

# Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association Spring 2021 Newsletter



## President Message

Spring 2021 semester was filled with many activities for [MCRPA](#) members, which you can read all about in this spring newsletter issue. The most exciting announcement is receiving an MC Innovation Foundation grant. With this award, the leadership team hopes to start offering more exciting professional opportunities for our members and plans to create partnerships with other units and departments to advance the College's goal of student success.

I want to thank our outgoing leadership team members for going above and beyond to engage with members in a remote environment. I look forward to working with our newly elected leadership team during the MCRPA Leadership Retreat to plan out activities and events for the upcoming academic year.

It will be a pleasure seeing everyone in person as we transition back to working on campus.

Sincerely,

Tilandra Rhyne

## Members Gather at Year-End Social Event

MCRPA held its year-end social gathering at the Rockville Town Square on June 23. It was the first in-person event in almost two years. Several members were able to make it to the gathering. One feeling everyone shared during the event was we all missed talking to each other in person!

We were happy to see everyone, and MCRPA hopes to be able to have more in-person events for the upcoming fall and spring semesters!



## MCRPA Awarded MC Innovation Foundation Grant

MCRPA was established in 2011. MCRPA has enjoyed 10 years of continued growth while empowering MC employees to write their own career stories and to advance themselves into bright professional futures, without a budget. With more than 80 members representing all divisions, units, departments, disciplines, and programs of the college, MCRPA has been an employee resource group within the organization. There is no lack for talent, inspiration, or willingness to serve within MCRPA.

With the generous funds provided by MC Foundation donors, the awarded MC Innovation Foundation grant of \$5,750 will allow MCRPA to realize the next level of legitimacy and a freedom to include students in the important work of promoting community, service, and growth. Current and incoming leadership are planning the upcoming year of offerings and events. If you are interested in being part of the grant planning process, please contact us.

It is time for MCRPA to innovate and evolve to take on the next 10 years!



### Chat with the Chief Featuring Mr. Patrick Johnson

The spring semester Chat with the Chief hosted Patrick Johnson, the Director of Procurement on February 24, 2021. Seventeen college employees attended and heard a fascinating insight into this key role in the College.

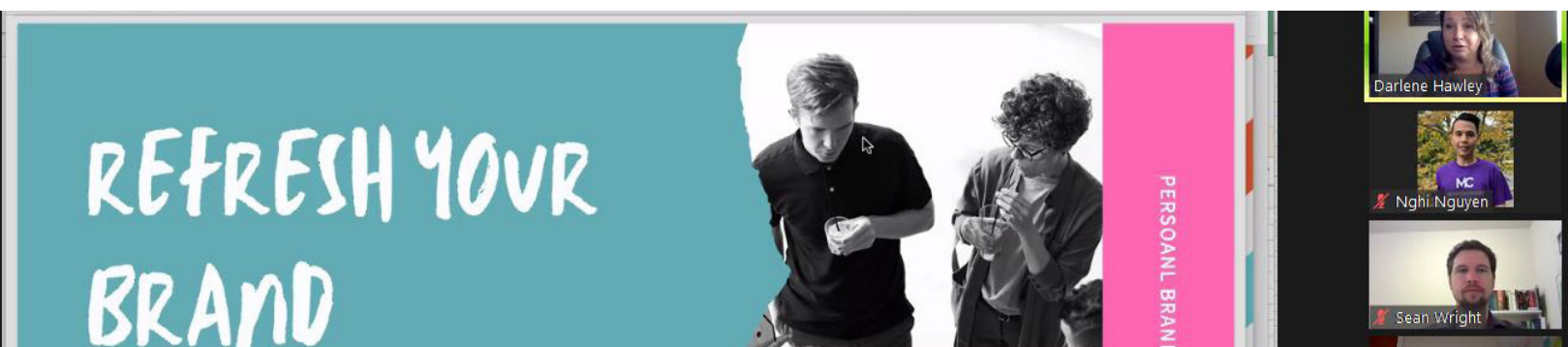
During his career at Montgomery College, Mr. Johnson oversaw several multi-million dollar construction procurements, and facilitated the implementation of the online requisition submittal process, a process in which departments submit electronic requests for the purchase of goods and services. In addition, he streamlined procurement processes within his unit that resulted in annual savings of roughly \$97,000.

Furthermore, he has also served as president of the Maryland Education Purchasing Association (MEPA) and secretary of the Maryland Association of Community College Purchasing Officers (MACCPO).

