

# MCRPA DIGEST

April 2025

## From Cloud Forests to Coffee Tastings: A Costa Rica Travel Diary

10th Annual MCRPA Retreat

Why Conference Presentation and Participation Matter

Staff Enrichment Day 2025

Worlds of Work and MC Experience



# Cultivating Community

Building Connections  
Across Differences

**EQUITY WEEK**

**2025**

April 7-13, 2025

Equity Week at Montgomery College in Maryland, is an annual event that focuses on fostering an inclusive and equitable environment by engaging the campus community in meaningful discussions on inclusion, diversity, equity, access, antiracism, leadership, social justice (IDEAALS), and a sense of belonging.

Through keynote speakers, participatory dialogues, training sessions, and other events, Equity Week emphasizes the importance of building a campus culture that values our IDEAALS and works to cultivate a sense of belonging and mattering for all. This week-long series of activities connects personal and professional development with the college's broader mission of advancing equity and social justice.

## Featured Presenters



**Dr. Isis  
Artze-Vega**  
Provost/VP for  
Academic  
Affairs, Valencia  
College



**Eric K.  
Ward**  
Civil Rights  
Leader and  
Racial Justice  
Advocate



**Sarah  
Federman**  
Author, Educator,  
and Conflict  
Resolution  
Practitioner



**Jason  
Green**  
Attorney,  
Advocate,  
and Tech  
Executive



**Dr. Alex  
Jun**  
Author, Educator,  
Researcher,  
and Social  
Justice Advocate



**Dr. Christine  
Clefton**  
Educational  
Resource Program  
Manager, MC

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**INCLUSION BY DESIGN SUMMIT**



# Leadership Teams



Meet the FY25 Leadership Team:

### Executive Team

Dr. Christine Crefton, President  
Dr. Paul Miller, Vice President  
Ramon Valenzuela, Secretary  
Carla Ammerman, Secretary

### Professional Development

Michele Kight, Chair  
Kimberly Bloch-Rican, Co-Chair  
Anna Donohoe, Vice Chair

### Community Engagement & Events

Maria Martinez, Chair  
Nicole Land, Vice Chair (not pictured)

### Membership, Marketing, & Communications

John Amoroso, Chair  
Nghien Nguyen, Vice Chair



For more information,  
visit or scan:

[montgomerycollege.edu/  
equity-and-inclusion](https://montgomerycollege.edu/equity-and-inclusion)

Please contact any of us if you want to join a committee or get more involved. Committees meet monthly via Zoom, and you can come to see what is going on, lend a hand, listen, and be a part of something pretty awesome!



# Event Highlights

These events are planned for the spring semesters. We will send out additional information as it becomes available.

- Mobile Market Volunteer
- First Faculty Friday's HyFlex Demo at ignITe Hub Friday, April 4
- Equity Week, April 8
- Blood Drive, TPSS, April 9
- Inclusion by Design Summit Friday, April 11
- National Poetry Month, April 29, 2:00-3:00 p.m., Zoom
- Five Weeks of Fun, April-May
- 10th Annual MCRPA Retreat (Music, Food, Travel), May 29

**Community Engagement & Events (CEE) Committee Meeting** | Second Tuesday of the month, 11:00 a.m-12:00 p.m., Zoom

**Membership, Marketing, & Communication (MMC) Committee Meeting** | First Wednesday of the month, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Zoom

**Professional Development Committee Meetings** | First Thursday of the month, 2:00-2:45 p.m., Zoom

\*Monthly committee meetings are open to all MCRPA members. Contact the committee chair and vice chair for Zoom link.

## In this issue...

5

President's Corner

7

Get Ready for the 10th Annual MCRPA Retreat!

8

Karaoke Night Hits All the Right Notes!

