

### Message from the President

Dear MCRPA Members,



In October 2016, I assumed the position of President of the Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association with a strong desire to make a difference in the work lives of MC employees. It is my pleasure to highlight some of the activities held this past semester.

- The Bylaws Ad Hoc committee met over the fall semester to carefully review the rules that govern our association. The revised version will be available online in January of 2018.
- During the last year, Membership Services developed and administered a membership and exit survey to gather information from current members and non-renewals.
- Engagement and Events in partnership with Montgomery County Housewives collected approximately 100 items to donate to MC students in need.
- Professional Development Committee hosted Chats with the Chiefs featuring Donna Schena, Associate Senior Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services.
- The Communications Committee introduced the #ThursdayThanks hashtag to give thanks to those who support, contribute and serve MCRPA.

The foregoing isn't a complete list of our events this semester.

Without the continued support of leadership at Montgomery College and the hard work put forth by our members, we would not be able to accomplish our goals. I want to thank and acknowledge the MCRPA Secretary, Chairs, Vice Chairs, and committee members who have volunteered countless hours to plan events for members to network, gain leadership skills, and grow professionally.

Five years ago, I joined MCRPA to network with employees across the college. I have stayed and become more deeply involved because of the connections I've made and the work we do to support the personal and professional growth of our members. If you have found value in membership and want to get involved, I encourage you to reach out to the Chair of the committee that sparks your interest. I invite you to learn more about our efforts and share your comments and ideas at an upcoming leadership or committee meeting. Fifteen minutes have been reserved on the leadership meeting agenda for members to pitch an idea or share a concern. Please check out the meeting schedule online and email me if you would like to join us. I hope you will enjoy reading the fall newsletter and learning about what's to come in the spring semester. I look forward to working together with the leadership team, but more importantly, for and with you in 2018!

Sincerely,  
Chauncy Butcher  
MCRPA President, 2016 - 2018

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### Upcoming Spring 2018 Events

*Chats with the Chiefs*  
Dr. Jamin Bartolomeo  
Rockville, SC 152  
February 5th  
2:00 - 3:00 PM

*Chat & Chill, Karaoke Night*  
East Dumpling House  
March 23rd  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Please visit the MCRPA website for the latest news and to view upcoming events.

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcrpa>

Members can also join the MCRPA's Facebook group.  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mcrpa/>

## MCRPA Kickoff Event: Annual Potluck with Dr. Pollard



In August, MCRPA held its annual potluck with Dr. DeRionne Pollard. Members brought food and celebrated the start of the Fall 2017 semester.

After an ice-breaker game, MCRPA President, Chauncy Butcher, provided an overview of goals achieved and what's to come. Afterwards, Dr. Pollard gave some updates on the college including the budget and other important initiatives and programs.

The annual potluck gives MCRPA an opportunity to provide yearly updates on our events and activities to Dr. Pollard. The goal is to work closely with the president to increase participation of our members in various areas of the college. This includes Governance, committees, and other professional development opportunities.

More importantly, Dr. Pollard also provides MCRPA with valuable insights on how we could work together as a group toward achieving the College's mission and goals.

## Member Milestones and Achievements



On Friday, November 11, 2017, several of our members were celebrated as they were inducted as inaugural members of MC's Chapter of the American Association of Women in Community Colleges (MC-AAWCC).

Among those inducted, four of our members were elected to serve on the executive board.

Shakenna Adams-Gorlmey serves as the Germantown Campus Liaison, Tameka Cruz serves as the Treasurer, Tracey Matthias serves as the WD&CE liaison, and Tilandra Rhyme serves as the Takoma Park/Silver

Spring campus liaison.

One of our newest members, Ramica Allen, and longtime member, Dianna Benson, were also inducted.

## Brown Bag Networking Volunteers Needed

The Membership Committee would like to start a brown bag networking lunch session in 2018. These would be informal sessions held on each campus in a relaxed environment that would provide an opportunity for members to get to know each other without traveling to multiple locations.

