

Your Leadership: Your Story

An Inside Look at MCRPA's Second Annual Retreat

It was a great turnout at the second annual MCRPA Retreat with over 40 attendees, both members and non-members. The theme of the day was "Your Leadership: Your Story" as we engaged in interactive activities that developed a road map for our development as leaders at Montgomery College.



Annual retreat - opening activity

MCRPA partnered with Dr. Katara Aleem of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority to design a program that taught about differing work styles and provided us with tools to flex our style, communicate with other styles,

and work well, even under stress. Dr. Aleem started the day with activities focused on the DiSC assessment, which is designed to enhance productivity, communication, and teamwork by teaching about our preferred and adapted work preferences. There were breakout groups focused on everyone's preferred style. This activity allowed each group to discuss, write down, and report out about the question, "What people need to do to work with my style." It brought about laughs, discussion, and aha-moments as the group began to understand one another's DiSC styles. Dr. Aleem provided some more information about utilizing the styles and provided an overview of a leadership toolkit.

After lunch and a restful guided meditation exercise led by Nancy Poole, Dr. Aleem wrapped up with a stress effect assessment and a leadership compass. Through these activities, everyone found out more about they react under stress and could chart their course for developing leadership competencies. To ensure that we meet our leadership goals, each person found an accountability partner to check in with at 30, 60, and 90 days.

The Professional Development Committee also provided an overview of the new MCRPA Mentorship Program with details about when the program would start, how to sign up, and the program's requirements. To add a personal touch, Colleen Dolak, Ja'Bette Lozupone, and Chauncy Butcher discussed their mentorship and mentee experiences with the group.

Once we finished discussing how mentorship tied into developing as a leader, our last activity of the day was about conscious and unconscious biases. Laura White, a Multicultural Training Specialist with CPOD led us in this discussion, so that we could develop strategies for displaying leadership when dealing with diversity and inclusion. As a whole, the day was high energy, interactive, and all about how we can forge our own path to success!

Leadership & Standing Committees

Executive

Chair: Ja'Bette Lozupone
Vice Chair: Nghi Nguyen
Secretary: Tilandra Rhyne

Committees

Communications

Chair: Angie Moy
Vice Chair: Shane Doyle

Engagement and Events

Chair: Ramon De La Cruz
Vice Chair: Britney Green

Membership

Chair: Chauncy Butcher
Vice Chair: Christine Tracey

Partnerships and Development

Chair: Colleen Dolak
Vice Chair: Shakenna Adams

Professional Development

Chair: Michele Knight
Vice Chair: Ashley Babcock

"When it comes to making ourselves more relevant to students, employers, and the community...there is one common factor to ensuring success....It's you - the faculty and staff of Montgomery College."

- Dr. DeRionne Pollard

Notable Activities

Inaugural Chat and Chill Event

On April 24th MCRPA hosted the first Chat and Chill at the Upton in Rockville. The rooftop barbeque was an opportunity for members to meet and connect at a unique offsite location. We networked, played games, listened to music, enjoyed some great food, and brought our friends and significant others. A great time was had by all and our next Chat and Chill will take place in the Fall!



Inaugural Chat and Chill Membership Event

Annual Featured Series: Chats with the Chiefs!

MCRPA's "Chats with the Chiefs" series is one of the many ways that MCRPA offers its members opportunities to learn how to achieve their professional goals. Once a semester, MCRPA invites a guest speaker in a senior position at Montgomery College to speak to our members about their experiences, discuss their career path, and offer advice. The chance to hear from individuals who have already walked the path our members are embarking on is an invaluable experience. This year, the featured Chiefs were Vice President and Provost Margaret Latimer and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Sanjay Rai.

Margaret Latimer



Chats with the Chief—Margaret Latimer

Ms. Latimer shared how her original career path in physics unexpectedly led her to higher education. Ms. Latimer told members to not be afraid of constructive criticism, or trusting others when delegation is necessary. Among some of the other lessons she offered were, remember to think about the return on investment for work you put in, never make your boss have to fact check you, and be willing to do things you don't know how to do as that is how you learn. "You can be buried with a full brain, no extra charge," she said.

Sanjay Rai



Chats with the Chief—Sanjay Rai

Dr. Rai shared his life story about growing up in India, moving to Canada, and how he eventually made his way to Montgomery College. He gave us insight into his passion and drive and encouraged members to "Lead. Follow. Or get out of the way." He also shared his keys to success—honesty and transparency. He figured out along the way that being the best isn't everything and that sometimes it's more important to care about the success of your students.

MCRPA thanks both Ms. Latimer and Dr. Rai for taking the time to offer our members the opportunity to learn from their success.

Member Milestones and Achievements

“Continuous effort—not strength or intelligence—is the key to unlocking our potential.”