## Personal Branding Workshop

*The Personal Branding Workshop, Part 2* on January 14, 2021, was again facilitated by special guest facilitator, Darlene Hawley, Brand & Business Clarity Coach and the founder of [DarleneHawley.com](https://www.darlenehawley.com) and SCORE Volunteer. This session focused on resume building and ended with a lively Q&A session.

Nine college employees attended, and the post event survey reported engaged attendees. Throughout the two sessions, attendees learned key branding strategies and applied them in hands-on exercises.

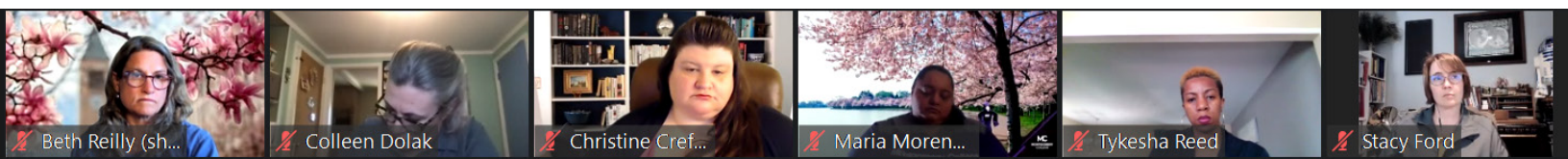




# MCRPA 5th Annual Retreat - Work in the Time of Covid: Lessons Learned and What's Next?

The MCRPA Annual Retreat was held on May 27, 2021. It was titled *Work in the Time of Covid: Lessons Learned and What's Next? Including Conversation with Dr. DeRionne Pollard*. The 31 college employees who attended heard Dr Pollard's reflections on working during COVID and her decision to take a new role at Nevada State College.

The attendees moved on to small groups to discuss their own lessons learned over the last year. On the post-event survey, attendees reported high levels of satisfaction from the event and hoped to have it next year in person!



## Innovation Grant

- Enhance professional development offerings
- Promote community involvement
- Identify opportunities to include students



## MCRPA Holds First Open House for MC Employees

MCRPA held its first open house on March 26. Past and current leadership members, committee chairs and vice chairs, and current members were present at the Open House to provide information to MC employees who wanted to learn more about the Association.

The Open House was a collaboration between Membership, Marketing, and Communications and Community Engagement and Events committees to spread the word about MCRPA, and most importantly, to recruit members. Attendees got a chance to gather information about MCRPA and participated in a couple of icebreaker and fun group activities.

Established in 2011, MCRPA empowers its members to write their own career stories and to advance themselves into bright professional futures. 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, our students, and the community.

If you know any MC employee who has the desire to get involved, meet people, and participate in engaging professional development activities, introduce them to [MCRPA](#)!

## Coping with Covid

The Coping with Covid group held its last meeting of the year in May. One of the activities during the meeting was an origami demonstration. Attendees had a chance to fold their own lotus flower while watching an origami video.

This group is a joint venture between MCRPA and HRSTM. The group meets virtually to actively engage with colleagues to escape the challenges associated with working from home during the pandemic. Topics include dealing with stress and/or feelings of isolation, maintaining health and wellness, and managing a work/life balance through fun interactive activities.

The Community Engagement and Events committee looks forward to continuing this group in September.



## Member Testimonial Videos Project

After much planning, MCRPA put together several member testimonial videos. These videos will play an important part for recruitment efforts. MCRPA plans to collaborate with HRSTM to promote our association during events such as the New Employee Orientation.

Our goal is to reach out to non-members and promote MCRPA so MC employees know there is a group within the College that focuses on providing all employees with place to meet and learn both personally and professionally. The video testimonials offer different perspectives from current members who want to share their own personal stories with others.

We want to thank all members who participated in this project. You can watch all of our member testimonials on the [MCPRA website](#).

If you are interested in providing your testimonial for MCPRA, please contact us via email or feel free to reach out to chair and vice chair of Membership committee.

## Member Testimonials



MCRPA Member Testimonials



Ja'Bette Lozupone - Member Testimo...



Nghi Nguyen - Member Testimonial

### Contact Us

Email us at [mcrpa@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mcrpa@montgomerycollege.edu) or visit us at <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/mcrpa/>

### Leadership Team

Tilandra Rhyne, President | Christine Tracey, Vice President | Nghi Nguyen, Secretary

### Committee Leadership

Elizabeth Schlackman, Professional Development Chair | Jacquelyn Williams, Professional Development Vice Chair

Ramica Allen, Community Engagement and Events Chair | Burcu Crothers, Community Engagement and Events Vice Chair

Elysse Meredith, Membership, Marketing & Communications Chair | Adaora Nwigwe, Membership, Marketing & Communications Vice Chair