11

Exploring the Wonders of Costa Rica: A Seven-Day Adventure, A Travel Blog

21

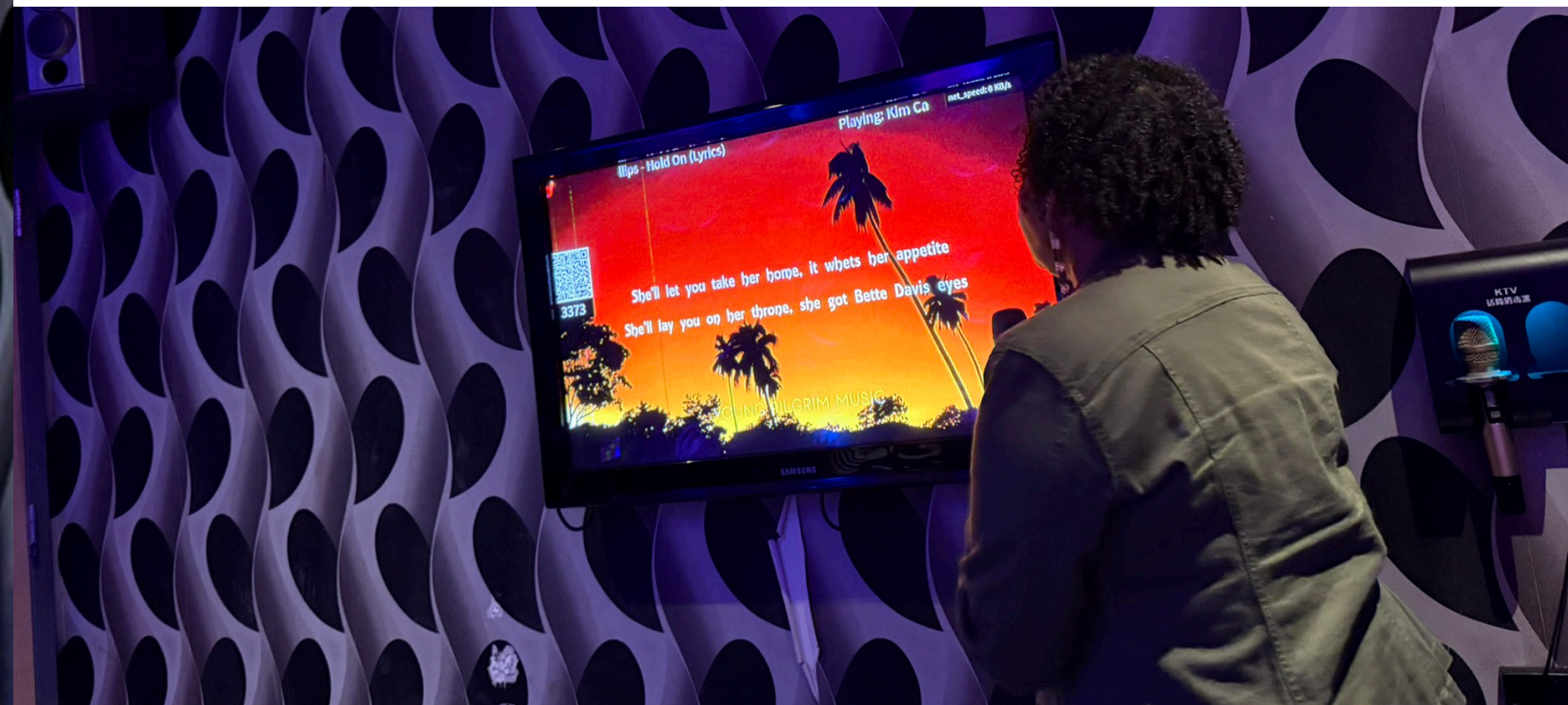
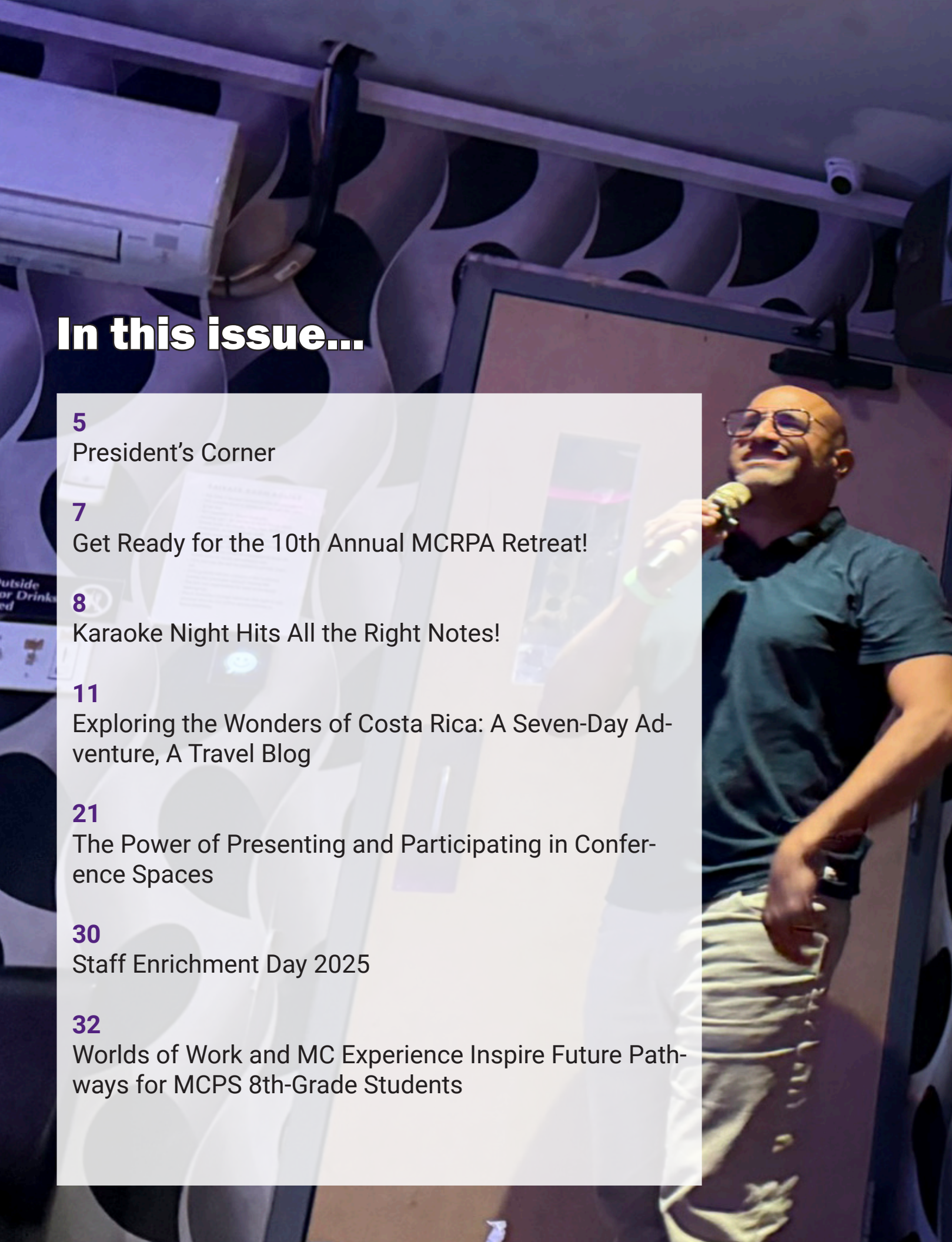
The Power of Presenting and Participating in Conference Spaces

30

Staff Enrichment Day 2025

32

Worlds of Work and MC Experience Inspire Future Pathways for MCPS 8th-Grade Students





# President's Corner: March Madness (the MCRPA Edition)



If March felt like it flew by in a blur of professional development, community engagement, and conferences—you are not alone! This month was full of incredible moments, and I'm so proud of how our MCRPA community showed up, showed out, and supported one another through it all.

