

DR.
JA'BETTE
LOZUPONE

Director of
Student Affairs

A Journey to Leadership
and Entrepreneurship

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Photo Credit @ Generation Hope

Dr. Ja'Bette Lozupone has worked as both an Academic Affairs and Student Affairs administrator. She began her career in higher education at Montgomery College in 2006. Dr. Lozupone has created and fostered student-centered programming for the Macklin Business Institute, K to College, was the founding director for the Achieving the Promise Academy, and in 2019, she was charged with leading student-parent work at Montgomery College.

In her current role as Director of Student Affairs, she has reaffirmed the College's commitment to becoming a more family-friendly institution. Student-parents are a vibrant part of the MC community—representing anywhere between 15-20% of the total student and credit student body, respectively. Through the launch of the Ascend Parent Initiative (API) in October 2020, in partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute and the College's acceptance into the Inaugural Generation Hope FamilyU Technical Assistance Cohort in August 2021, MC is steadily making progress to achieve its goal of becoming more family-friendly for students, faculty, and staff.

Dr. Lozupone was recognized for her student-parent work as a [2023 Emerging Scholar by Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#) and shared her own journey as teen parent in college when she delivered a [TEDx talk](#) in 2022. She is also the recipient of the [Manuel A. Casiano Outstanding Dissertation Award for her dissertation: Whom Do We Entrust to Care for Our Students – Organizational Fit to Foster an Ethical Culture of Employee and Student Success](#), and a 40 Under 40 Award from the American

Association of Women in Community Colleges.

Alongside her official duties, she has also led and developed employee-centered programming like serving as the founding president of the Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association, and she continues to serve the Montgomery County community as a mentor and board member of local organizations benefiting at-promise youth from underrepresented populations. She has served as a board member and officer of Future Link, and most recently, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington in Montgomery County.

She regularly provides mentorship for women and girls through programs like the American Association of University Women's Goals for Girls and remains committed to empowering her community through civic organizations as a member-at-large on committees such as the Latin American Advisory Group to the County Executive and the Germantown Alliance. In 2021, Dr. Lozupone founded a consulting business, [Wishful Doing](#), to help individuals and organizations build capacity.

Dr. Lozupone earned her doctorate in organizational leadership, with a concentration in education leadership, from Hood College. She also holds a bachelor's degree in communications and Hispanic American philology, as well as an MBA with concentrations in marketing and finance from Hood College. She is also a Montgomery College alumna.



Photo Credit @ Hood College



A Closer Look at MC's Student-Parent Work

The College's focus on student-parents began in 2017 when the Single Parent Conference was launched—recently rebranded in 2023 as the Family Empowerment Resource Fair. The conference has since become an anticipated annual event that connects parents with various resources at MC, Montgomery County, and the state of Maryland. The annual conference served as the catalyst for the College's sustained efforts to improve outcomes for student-parents at MC. As a result, Dr. Lozupone established the API taskforce, and most recently, the Student Parent Advisory Group, which builds upon the College's recognition of the contributions and value of student-parents on our campuses.

Montgomery College has made significant strides to become a more family-friendly institution, including the following:

- Established a growing collegewide Student-Parent Alliance group for student parents
- Developed an online resource center for [student parents](#) and the MC community
- Administered preliminary student-parent identification and data collection surveys
- Installed highchairs in cafeterias, expectant mother and parent parking spaces, and 58 additional diaper changing stations in male, female, and family restrooms across all campuses
- Secured a \$1M estate gift for single parent scholarships

- Held various collegewide events that showcase student parents and their experiences

The College's efforts to improve supports and outcomes for student parents have resulted in the College being named a FamilyU Seal recipient for 2023-2026 by [Generation Hope](#). As one of 13 higher education institutions chosen from a competitive field, MC was also selected as the group's Exemplar institution. This designation means that MC will receive \$25,000 to continue advancing student parent work.

The College strives to systematically identify student parents at MC, center and amplify their voices, and ensure that student parents can easily connect with each other and resources to increase their enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. In addition, the College is committed to a two-generation approach to policies and practices that create opportunities for addressing the needs of both student parents and their children in a family-friendly environment. Ultimately, MC endeavors to be a national leader in confirming parenting status and assessing barriers to completion, creating family-friendly campuses, providing financial supports responsive to parents, and creating networks for parents to eliminate social stigma. Visit the [student-parent website](#) to learn more.