- Winston Churchill

Shakenna Adams - Volunteered for 2016 Staff Enrichment Day Planning Committee Chair; **Ashley Babcock** - Accepted two-year term to Editorial Board of Learning Assistance Review; **Kani Bassey** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; **Diana Benson** - Awarded the AAWCC 40 under 40 Award; **Chauncy Butcher** - Presented at the Effective Transitions in Adult Education Conference; Participated in Career Day with MCPS; Accepted two-year term to the Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education Board; **Shelly Caldwell-Bennett** - Served on the National Academic Advising Association Maryland State Drive-In Conference Planning Committee; **Colleen Dolak** - Presented at Staff Enrichment Day; Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; **Shane Doyle** - Staff Council; **Vickie Drake** - TP/SS Campus Council; **Britney Green** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; Germantown Campus Council; **Kimberly Herrera** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; **Tacy Holiday** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; Co-chair of Standard 7 Workgroup for the Self Study Committee for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education; **Michele Knight** - Panelist at the Maryland Distance Association Conference; **Miriam Laufer** - Facilitated a writing workshop for K to College Students; **Ja'Bette Lozupone** - Awarded the AAWCC 40 under 40 Award; Elected to Board of Germantown Alliance; Elected to Board of Future Link; Co-led K to College Career Day at GT Campus; GT Campus Liaison for the Part-Time Faculty Institute; **Asia Lunn** - Appointed to the position of Assistant Professor of Counseling at the RV Campus; **Tracee Mathias** - Conference exhibitor at the Interfaith Works Caregivers Conference; Invited to attend the PhD Project Conference; **Rhonda McLaren-Scott** - Attained First Place at the MC Spring Wellness Challenge; **Angie Moy** - Obtained the Construction Document Technologist Certification; **Kaylin Nguyen** - Staff Council; Volunteered for the Staff Enrichment Day Planning Committee; **Nghi Nguyen** - Volunteered for the Staff Enrichment Day Planning Committee; Staff Council; Facilitated a workshop for K to College; **Tilandra Rhyne** - TP/SS Campus Council; **Liliana Rojas** - Volunteered for Staff Enrichment Day Planning Committee; **Carlo Sanchez** - Appointed as a Maryland State Legislative Delegate; **Nik Shukha** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; **Christine Tracey** - Appointed as the RV Campus Library Manager; Participated in Career Day for MCPS; **Tierra Washington** - Appointed to the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee; **Laurie Williams** - Appointed to Nursing Academic Progression Manager; **Matt Wilson** - TP/SS Campus Council



Events and Activities

AUGUST 2015

Governance Panel
Happy Hour

SEPTEMBER 2015

Dr. Pollard's Potluck
General Body Meeting

OCTOBER 2015

Chats with the Chiefs
Leadership Meeting
Happy Hour

NOVEMBER 2015

General Body Meeting

DECEMBER 2015

Leadership Meeting,
Holiday Potluck

JANUARY 2016

Collegewide Spring
Opening Meeting

FEBRUARY 2016

Leadership Meeting,

MARCH 2016

General Body Meeting
Happy Hour Social
Staff Enrichment Day

APRIL 2016

General Body Meeting
Leadership Meeting
Chats with the Chiefs
Chat and Chill Series

MAY 2016

Happy Hour Social

JUNE 2016

Leadership Meeting
Annual Retreat

Organization and Committee Transitions

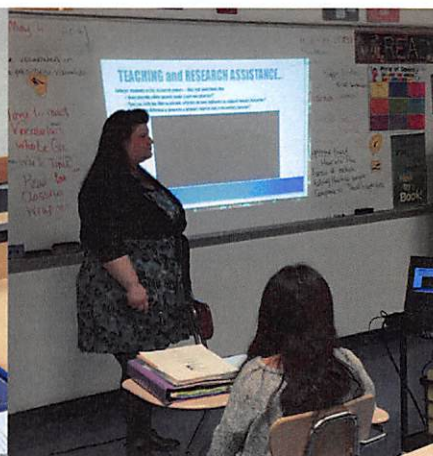
This year MCRPA underwent a significant number of changes—from a name change to more in-depth programming. Within the context of better meeting members' needs, a couple of standing committee changes were made as well. The committee formerly known as "Budget" initially morphed into "Public Relations and Partnerships." With the evolution of the bylaws, the committee settled in as "Partnerships and Development". In addition, the "Technology" Committee merged with Communications and clarified its role and duties.

After garnering a lot of feedback about the term "Young Professionals", the leadership team explored changing the name of the organization. By the beginning of the spring semester, Leadership instated the new name "Rising Professionals" and the general body voted on and approved the new logo.

The purpose of the new Partnerships and Development committee is to seek out affiliations and partners for the benefit of our members. Because MCRPA is about supporting our members' career aspirations and goals, we depend on internal partnerships, such as with the Center for Professional and Organizational Development (CPOD) and E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence (ELITE) and external partnerships such as with the Montgomery County Employees Federal Credit Union (MCEFCU). Development focuses on fundraising and securing sponsorships to build capacity and grow the association. By contrast, Professional Development focuses on advancing the association through sponsorships of our growing programming. MCRPA is currently scaling up its collaboration with Future Link, a nonprofit that supports students on their academic journey, and is exploring future partnerships with Leadership Montgomery, The Corporate Volunteer Council, the American Association of Community Colleges, and various chambers. MCRPA will launch its mentoring program in September 2016.



General Body Meeting



Volunteering at MCPS Career Day



Governance Panel Discussion