Volunteers are needed to secure space and host sessions. If you can help us out, please contact Kimberly Robinson, Membership Chair, at [Kimberly.Robinson@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Kimberly.Robinson@montgomerycollege.edu) or ext. 7-8833.

## Chats with the Chiefs



On Tuesday, September 5th, MCRPA hosted Chats with the Chiefs. Our featured speaker was Ms. Donna Schenna, Associate Senior Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services.

Ms. Schenna described her role at the college to our membership as “working with Dr. Wormack looking at high impact initiatives regarding operations at the college.” She shared insights from her professional journey at the college, and

said “people who are leaders, it is not something that they think about. Leadership isn’t a title or position. Leadership is what you do and who you are.”

She encouraged MCRPA members to take some time to think about the kind of work that we would like to do, and added that this has always influenced her career decisions. Although MCRPA’s leadership career trajectories may take us away from the core things that brought us into a field, she encouraged us to “never forget your passion for people, and the mission of your organization.”

Ms. Schenna encouraged our leadership to be aware of changes that are on the employment horizon, such as people taking longer to retire, and the influx of millennials in the workplace. Also, she encouraged members to get out and try things that they were interested in, and think about how these things might be able to bring intrinsic value to our positions at the college.

Lastly, she encouraged everyone to “keep our emotions in check because a good leader always has control of their emotions.”

## Membership Survey

MCRPA administered an annual survey to gather member demographics, assess member satisfaction, and solicit ideas for future trainings and events. The response rate for FY17 was 39%.

The following were the results of the survey:

- 62% of survey responders stated that they attended 1-2 events/activities per semester.
- Amongst the members who completed our annual survey, most have been members for three or more years.
- The FY17 survey identified March through July and September through November as the best time of year to host events/activities.
- The top two MCRPA events for FY17 were the Annual MCRPA Retreat and the Potluck at Dr. Pollard’s; followed by Wellness Week, Chat & Chill, and Chats with the Chiefs.
- Top reasons for joining MCRPA were identified as Networking with colleagues, Training/Professional Development, Learning New Skills, and Leadership Development.

The best way to impact events and activities offered through MCRPA is to get involved. This includes joining a committee or visiting a committee meeting, volunteering to work on a project, becoming a campus rep, responding to MCRPA Surveys, and attending events.

### MCRPA Mission, Vision, and Core Values

#### OUR MISSION

We empower our 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 rising professionals.

#### OUR VISION

The Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association seeks to identify, serve, and involve employees mutually interested in guidance, support, and mentoring. These individuals, all in the early stages of their careers, are mutually interested in guidance, support, and mentoring. We endeavor to inspire, connect, engage, and propel our members forth into meaningful relationships and leadership positions within the College and throughout the community.

#### OUR VALUES

ACHIEVEMENT  
INITIATIVE  
PROFESSIONALISM  
SERVICE  
GROWTH  
CONTINUITY

#### Did You Know?

Each month MCRPA features a member in our Members Spotlight. The spotlight is a great way to get to know each individual member outside of their work life. Visit the website and click on Members Spotlight for more information.

### #ThursdayThanks

This fall the Communications Committee introduced the hashtag #ThursdayThanks.

We began using this hashtag to thank leadership for their support of and contributions to MCRPA and to recognize individuals both within and outside of MCRPA for their involvement, service, and impact on the association.

#ThursdayThanks is currently featured on our social media outlets.

### Did You Know?

MCRPA currently has 62 members. We have representation at the three main campuses, the new Central Services building, and satellite offices.

We gained eight new members from July - December 2017. We welcome our newest members:

Maria Davidson (CT),  
Adaora Nwigwe (TP/SS),  
Kim Stover (CT),  
Jacquelyn Williams (WHPL),  
Stacey Miller (CT),  
Tara Belasco (WHPL),  
Ramica Allen (RV),  
Carla Best-Otubu (TP/SS).