We experienced an amazing Staff Enrichment Day, where colleagues from across the college gathered for learning, connection, and growth. We celebrated member Thanh King for earning the prestigious Peggy Bebee Distinguished Staff Award. We helped our communities through

Mobile Market volunteering, got moving with the Walking Movement Challenge, laughed together at the Friends of the Library Comedy Fundraiser, and even rounded things out with some bold performances at Karaoke Night. If you hit that high note—whether literally or metaphorically—congratulations!

As we head into April, we have even more to look forward to. Things get rolling on Friday, April 4, with First Faculty Friday's HyFlex Demo at igniTe Hub. Then, on Tuesday, April 8, we'll celebrate Equity Week with a full day of programming including *The Power of Intersectionality* at 10 am via Zoom, a Super Staff Tuesday Wellness offering called *Take a Break Tuesday* for mindfulness and stress relief at noon via Zoom, and the Run/Walk for Equity at 12:30 pm on the Rockville track—where participants can choose between a 3K run or 1-mile walk, win prizes, and possibly snag a free shirt.

On Wednesday, April 9, we invite you to give back at the Blood Drive at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Health Science Center Student Lounge. Schedule an appointment by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter MCTakomaPark and help make a life-saving difference.

Then, on Thursday, April 10, join the Interfaith Breakfast and Discussion at the Rockville Campus (SC 363), starting at

8:30-10:00 am. This space welcomes all—regardless of faith or belief—to engage in thoughtful dialogue around the theme of community and is facilitated by member Nik Sushka. And then participate in the Racial Healing Circle 12:00 -2:00 pm at the Rockville Campus MK building rooms 122 and 123.

The next day, Friday, April 11, brings the Inclusion by Design Summit, hosted by the Universal Design Center. This year's theme, *When Accessibility Leads, Belonging Follows*, will bring together educators, industry leaders, and accessibility advocates for a powerful day of virtual learning. The summit runs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm via Zoom and will feature best practices, innovative strategies, and hands-on workshops focused on building more inclusive, equitable learning and working environments. If you're passionate about universal design or just looking to grow your knowledge, this is a don't-miss event. And finally, we round out the month with the kickoff of our Five Weeks of Fun beginning April 28—a celebration leading us joyfully into retreat season. Expect creative pop-ups, opportunities to connect, and maybe even a few surprises.

And now, for the drumroll...

We are just about ready to unveil the plan for our 10th Annual MCRPA Retreat on May 29th! This year's theme, *Celebrating Connections through Music, Movement, Food, and Travel*, is all about highlighting what brings us joy. The retreat will feature 12 engaging sessions—four of which will be hybrid, so for the first time ever, you can join us even if you're not on campus.



Be on the lookout in mid-April for a calendar invitation with registration information. If you're attending in person, be sure to accept the calendar invite and fill out the registration form to select your sessions (and trust me, the choices are tough—you might wish you could clone yourself). If you're unable to attend in person, please kindly decline the calendar invite so we can plan accordingly. We only have 40 in-person spots, and this event is open to the entire college, so reserve yours early!

Spring is here, and it's our time to flex, bloom, and build. Thank you for your energy, your laughter, and your leadership. Whether you're attending every event or cheering us on from afar, you are what makes MCRPA the incredible community that it is.

Here's to April, to what we've built together so far—and to everything still ahead. Let's make it count.

Dr. Christine Crefton, President



# Get Ready for the 10th Annual MCRPA Retreat

Thursday, May 29, 2025 8:30-4:00 pm | MK Building, Rockville Campus + Virtual Options

We are thrilled to invite you to this year’s 10th Annual MCRPA Retreat, themed Celebrating Connections through Music, Movement, Food, and Travel. This milestone event promises an unforgettable day of learning, laughter, inspiration, and community.

This year, we’re offering 12 unique, interactive sessions—and believe us, narrowing down your picks will be the hardest part. Even better? Four of the sessions will be hybrid, making it possible for remote attendees to join in for the first time ever. Whether you’re in person or online, there’s something here for everyone.

We’re also proud to welcome an amazing keynote speaker, La’Keisha Ciprian, whose message will inspire joy and purpose. Plus, we’ll cap off the day with a Happy Hour & Themed Trivia Night at Kabuto—open to both in-person and virtual attendees. Come for the camaraderie, stay for the half-priced sushi and trivia questions tied to our retreat themes!

### Important Note About the Calendar Invite:

- A calendar invitation will be sent to all MCRPA members in mid-April. Please only accept the calendar invite if you plan to attend in person. Decline if you



- are unavailable. This helps us plan accordingly for space and food—lunch will be provided to all in-person participants.
- If you’re planning to join us remotely, you’ll still need to register for any of the four hybrid sessions you want to attend—details will be provided in the upcoming communication.
  - There are only 40 in-person spots available, so if you’re interested, register early to secure your space!

This retreat is open to all MC employees, and we can’t wait to celebrate with you—whether you’re joining from a seat in MK or a screen across the county.

Keep an eye out for the official registration message coming in mid-April, and get ready to connect, reflect, and celebrate with your MCRPA community!

# Karaoke Night Hits All the Right Notes!



What do you get when you mix great people, a mic, and a whole lot of heart? MCRPA Karaoke Night, of course! On Friday night, a spirited group of MCRPA members gathered at iRock Karaoke Lounge to sing, laugh, and cheer each other on in a night filled with music, joy, and a healthy dose of bravery.

We sang everything from classic throwbacks to pop power ballads, and yes—there were Disney classics and even a few epic numbers from Hamilton the Musical that brought the house down! Whether you were channeling your inner Angelica

or belting out a 90s anthem, the energy was electric.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the night? Two first-timers took the plunge and sang karaoke for the very first time! Watching them step up to the mic and light up the room reminded us all why these events matter: they’re about stepping outside your comfort zone, making memories, and connecting with one another.

Karaoke Night wasn’t just about the music—it was about community, camaraderie, and letting loose after a packed





month of MCRPA events. Whether you sang a solo, jumped in on a group number, or simply clapped along from the couch, your energy made the night unforgettable.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made the evening so special. And if you missed this one—don't worry. There's always a next time, and we'll be saving you a song!



