

## **MCRPA Member Spotlight Question Bank**

### **May 2021**

#### **Patricia Polimadei**



#### **What is your role at Montgomery College?**

As of December 2019, I am the Achieving Collegiate Excellence & Success (ACES) Coach at Rockville High School.

#### **How long have you been in your current profession?**

I have worked with our wonderfully diverse community for 22 years now. I spent most of that time working with young people with severe emotional disabilities. I have also worked in Corrections and Rehabilitation and Community Engagement for the county and Montgomery College.

I have been at Montgomery College for over four years now. My current position is my dream job! I am privileged to guide our future generations, who are underrepresented in higher education, toward success.

Oh, and the icing on the cake is to be a part of an amazing team! The ACES team is made up of incredibly talented, hard-working, selfless leaders each one bringing their individual talents and appreciation for one another.

#### **How do you define success?**

One way I define success is by the positive impact I have on others. We achieve success through our determination, but none of us get there alone. I am grateful for all the people who have impacted my life positively. When I succeed, I pay it forward by reaching back and pulling someone else up.

#### **What do you enjoy most about Montgomery College students?**

What is not to love? I work with 11th and 12th graders, many of whom start their higher education at Montgomery College! Our students are dynamic, diverse, intelligent, and strong! They work hard, and many have overcome many barriers to be here.

#### **What are you currently passionate about?**

I am passionate about life. This past year has taught me to slow down and be so much more grateful for my family, friends, and colleagues. While some of us want things to go back to normal, it will not be normal again for many. Many have lost loved ones, including myself. Life is so precious, and we must appreciate it every day!

**What is one goal you hope to achieve this year?**

I hope to achieve a higher level of gratitude and to know when to slow down and be present in the moment.

**What is your favorite quote?**

"You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backward. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future."  
Steve Jobs

**What hobby would you get into if time and money weren't an issue?**

I would love to travel the world and immerse myself in different cultures; not only visit the tourist spots but experience their communities.

**They say that everyone has a book in them. What would be the title of your book?**

"Fail Forward without Fear"

Determining what went wrong in a situation has value. But taking that analysis another step and figuring out how to use it to your benefit is the real difference-maker when it comes to failing forward. Do not let your learning lead to knowledge; let your learning lead to action!

**What do you want to be remembered for?**

I want to be remembered for my perseverance, my energetic-spirit, and my determination; I want my two sons to know their mom overcame many barriers and never gave up on her goals. I want to leave the world a little bit better than how I found it.