

# MC 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

## Community Café Conversation Questions

### Future of Education

Free college, online-driven education, and aligning skills with in-demand jobs are just some of the ways higher education is currently changing. Students are adopting a "do-it-yourself" (DIY) approach with different online options and mobile technologies/devices to customize their learning experiences. It is estimated that 78% of all new jobs created in the county will require some form of postsecondary education. With these anticipated changes in higher education:

- What will be the goal(s) of education in the future?
- How can Montgomery College work together with students, faculty, and members of the community to meet educational goals?
- How will the College

### Future of Work

In 2008, Facebook was just going international, Twitter was in its infancy, and the first iPhone was released. Now almost ten years later, the world is a very different place, and so is the workplace. Currently jobs exist that only a decade ago never existed. It is estimated that 65% of children entering elementary school today will ultimately end up working in jobs that do not currently exist—and these new jobs are not yet on our radar. These anticipated changes in the future of work and job opportunities require exploring:

- What will the workplace of the future need?
- How can Montgomery College deliver an education that prepares students to emerge as informed and dedicated professionals?

### Future of Partnerships

It is undeniable that partnerships and collaborations are important points of connection between higher education institutions with its external communities. The success of such partnerships and collaborations require definitional and functional clarity and consensus on how to work together and address issues affecting the community. To achieve success, the College and its community partners should consider:

- How can we nurture collaborations and partnerships for mutual benefit?
- How can we use these partnerships and collaborations to respond to the needs of specific communities, especially those underserved in terms of access to economic and cultural resources?

### Future of the County

Montgomery County is one of the most affluent and highly educated in Maryland and the United States. The County continues to see strong population growth, the residents are becoming more and more diverse, and educational opportunities are plentiful. Yet, some argue that the County is underperforming economically. Many residents live in poverty and lack the necessary skills to participate in the labor market, while many who work in the county cannot afford to live here. To understand its future role and be responsive, Montgomery College needs to know:

- What most will shape life in Montgomery County in the next decade?
- How will these changes impact the College?
- How will the College be a place where important policy issues facing the county can be shared and discussed?

### Future of the College

In an era of declining public funding, Montgomery College is facing many challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing, increasingly interconnected world. Throughout the nation, community college enrollment is contracting; and within the county, the college-going rate of certain MCPS student populations is declining. With its commitment to access and affordability, the College's student body is becoming more diverse, creating a need for an ever-widening array of services and learning options. With a focus on fulfilling its comprehensive mission,

- How can the College maintain the quality of education in an era of reduced public funding?
- How can the College ensure that more students have access to higher education?
- How should the College serve the underserved populations of today and tomorrow?