# INCLUSION BY DESIGN SUMMIT



## You're Invited: Spring 2025 Inclusion by Design Summit

Friday, April 11, 2025 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Virtual

Join Montgomery College for a dynamic, full-day summit dedicated to accessibility, inclusive design, and building a culture of belonging.

This year's theme: When Accessibility Leads, Belonging Follows

Explore how accessibility lays the groundwork for equity, inclusion, and connected communities.

Whether you're faculty, staff, a student, or a community partner, this event is for you. Expect:

- Thought-provoking sessions led by national and local experts
  - Actionable tools for inclusive teaching, learning, and working
  - Opportunities to connect and collaborate with changemakers
- Let's come together to create spaces where everyone feels seen, supported, and empowered.

[Register for Sessions or Learn More.](#)

#InclusionByDesign #BelongingAtMC #AccessibilityMatters



# Exploring the Wonders of Costa Rica

## A Seven-Day Adventure, A Travel Blog

by Nghi Nguyen and Jeremi Lecuyer





During the week of March 24, Jeremi and I embarked on a seven-day adventure to Costa Rica, often referred to as “Pura Vida” for its relaxing and happy lifestyle. The country is a haven for nature lovers and adventure seekers, boasting rich biodiversity, scenic landscapes, and vibrant culture.

Our adventure started with an unexpected challenge when we arrived at Dulles Airport when we were informed that we had no flight reservation with Avianca Airlines—despite having paid through the travel agency we booked the trip with. After an hour-long call with our travel agency, we managed to secure another flight. However, this new flight required an additional six-hour wait at the airport. Though stressful, the experience only added to the adventure!

Once we arrived in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, we were grateful for a day to relax before the real adventures began. On Day 2, our tour group of 38 travelers departed for Arenal, taking in breathtaking views of coffee and sugarcane plantations along the way. A stop in Sarchi, an artisan town known for its colorful oxcarts and handcrafted souvenirs, provided a glimpse into Costa Rica’s traditional artistry. In the evening, there was an orientation meeting with the Tour Manager, followed by a delightful dinner.

Day 3 featured a boat tour down the Rio Frio, offering opportunities to learn about the local flora and fauna. That evening, some of the group members opted for a visit to the renowned EcoTermales Hot Springs for a relaxing soak, accompanied by a delicious dinner.



On Day 4, the group enjoyed a brisk two-mile hike in Arenal National Park, offering stunning views of the volcano and a deeper understanding of the region’s ecosystem. The journey then continued to Monteverde, a lush cloud forest region. That evening, some group members participated in an optional Brewery Tour to explore Monteverde’s craft beer scene, followed by dinner at the brewery. We sampled some of the beers brewed on-site while learning about the brewing process and where the brewery sources its ingredients.

The real adventures began on Day 5 when some of us took part in the Selvatura Canopy Zipline and Hanging Bridg-









es experience. The zipline tour featured 13 cables, including a 1-kilometer cable, 15 platforms, providing 2.2 miles of exhilarating fun through the cloud forest canopy. This tour included special add-ons, such as the optional Tarzan Swing, for an extra adrenaline rush. Jeremi also chose to do the Superman Zipline at the end of the 13 cables for an even more exhilarating experience. This add-on lets participants soar through the canopy while lying on their stomach, mimicking the sensation of flying.

The Hanging Bridges walk offered a peaceful 1.9-mile trail through the cloud forest, combining forest paths with eight suspension bridges ranging from 170 feet to an incredible 560 feet in length. These stunning bridges provided not only a leisure experience but also immense enjoyment and excitement for adventurers of all ages and fitness levels,



allowing them to explore the cloud forest at their own pace. During the walk, everyone had the opportunity to observe the forest canopy's wildlife. The suspension bridges offered the best vantage point to admire the beauty of the cloud forest and increased the chances of spotting endemic and iconic species that call the forest home.

In the afternoon, the whole group visited a traditional Costa Rican coffee farm, gaining insight into the country's top export and its economic impact. We wrapped

up the tour with a coffee tasting, where I finally learned the differences between light, medium, and dark roast coffee. On our way out, Jeremi picked up a few bags of authentic Costa Rican coffee. Then, the day concluded with a savory dinner in Monteverde.

The day before departing from Costa Rica, the group traveled back to San Jose and participated in a guided city tour, providing a final taste of Costa Rica's rich history and culture. A visit to the Gold Museum offered insight into the original





tribes of Costa Rica and their use of metals, particularly gold, for jewelry making. The tour wrapped up with a group dinner on the 15th floor of the Hilton Hotel, overlooking a soccer stadium.

This trip was yet another unforgettable experience for Jeremi and me. After previous adventures with the same travel agency to Dubai, Spain, and Ecuador, our passion for travel continues to grow.

We may embark on another journey this fall—perhaps somewhere in Central or South America again!



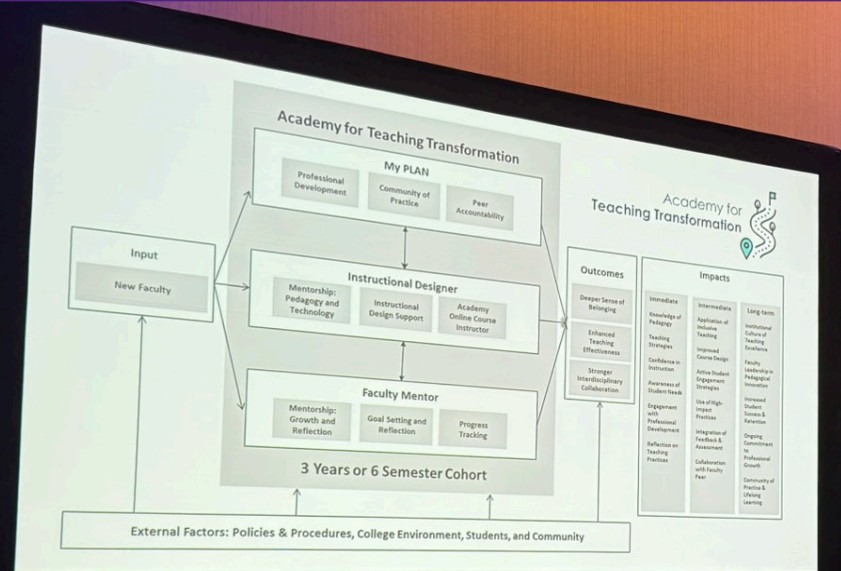
Congratulations to MCRPA member Thanh King for receiving the 2024-2025 Peggy Bebee Staff Distinguished Award at the 2025 Staff Enrichment Day!

