborative and active learning techniques. Many studies have shown that using collaborative and active learning activities in the college classroom, in addition or even instead of lecturing, will prevent the humorous, exaggerated, and yet painfully recognizable situation Father Sarducci mocks.

Seven faculty members participated in the Collaborative and Active Learning Techniques workshop series. They represented the English, ELAP, Biology, Accounting, Criminal Justice, Nursing, and the Health Sciences disciplines. In our weekly sessions, we discussed the importance of combining collaborative and active learning techniques (CoAlts) with the common practice of lecturing. We explored and discussed various techniques and deliberated their implementation in the courses the participants teach.

In the Collaborative and Active Learning Techniques workshop series, we analyzed techniques for discussion, reciprocal teaching, and problem solving. Some examples of classroom activities we studied were Think-Pair-Share, Round Robin, Buzz Groups, Talking Chips, Note-Taking Pairs, Fishbowl, and Jigsaw. Through these individual, pair, and group classroom activities, the faculty member guides the students in making connections between new knowledge and their existing knowledge structures.

Cognitive research has shown that these learner-generated connections are essential for knowledge retention. Establishing connections to existing knowledge makes newly offered knowledge meaningful to each individual student. This is key because only with meaningful engagement with new content will the newly learned knowledge move from students' short-term memory into long-term memory. In other words, only if we teach by guiding students to make connections to knowledge they already have, will students retain new content longer than just for the test.

The ELITE facilitator guided the faculty participants in discussing how these techniques could be used, and she modelled classroom scenarios with participants role-playing as students. In the workshops and in between the weekly sessions, the participants initiated lesson planning to include the newly learned CoAlts. They intend to implement some of these techniques in their Fall 2018 courses.

Father Sarducci will always be funny. However, let us, college professors, enhance our teaching in such a way that his message will be one of the past. A teaching practice with collaborative and active learning techniques, guiding our students to actively participate in their own learning, holds the key to student success at MC.

New Blackboard Theme

After May's upgrade, Blackboard experienced speed and display issues due to incompatibility issues with the current Blackboard Theme, both the system-wide theme and course themes. The theme controls how a page look, how it's laid out, colors, etc.

In order to resolve these issues we transitioned to the latest theme in June. The new theme looks and behaves a lot like the current default theme. However, at this time the only course theme available is the default theme. This was a choice made by Blackboard and is designed to enhance compatibility and uniformity of look with mobile devices.

Learning Pathways Available through MC Learns

The FY19 Learning Pathways are currently scheduled on MC Learns:

- Communication and Conflict
- Change Management: The People Side
- Customer Service
- Equity and Inclusion
- Effective Committees

A new pathway, The Valuable Employee, is completely online, allowing participants to complete 10 classes in a 24/7 environment.

Learning Pathway classes may be completed individually but if the entire set of classes is completed, a certificate of learning will be presented in June 2019. All MC employees are eligible to attend.

Please note that planning for FY20 may change some of the pathway classes so if you are pursuing a certificate currently, please try to do so this year.

Blackboard Year-in-Review

Kudos to all the students, faculty, and staff who made the 2017 - 2018 academic year a huge Blackboard success. There were about 22 million accesses of course content, which showed students were engaged with the instructional material.

Highlights:

- Distance Users: 24,356 (Fall 2017), 22,488 (Spring 2017)
- Course Accesses: 2.45 million (Fall 2017), 2.22 million (Spring 2017)
- Average minutes/user: 700 (Spring 2018)
- Average interactions/user: 266 (Fall 2017)
- Total logins each semester: 2 million
- Total # of mobile accesses: 50,383

Quality Matters

Certified Courses

Quality Matters (QM) © continues to be a cornerstone for the design of online courses at MC.

Montgomery College is active with QM as there are over 132 faculty/staff with MyQM accounts. Furthermore, there are 402 training records for MC faculty and staff.

Montgomery College also has 13 peer reviewers, 3 master reviewers, 67 courses submitted for review, and reviewers/Master Reviewers who have served on 150 course reviews (MC faculty who have reviewed external courses for QM).

Overall, 30 MC individuals have held a "role" in QM since 2008. (A role is a certification to do something distinct with QM, such as be a Peer Reviewer).

Training

Applying the QM Rubric (APPQMR)
December 20, 2018
9:00 am - 4:15 pm
Rockville, TBD

QM Reviews

In addition to training online faculty about quality online course design, Montgomery College, through ELITE, is looking for faculty members who want to have their online courses reviewed in an official QM review.

ELITE provides considerable pre-review support which includes training and an informal pre-review of the course before the official review takes place.

If you are interested in having your course reviewed by an external team of qualified QM reviewers, please contact Buddy Muse at 240.567.6005.

Nik Sushka - Staff Spotlight



In this edition of the ELITE Newsletter we are delighted to “spotlight” a staff member, Nik Sushka, Service-Learning Coordinator of Student Life at Montgomery College, and see what she can tell us about how she works with students to complement their studies with programs that add value to their college experience.

