

# Featured MCRPA Spotlight Member – May 2017



Vanessa Flora-Nakoski

1. **What is your role at Montgomery College?**

I work as an Instructional Associate at the Rockville Writing, Reading, & Language Center. In this role, I supervise our student employees and lead the writing & reading tutoring component of the center.

2. **How long have you been in the field?**

I have worked in higher education for over 10 years, and I have been tutoring for around 5 years. I've worked in a variety of academic units, including admissions and orientation, first year experience, academic advising, and classroom teaching.

3. **How long have you been at Montgomery College?**

This is my 3rd year in my current role and my 5th year at Montgomery College.

4. **What are some of your hobbies?**

I enjoy working with my hands, so most of my hobbies involve building or making things. I previously ran a soap-making business, and I enjoy quilting, soap-making, crocheting, and carpentry. I also enjoy the outdoors and love kayaking, biking, hiking, and exploring parks.

5. **What would be your ideal dream vacation?**

This is a tough one. My ideal vacation would involve a mix of relaxing and learning. Ideally, I would rent an apartment in a major city, perhaps in Prague, where I could have a home base. From that home base, I could explore surrounding areas and nearby cities.

6. **What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?**

After I paid off my student loans, I would buy a land and create a nature sanctuary/spiritual center.

7. **What's your favorite childhood memory?**

I love the rain, like, really love it. When I was little, we had a swing set in the backyard. When it would rain, I would put on my bathing suit and raincoat, go outside, swing on the swings in the rain, and sing at the top of my lungs. I'm sure some of the neighbors thought it was weird, but I had such fun!

8. **What was the last movie you watched? How many stars would you give it if you were a Movie Critic?**

I watched Hidden Figures, and I loved it! My niece wants to be a scientist, so I plan to get her a copy of the movie and the book for her birthday. I want her to see that there's not just one kind of scientist or mathematician.

9. **What was the last sport or music concert event you attended?**

My stepmother plays second violin in a D.C. based orchestra, so we saw one of her performances over the holiday season.

10. **If you could get a second chance for a "dream job", would you still be doing what you're doing right now or is there another job you would love to have?**

My dream job would still involve tutoring or teaching, but I would love to run my own writing center or tutoring company one day and partner with local community centers to help empower my communities

through writing workshops and other activities. I genuinely believe that the work I do helps students find their voices, and I'd like to be able to do that on a broader scale.