The Staff Distinguished Service Award is a cash award established from an endowment fund left by Ms. Peggy Bebee, former special assistant for staff concerns. The award is presented yearly to a deserving staff employee as determined by their peers.





# The Power of Presenting and Participating in Conference Spaces



Center Association (MDCLCA) Conference, Dr. Elysse Meredith presented on “Accounting for Emotional Labor in Student Support.” This year, on March 21 at MDCLCA (hosted by Towson University), Dr. Meredith revisited the state of emotional labor in learning centers after one pandemic, a couple election cycles, the birth of generative AI, and countless other disruptive events.

The primary purpose of this session was to help learning center laborers create actionable steps to empathize without exhaustion, focusing on ways to reduce the cognitive load that emotional labor can cause while creating room for rest and joy. Together, the group brainstormed useful approaches, techniques, and solutions to support students while maintaining emotional boundaries, avoiding burn-out, and replenishing our own “emotional banks.”

## Frayed Edges: Lessons Learned from Ancient Arts in the Age of AI

This year, the Mid-Atlantic Writing Center Association (MAWCA) Conference, held April 5 at University of Delaware, is focusing on how writing centers are being changed by generative AI. Dr. Elysse Meredith’s session will present the history of textiles and the industrial revolution as a potential metaphor for how writing will change in the future. Similar to writing, creating textiles can be both a group and solo activity that has been professionally underfunded and degraded. By observing this community, which over centuries has dealt with radical technological disruption, writing centers can equip themselves to productively mediate between people and machines while inspiring modern writers to motivate, connect, and create belonging. As part of the session, attendees will have

It’s officially *conference season*, and with it comes an annual wave of possibility—networking, learning, presenting, sharing, and, yes, sometimes even a little nerves. For many in MCRPA, the idea of attending a professional conference—let alone presenting—can feel overwhelming. Whether it’s the stress of networking with strangers, the fear of public speaking, or just not wanting to wrestle with internal travel and EAP process, we understand the hesitation.

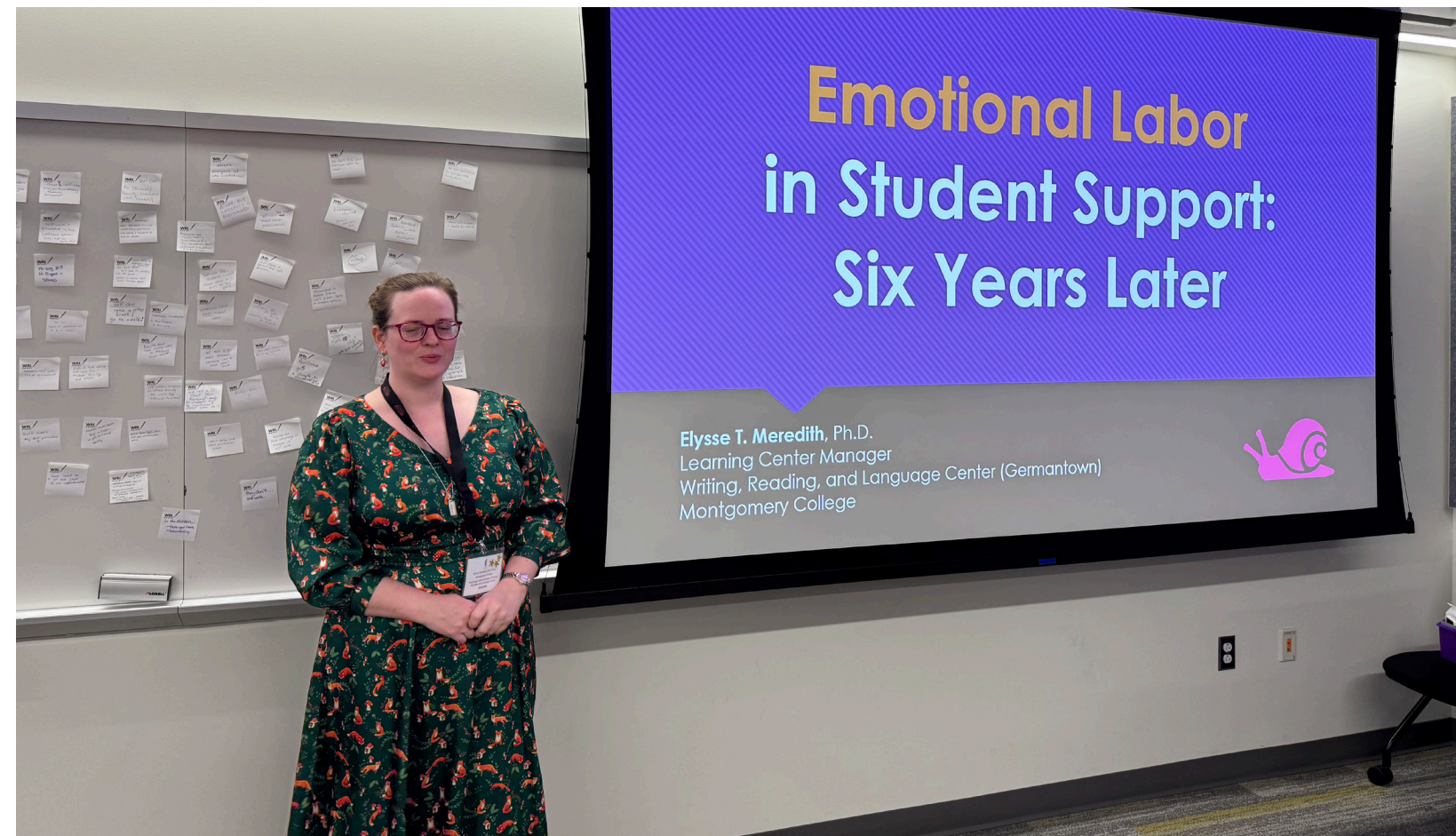
But here’s the thing: attending and presenting at conferences can also be transformational. It’s not just about representing Montgomery College; it’s about discovering your voice, building confi-