Nik first served at Montgomery College from 2009 to 2010, then returned in 2012. In her time at MC, she has coordinated service-learning, civic engagement, and student leadership programs, from Alternative Breaks to MC LEADS. Currently, she works to connect faculty, community organizations, and students

in academic courses and co-curricular programs on the Rockville campus. She also coordinates the collegewide student leadership program, Impact MC.

At its core, Student Life offers intentional learning opportunities that help students grow as individuals, develop as leaders, and engage their communities in positive social change. From student clubs to special events, student government to service-learning, Student Life supports the student success mission of Student Affairs and Montgomery College by helping students get connected and build community, while also deeply enhancing the classroom experience. Student Life wants students to not just learn about leadership and social change, but to put it into practice. This helps them succeed not just at MC, but in their future academic and professional endeavors as well.

Service-learning has been an international movement in education to connect student learning with community needs since the early 1980s. While service-learning goes by many names, service-learning aims to meet critical aims of higher education: rigorous and effective instruction, civic preparedness, career readiness, and strong community relations. Several studies have shown that service-learning is a high-impact practice linked to increased retention rates, higher GPAs, faster completion times, successful transfer, and higher post-graduation hiring rates. For so many students, being able to apply classroom learning in a real-world setting helps them confirm their major and career choices, begin acquiring employable skills now, and grow in personal responsibility and confidence.

Nik always has ambitious goals for herself and our students. This year, she's aiming to connect more students to meaningful opportunities that weave together their academic learning, career ambitions, and personal values than ever before. She's collaborating with colleagues in Academic & Student Affairs, Community Engagement, and Workforce Development & Continuing Education on programs surrounding the upcoming midterm elections. One major initiative in that effort is Party to the Polls events on all three campuses that will celebrate democracy in action during Montgomery County's Early Voting Days. Student Life is also headed into year three of Impact MC, a collegewide leadership program that helps students practice various approaches to social change. Lastly, she and her colleague, Dr. Vitaliti, will be implementing their Innovation Grant-funded program, Career Pathways in Service, a series of service-learning days that will help students explore careers options in important industries that have social impact.

She's happiest when she's in the middle of a new adventure, whether that's personal or professional. She also loves a weekend in a new place, an afternoon outdoors, or a friendly poker night with friends. And she's recently celebrated her son's 1st birthday, so of course every day being a new parent is an adventure.

Office of E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence

The ELITE team is committed to providing excellence and leadership to the diverse MC community in the areas of instructional professional development, learning technology support and college-wide academic initiatives. We hold ourselves accountable to seek and provide practical, innovative solutions to enhance the learning experience of faculty, staff and students.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Phone

E-Learning
240.567.6000
Teaching Excellence
240-567-2000

Support

ELITE instructional designers/ support staff are here to provide support for faculty and staff at Montgomery College. Each campus has an onsite support staff person to assist faculty and staff members.

Montgomery College's Online Learning Earns National Ranking

Montgomery College is ranked one of the top community colleges in the nation for online learning in 2018 according to BestColleges.com.



New Blackboard 9.1 Features

There are new features available for faculty in Blackboard 9.1. Some of these new features include assignments improvement, grade center improvement, and discussion improvement.

View the [Blackboard 9.1 Document](#) to read up on all of the new features.

Open Educational Resources (OERs)

Montgomery College, with the help of ELITE, is committed to a program of informing, orienting, and training faculty and staff regarding Open Educational Resources (OERs).

An OER is a learning material that, for the most part, is free to use by others and that has usage rights displayed that tell the user how he or she can use the information in their classes.

There are many facets to using OERs – locating, evaluating, citing, developing, placement, etc. A formal OER is registered with the Creative Commons organization that recognizes and displays the level of “openness” that learning objects are associated with.

To learn more about OERs check out the MC Open page at: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mc-open>

Departments are encouraged to contact Dr. Buddy Muse at ELITE if they would like an overview on OERs presented to their department.

Z Courses and Z Degrees

In addition to formal OERs, which carry a Creative Commons license, there is another format of “openness” that is becoming very popular at Montgomery College – “Z courses”.

MC defines a Z course as that in which there is no charge to students for instructional materials. The instructor has either replaced a commercial textbook with an Open Text, has dropped the former text and is now using a collection of “open” resources, is building a course with their own free materials, or any combination of these.

Z degrees are targeted degrees where all of the required courses are Z courses. Currently, MC is working to complete Z degrees in General Studies, Business, Criminal Justice, Communications, and Education. For more on Z courses or Z degrees please contact Dr. Buddy Muse.

Have you considered an Open textbook for your course?

Visit the [MC Open Website](#) for more information.

Faculty Spotlight: Professor Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez



In this edition of the ELITE Newsletter faculty spotlight, we hear from Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez, Professor of Education at Montgomery College and see what she can tell us about her teaching, her students, and some things about her extra-curricular activities, both on-campus and off-campus.

