

MCRPA Member Spotlight
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Ramon De La Cruz



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

Department of Facilities, Central Services Building Coordinator and have been at the college since 2010.

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

This list is too long as I tried to write it. In the interest of brevity Dr. John Hamman and Sheila Perkins helped me grow as a student, Dr. Janet Wormack and Krista Leitch Walker helped me grow as an employee. I've been supported by Carmen Poston Farmer, Stacey D. Miller, Michele Sommer, Michele Pagan, Vanessa Zambrano, Gina Marrazza, Kimberly Jones,

Kimberly Bloch-Rincan, and our new SVP of AFS Sherwin Collette.

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

Elect to have a volunteer mentor. Lead from where you are. Be brave and share yourself. Whatever your passion, the college has a way for you to share it with our students. Keep the students first, no matter what you do and give them the best of you. Maximize your benefit utilization. ELITE for internal and EAP for external Professional Development, Wellness time and Telework. MC Governance for representation. Build genuine relationships with your MC Family. There are great humans who work here with us.

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

While I'm happy where I am today, I would have liked to support students directly (not as a volunteer) in the Music, Theatre and Business programs. I'd love to be part of the Raptor Tank as well.

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

I am thinking of an entrepreneurs club or book writing club, as that is what most employees ask me about.

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

I'd want my colleagues to remember me for my dedication to the college community as a whole, for being a willing volunteer for student support, for my music performances with the MC World Ensemble, or maybe as the lead actor in our theatre productions for the Last Days of Judas Iscariot or Eliot: A Soldier's Fugue. I'd like to be remembered as the student who became President one day!

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

After much research and procrastination, I began investing in cryptocurrency and am holding it through the loss. Investing is best done with a long term strategy. At least I don't have more hair to lose LOL Eating and growing superfoods and greens for smoothies. Sustainable food production starts at home so I inside I start the seedlings to grow cilantro, tomatoes, parsley, and spinach and then move them outside when they are ready. I have blueberries, raspberries, blackberries and a dwarf apple tree now. As a father I needed to be able to provide these if and when it became necessary. As an Eagle Scout our motto is to be prepared and the pandemic taught me that I had work to do in that area. Work I can now say I have completed successfully.

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

I miss being able to be in school to support my sons. I think they did better and learned more at home than they could at school, they disagree understandably. I think the pandemic year combined with our parental attention focus helped them build better habits and discipline which translates into their excellent performance this return you.

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

While I'm usually watching to learn from a performance, I have found Community. I just picked up this show to binge (I know I'm late 😊) Community is funny and gives a good perspective on what people think of community college while actually improving the brand. The comedic timing is masterful and the cast is space because there are so

many stars. A diverse cast that dives into culture and race while still maintaining their humanity.

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 love this question. I can go to the island to “live” and restore myself from time to time. I can invest 2 million and live off the interest. 2 million for affordable housing real estate in urban areas to meet the need, generate rental income and have places to stay when I travel often. 2 million to my business for hiring, expansion, promotion and savings. The remaining 4 million goes into my Foundation to support safe schools, sustainable living in urban communities (rooftop gardens, living greens paces and agriculture), metaverse research, development for inventions and patents and setup new community college student scholarships..