dence, forming unexpected connections, and gaining renewed purpose in your work. And when we support one another in these spaces—when seasoned presenters mentor first-time attendees—we amplify not only our professional growth but the strength of our community.

This month, we’re highlighting some of our MCRPA members who’ve recently stepped into the spotlight, bringing innovation, passion, and purpose to conference sessions across the country.

## Emotional Labor in Student Support: Six Years Later

In 2019 at the Maryland College Learning





the opportunity to touch textiles that range from fully hand-produced to entirely machine-made; they will also write their hopes and anxieties for the future of writing on strips of cloth and physically weave them together.

She isn't planning on going alone, Dr. Meredith will be bringing two staff members and two peer tutors along for the experience—demonstrating the ripple effect of lifting others as you rise. Their presence expanded the reach of the event and modeled how investing in others builds a stronger, more informed team.

**MC Online and Academic Support Presents at the Association for Coaching and Tutoring Profession's Annual Conference**

MCRPA members Nik Sushka and Dr. Elysse Meredith joined David Burkart and Dr. Shinta Hernandez at the Association for Coaching and Tutoring Profession's annual conference from March 16–19 in



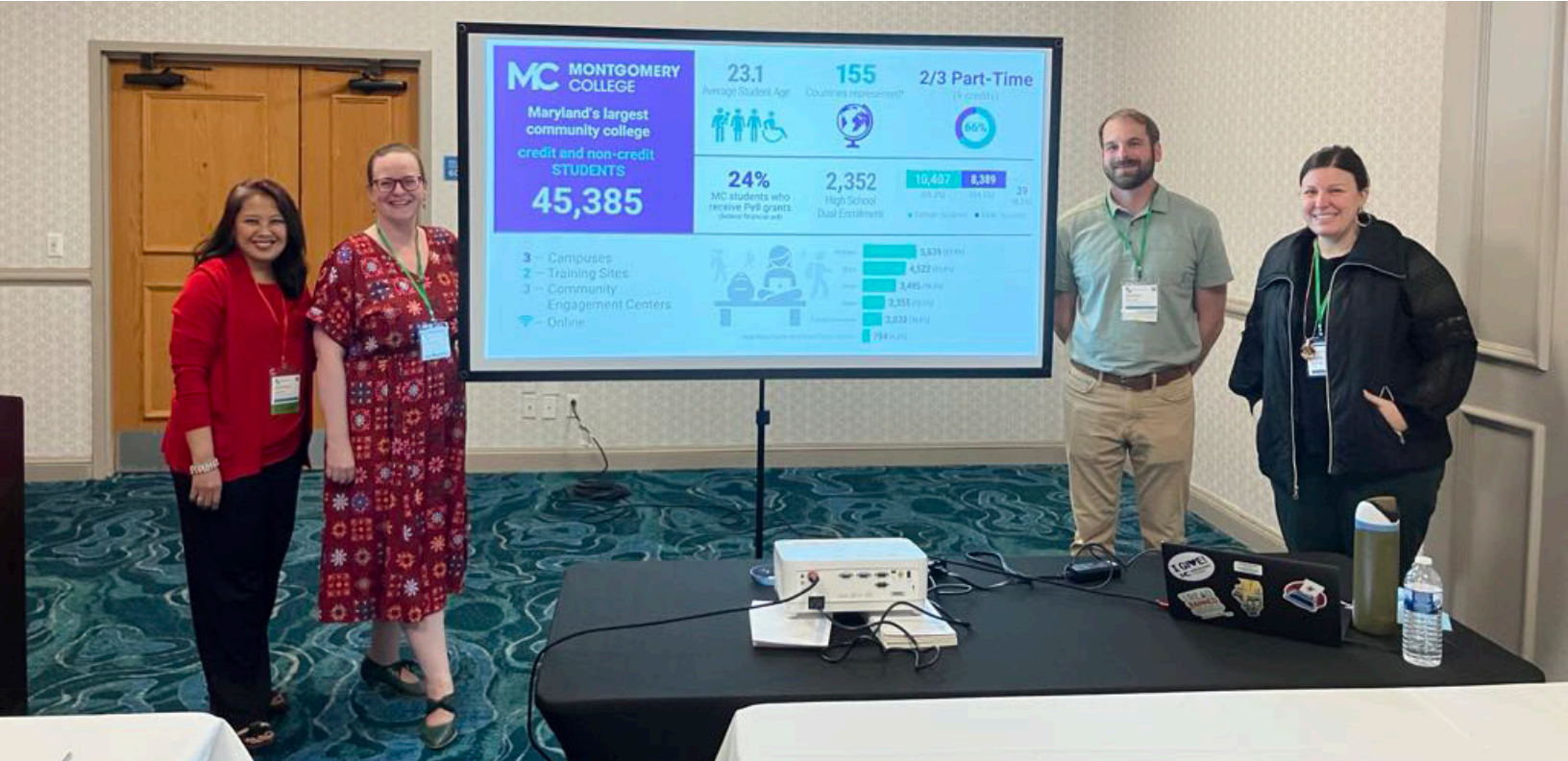
Orlando, Florida. Representing MC Online and Academic Support; the Writing, Reading and Language Center at Germantown; the STEM Ackerman Learning Center at Rockville; and the Achieving the Promise Academy, Shinta, Elysse, David, and Nik hosted a collaboration roundtable for fellow academic support professionals, sharing ways that tutoring and coaching collaborate at MC, with other units across the College, and community organizations to support student learning, belonging, and success. They then posed questions to attendees to help them discuss current and future collaborations at their institutions, opportunities on the horizon, and actions they can take following the conference to move collaborations forward.