Professor Pruneda-Hernandez is a military spouse and because of that, her family had to transfer duty stations every three to four years. This meant that it was not possible for her to complete a degree without an online program. She was very interested in teaching and developing online because she knew from personal experience that it is the only way for some students to complete

degrees.

One of the obstacles that she noted was feeling a lack of connection or building relationships with students. One of the changes she made was to pilot the online GoTo Meetings once a week during evening hours for her online classes. This really helped her to connect with students and for them to receive answers immediately to any questions that they had.

One of the tips she wants to share is to find creative solutions to problems that may arise. The GoTo Meetings were started due to students having difficulties with Blackboard Collaborate. In addition, early childhood classes require observations from instructors and that has been resolved with real time videos and students creating videos of themselves teaching. This has been an ongoing effort for about eight years. The biggest challenge was having faculty 'buy in' and having faculty believe that online courses can be and are high quality. This was overcome with collaborating with Dr. Glenda Hernandez Baca who is a Quality Matters Peer Reviewer and who is now reviewing our online/OER courses that were developed.

This semester, the Early Childhood Education Program will be applying for the status of fully online program. All courses are already online with only one class that needs revisions due to updates for Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care requirements. Specifically for child care providers, online courses offers them opportunities that they would not have otherwise. Child care providers work from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. with very few days off in the year. The online courses have provided many students an opportunity to return and complete degrees after having stopped attending due to scheduling. It is important to understand that in the Education program, the online courses fill first. In the spring, the department added a second section of the online Introduction to Early Childhood Education class.

Professor Pruneda-Hernandez has found that early childhood students may at first be fearful of online classes. They have a fear of not understanding how to navigate Blackboard. She now holds face-to-face and GoTo Meeting sessions of Navigating Blackboard for Child Care Providers. Students have the opportunity to go into Blackboard during a session and learn how to find modules and course material, quizzes, reply to discussions, and contact the instructor.

She is currently part of a group of early childhood faculty throughout the United States that is working collaboratively to improve early childhood online courses and OERs. They believe that online classes will provide an opportunity for people in the field that might not otherwise have an opportunity to attend college. They also meet once a month to share ideas, challenges, and ways to improve early childhood online and OER classes.

Dr. Glenda Hernandez Baca and Dr. Buddy Muse Awarded an Innovation Grant from MC Foundation

Dr. Glenda Hernandez Baca from the Education Department at Rockville and Dr. Buddy Muse from ELITE were awarded an Innovation Grant from the MC Foundation to design and deliver courses using an expanded online/blended learning concept.

The proposal that is being funded is entitled "Ultimate Flexibility and Access with HyFlex Courses." Delivery of the first course using this format, taught by Dr. Hernandez Baca, is scheduled for Fall 2018.

Conferences

Here is a list of some conferences that may be of interest to you this fall:

October 6th, Maryland Consortium of Adjunct Faculty Development (MCAPD), Carroll Community College, Westminster, MD.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018MCAPDRegistration>

October 10 - 12th, Open Ed 18, Niagara Falls, NY.
<https://openedconference.org/2018>

ELITE Executive Summary FY18, 4th Quarter

In FY 2018's 4th Quarter (April 1, 2018 – June 30, 2018), ELITE offered 108 workshops with a total attendance of 373 faculty, staff, and administrators. Of these 108 workshops, 52 were face-to-face and 56 were offered online. During the 4th Quarter, 41 of the workshops offered were Blackboard related. This includes both online and face-to-face. These workshops had an attendance of 19. Academy Spring 2018 had 29 completions from four series.

Highlights

- The Love of Teaching Conference
- Blackboard workshops
- Lifelong Learning and Professional Development with Lynda.com
- Academy for Teaching Transformation

Collaborations with:

- GT VPP - Advising workshop for STEM faculty = 50 attendees
- Library - Copyright and Creative Commons workshops = 14; Eye on the Cinema: Use Streaming Videos to Engage Students = 20
- GHI - Bringing Home El Salvador = 21
- PPHI - Explore Teaching with Digital Storytelling/Smithsonian Learning Lab = 38
- MCRPA - Annual Retreat = 29
- Mental Health Services – Mental Health First Aid/Training = 24
- PT Faculty - The Love of Teaching Conference = 39

View the complete [ELITE/CPOD 2018 Year in Review](#).

Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources (CCCOER) Fall 2018 Webinar Series

All webinars take place on Wednesdays at 11 am PT/ 2pm ET. More information about the speakers will be posted a couple of weeks prior to each webinar.

This series is free and open to everyone. CCCOER encourages participants to invite colleagues to attend or watch together and continue the discussion afterward.

- September 19th, Collaborative Platforms for Open Content Development
- October 17th, Different Approaches to Sustaining Open Education
- November 14th, Transforming Learning with Open Educational Practices and Pedagogy
- December 5th, The Impact of OER Adoption on Cost, Outcomes, and Stakeholder Perceptions

For more detailed webinar descriptions visit [CCOER Webinar website](#).