

MCRPA Member Spotlight April 2022

Maria Moreno



**What department do you work in? What is your job title?
How long have you been at the College?**

I work in Student Affairs, specifically Raptor Central Call Center Team. I am an Enrollment & Student Access Specialist and I have been with the College for 12 years this June.

Who are some of the colleagues who have supported you at Montgomery College?

I have been blessed to have many supportive colleagues over the years; starting with my first manager at MC to all the wonderfully resourceful ladies of the Raptor Center Call Center.

I feel very fortunate to be able to work with such wonderful professionals across various departments during my time here. The level of support and flexibility has never been more evident than during the pandemic.

What is some advice you would give to new employees who just started working at the College? If you are new to the College, what has amazed you so far with working at the College?

The best piece of advice I can impart is: USE your EAP funds! It's a wonderful part of our benefits don't let it go to waste.

If you could start all over, what field would you want to enter? Or are you happy where you are today?

If I could start all over, I would study Psychiatry or Counseling to help BIPOC, the working-class poor, and underserved communities access mental health resources.

If you could start a group at MC, what would that group be about?

I would start an "I love the 90's" group. Get together for 90's trivia and 90's-themed movie nights once a month.

What attributes/characteristics do you want your colleagues and students to remember you for?

My willingness to learn and ability to adapt in any role... and remember me for being encouraging and celebrating others (students and colleagues) triumphs with enthusiasm.

What are some new activities you have started during covid that you want to recommend?

Walking for the health benefits and using Zoom/ Video chatting to connect with family/ friends we cannot see every day.

What did you miss most while working at home during covid?

The interactions with colleagues on campus. It's a treat to catch up in person as opposed to behind a screen.

What movies/series are you currently or have watched and think people should watch?

I really liked 'Turning Red' on Disney+ it reminded me of my adolescence. I enjoyed all the 90s and early oughts nostalgia.

I also highly recommend the series: The Equalizer starring Queen Latifah on CBS the second season is even better than the first. The show touches on many social Justice issues in a smart and intriguing manner.

You are given \$10 million and a private island to live forever, but you can't bring anyone with you. Would you take the money and go?

I would not take the money if I had to live alone on an island... Personally, that is not my idea of paradise! First, I am a person who needs her pack, so not seeing my family and loved ones is not worth any amount of money. That kind of money is meaningless if you don't have anyone to spend and enjoy it with. Money can always be earned... But Family, and more importantly love is irreplaceable.