**Mobilizing Under Pressure: A Case Study in Basic Needs Grant Development**

MCRPA member Dr. Nancy Newton presented at the *Conference for Community*

*College Grant Professionals through the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)* in October 2025 in Baltimore, alongside Dr. Brandy Naughton, Dr. Sue Haddad, and Amy Ballard. Their presentation, *U.S. Department of Education Basic Needs for Postsecondary Students Grant: Mobilizing Under Pressure*, shared a real-world case study on how Montgomery College's Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs responded to an extremely tight application timeline.

The U.S. Department of Education released the call on November 5, 2021, with a deadline of December 6—leaving just one month to decide, design, and submit. The team described the high-stakes decision-making process, writing the application from scratch, and navigating the added complexity of onboarding a new team member—all while preparing to implement a grant that was awarded with a start date retroactive by six months. The presentation highlighted diverse team







MC is in workforce-ready education. One attendee said it best: “MC is miles ahead of most community colleges—and it shows.”

Dr. Miller presented two impactful sessions. His first, *Innovative Faculty Development: Building Belonging Through My PLAN*, introduced MC’s three-year faculty development framework that pairs mentorship with microcredentials to create deeper belonging and community for new faculty. His second session, *Inclusion by Design*, focused on how the Universal Design Center is using ADA Title II changes to lead with accessibility and set a new campus-wide standard for in-

clusive learning environments.

And yes, someone told them these were their favorite presentations of the entire conference. We can’t confirm if they say that to every speaker, but we’ll take the compliment!

### Taking the Conversation Global at SITE

From San Antonio to Orlando, Dr. Crefton and Dr. Miller also attended the *Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) Conference*. Dr. Crefton hosted a roundtable discussion about the Proactive Thinker Microcredential and Communication Pressbook with fac-

perspectives on both development and implementation.

The session was fun and interactive, with feedback like: “Loved the humor these speakers brought to the conference! They were an inspiration!” and “This was an excellent chance to see a case study of successful grant development... after this presentation, I feel better prepared to apply next time.” It was a powerful example of how MC professionals mobilize under pressure—and how shared stories can prepare others to rise to the challenge.

### MCRPA Members Shine at the League for Innovation Conference

In March, Dr. Christine Crefton and Dr. Paul Miller attended and presented at

the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference in San Antonio, TX. In addition to visiting the Alamo and connecting with inspiring colleagues from across the nation, they shared MC’s bold progress in both student and faculty development.

Dr. Crefton’s session, *Unlocking Power Skills: The Proactive Thinker Microcredential*, spotlighted Montgomery College’s new approach to flexible, self-paced digital badging. Built around the essential skills of communication, critical thinking, innovation, and teamwork, the Proactive Thinker model offers students the ability to earn verified microcredentials in non-traditional ways. Based on the innovative *Communication Pressbook* featured in last month’s MCRPA Digest, the session reminded attendees just how far ahead







resent Montgomery College not only as employees but as leaders, educators, innovators, and changemakers.

Whether you're stepping on a national stage or just attending your first break-out session, know that your voice matters. Conferences give us agency, give us visibility, and remind us that our work doesn't exist in a vacuum—it's part of a powerful, ongoing conversation.

So, when the opportunity arises, say yes. Say yes to presenting. Say yes to attending. Say yes to sharing what you know and learning from others.

Because when we show up, we don't just represent MCRPA—we represent what's possible.

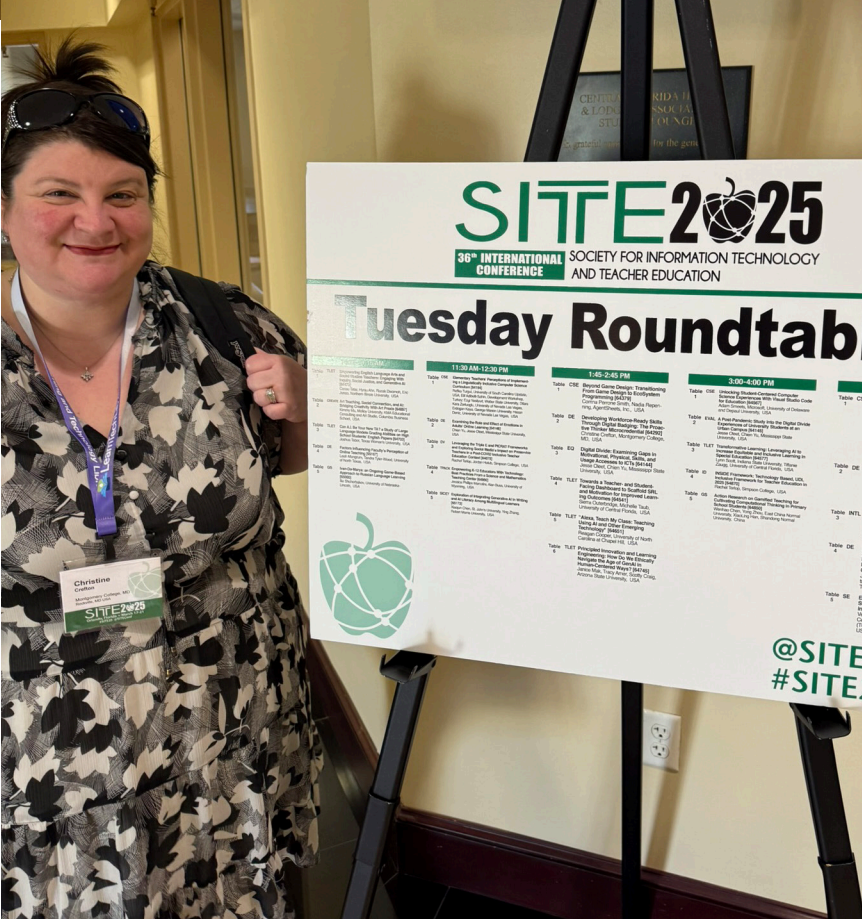


ulty from across the U.S. and abroad. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive—especially when two attendees shared they'd redesigned their entire microcredential program at a community college in upstate New York after hearing Christine speak in Anaheim last year. “That alone,” she said, “was worth the price of admission.”