## Leadership-Committee Social

On October 21th, the Engagements and Events hosted their fall Leadership - Committee Social. Committee members and their guests were invited to gather at Positano restaurant in Bethesda for a night out to catch up with fellow colleagues over dinner and conversation.

Our Leadership-Committee Socials are great opportunities to meet new colleagues and fellow members from all over Montgomery College in a more casual setting outside of work. Members and their guests partook in some fun activities and had a great time getting to know one another and laughing the evening away.

## MCRPA Partners with Montgomery County Housewives



MCRPA partnered with Montgomery County Housewives to collect coats, cold weather accessories, professional clothing, and personal care items for students in need at Montgomery College.

MCRPA President, Chauncy Butcher, and Engagement and Events Chair, Britney Green, worked with the Interim Student Life Director, Surayya Johnson, to house over 100 items in the Student Life office at the Germantown

campus.

## The Rotary Club of Potomac



The Rotary Club of Potomac would like to start a rotaric club at Montgomery College in conjunction with MCRPA.

Rotaract clubs bring together people ages 18-30 in communities worldwide to organize service activities, develop leadership skills, and socialize.

We are looking for someone to serve as the chapter's Faculty Advisor.

If you are interested in this leadership opportunity please check out the website: <https://www.rotary.org/> and contact Chauncy Butcher, MCRPA President for details.

# Leadership

Are you interested in a leadership role with MCRPA? Vacant positions and term end dates are listed below. Please contact us if you have questions or interested in stepping up to serve. We welcome your input and value your contribution to the college.

Leadership holds meeting once or twice a month, and meeting locations rotate between the three main campuses.

Office	Name	Term End Date
President	Chauncy Butcher	June 2018
Chair, Communications and Marketing	Tilandra Rhyne	June 2018
Assistant Vice Chair, Communications and Marketing	Nghi Nguyen	June 2018
Chair, Membership	Kimberly Robinson	June 2018
Vice Chair, Membership	Maria Moreno	June 2019
Chair, Engagement and Events	Britney Green	June 2018
Chair, Professional Development	Michele Knight	June 2018
Vice Chair, Professional Development	Thanh King	June 2018

Office	Name	Term End Date
Vice President	Vacant	-
Secretary	Vacant	-
Vice Chair, Communications and Marketing	Vacant	-
Vice Chair, Engagement and Events	Vacant	-
Assistant Vice Chair, Membership	Vacant	-
Campus Representative – Germantown	Vacant	-
Campus Representative - Rockville	Vacant	-



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What does it mean to be a member of MCRPA?**

A: Being a member of MCRPA is a great way to get to know your colleagues, network, engage in professional development opportunities, and cultivate long lasting relationships. MCRPA hosts events throughout the year, and while attendance at each event is not mandatory, a reasonable level of participation is expected.

**Q: How can I learn more about MCRPA?**

A: Visit <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcrpa/>

**Q: How can I join MCRPA?**

A: Visit <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcrpa/application/> and submit the application. MCRPA is open to all college employees.

**Q: Where do I send information about an award or degree I received?**

A: Send news and updates to [MCRPA@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:MCRPA@montgomerycollege.edu) to share your achievements with your fellow members and the College community.

**Q: I have an upcoming event that I think MCRPA members should know about. Where do I send the information?**

A: Submit your request using the link <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcrpa/announcement-submission/> and it will be sent to directly the [MCRPA@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:MCRPA@montgomerycollege.edu) to ensure that the activity makes it onto the MCRPA calendar. If more information is needed, someone from the Communications team will contact you.

**Q: How can I help MCRPA behind the scenes?**

A: MCRPA has four committees and is always looking for enthusiastic individuals to share their talent. To learn more about committees, visit <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcrpa/committees/>. You can also reach out the chair of any committee if you are interested in serving on a committee.