responsibly integrate AI into their teaching. By the end of the conference, Paul had become something of a SITE celebrity—still being stopped in hallways by people thanking him for the foundation he laid at the very start of the event.

Why This All Matters

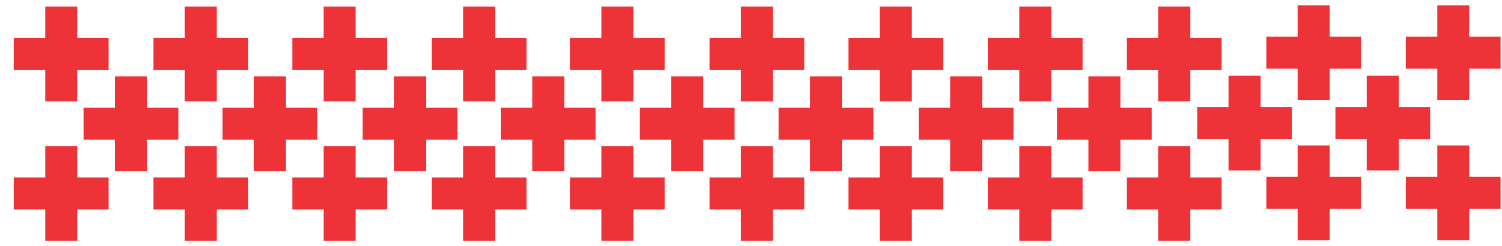
Attending and presenting at conferences isn't just about showcasing our work—it's about discovering ourselves as professionals, hearing what others are doing, being part of larger movements, and coming back recharged. These spaces allow us to think bigger, listen harder, and grow deeper. They allow us to rep-





**American Red Cross**

*Give blood.* Help save lives.



**Blood Drive**  
**Montgomery College -**  
**Takoma Park**

**Health Science Center - Student Lounge**  
**7977 Georgia Ave**  
**Takoma Park, MD 20912**

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025**  
**10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: "MCTakomaPark" to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

**Come give April 1 to 13 for \$15 Gift Card (email) plus chance to win \$5K prize. See [rcblood.org/hope](https://rcblood.org/hope)**



Scan to schedule an appointment.

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## Staff Enrichment Day 2025



The College hosted its annual Staff Enrichment Day (SED) on March 19 at the Germantown Campus, centered around the theme Stronger Together: Transforming Tomorrow. This year, over 400 staff members attended the event.

Many MCRPA members actively serve on the SED Planning Committee. Each year, the College designates this special day to bring together associate and support staff—both bargaining and non-bargaining—for professional and personal growth. Held during spring break, SED rotates among the three campuses: Takoma Park/Silver Spring, Rockville, and Germantown.

The event features professional and personal development workshops, networking opportunities, and the presentation of the Staff Distinguished Service Award.

Additionally, staff members who have recently completed a certificate or degree program are recognized with a certificate.

This year, MCRPA member Thanh King was honored with the Staff Distinguished Service Award, presented by Mr. Sherwin Collette, Senior Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services.

During the morning session, a staff panel was hosted by past MCRPA president and former MC colleague Tilandra Rhyne. The panel was a tremendous success, as panelists addressed key questions related to staff experiences and ways to better support staff at the College.



## Worlds of Work and MC Experience Inspire Future Pathways for MCPS 8th-Grade Students



During spring break, the College hosted two impactful events—Worlds of Work (WoW) and the MC Experience—welcoming over 5,500 MCPS 8th-grade students to the Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses.

Aligned with the College's Transformational Aspiration of Access, these immersive programs aimed to foster a college-going culture by providing hands-on career exploration, campus tours, and direct engagement with industry professionals, inspiring students to envision their future academic and professional paths. With approximately 200 local businesses and more than 175 dedicat-

ed faculty, staff, and students leading sessions and tours, these events highlighted Montgomery College's strong commitment to workforce development and student success.

The WoW program, held at the Rockville Campus, was a collaboration between Montgomery College, WorkSource Montgomery, and MCPS, offering employer-led career exploration sessions. Meanwhile, the MC Experience, hosted at the Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses, provided interactive academic experiences in partnership with MCPS.

This historic effort—hosting so many stu-



dents across multiple campuses—would not have been possible without the dedication of our faculty, staff, students, and partners.

Many of our MCRPA members served on the planning committee and volunteered in various roles throughout the week-long event. Many students who engaged with our staff during the event were impressed by the College’s facilities and expressed interest in attending MC in the future.



MCRPA was established in 2011 as an employee resources group. We collectively seek out opportunities to learn and grow as individuals and as burgeoning professionals. Our members are enthusiastic supporters of Montgomery College’s mission and community. If you have a desire to get involved and participate in hands-on personal and professional development activities, networking, and community service, you are a perfect fit for MCRPA.

Each MCRPA member plays an important role in our structure. Because our activities directly result from our members’ shared interests, we encourage our members to engage with MCRPA programming. Members determine the intensity and time commitment of their involvement. We realize that members have other commitments, both personal and professional. Explore our committees, events, membership and leadership team. MCRPA always welcomes suggestions for new roles and/or committees.

Join MCRPA - <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/mcrpa>

Contact Us - [mcrpa@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mcrpa@montgomerycollege.edu)



