Montgomery College will promote and support economic development by ensuring that rigorous and relevant regional and national workforce competencies are reflected in programs and curricula.

OVERVIEW

In 2012, Montgomery College began its journey to reimagine the community college required for the 21st century. The ability of Montgomery County and the region to compete in a global, knowledge-based economy depends on the educational attainment and workforce skills of its people. To that end, the College mobilized local and regional partnerships to efficiently and effectively respond to labor market demands. Working with its partners, the College aimed to expand and systematize its use of demographic, occupational, and industry databases to conduct occupational projections and targeted needs assessments that align curricula and support the county’s economic development plans. This is the third celebration in our MC 2020 Milestones Marathon series.

MESSAGE FROM DR. POLLARD, PRESIDENT

“Montgomery College has deepened its commitment to strengthening economic development in the county. We listen to employers carefully through meetings with industry leaders, through service on industry boards, and through participations in panels and conferences. We often have industry leaders teaching in our classrooms. The College watches the labor markets closely and integrates the skills and knowledge needed in an ever-changing hiring landscape. Whether this means the creation of an entirely new degree (Cloud Computing and Networking, for example), a new certificate or just a change in curricular content, the College adjusts seamlessly as needed to workforce demand. Sometimes it is a course needed by professional scientists, such as the Clinical Trials Management Program. Other times it is a local labor field that suddenly finds itself short of workers—the 911 Dispatch Training Academy, among others. Some of our partnerships are ongoing and serve longstanding local workforce needs, such as the BioTrac Partnership, linked to biotechnology workers. Some are dedicated to building pathways more broadly to a host of career opportunities—the Talent Ready initiative. The College is contributing to economic development in ways we could not have imagined just five years ago, and the people and partnerships we have nurtured along the way have borne fruit in apprenticeships and employment for our students.”

INITIATIVE SPOTLIGHT

• The BioTrac program at Germantown trained 428 scientists in 2019 - 174 from academic institutions, 113 from government, and 130 from private industry
• Developed a model career pathway from noncredit coursework, to industry credential, to credit degree programs in Early Childhood Education
• Montgomery Can Code summer youth camp for 300 middle school students in 2019 sponsored in partnership with Apple; 1,000 anticipated in 2020
• Expanded on-campus business training capabilities in the renovated Mannakee building
• Launched Maryland’s first 911 Emergency Responders certificate program

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

• Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) secured more than $49 million in grants since 2014 providing low cost access for thousands of students
• Development of an AWS Cloud Computing certificate and AAS in partnership with Amazon
• 215 students enrolled in the Clinical Trials Project Management cohort in partnership with Amarex Clinical Research; 90% of completers found employment within the field with salaries of $80K +
• More than 75 organizations served via customized contract training
• Highest ever WDCE enrollments (24,890 unduplicated students) with courses delivered at more than 40 locations year round

In their own words: Student Perspective

“The CyberAdvantage program at Montgomery College gave me the hands-on skills necessary to be effective in the fast-moving cybersecurity industry. Thanks to the skills I gained at MC, I was able to secure a cybersecurity internship early on, which led my rewarding career as a Cyber Intelligence Analyst for a prominent organization.”

-- Simeon Kakpovi

In their own words: Business Perspective

“Since WMATA has partnered with Montgomery College...we were able to attract qualified and capable Bus Operators into our workforce and we are able to extend further into the community to recruit and hire these qualified candidates. This partnership has also been critical to training incumbent WMATA employees, to move forward with the CDL licensing necessary for mechanic roles. We are looking forward to continuing this funding for our workforce to ensure that we can continue to impact the lives of members of our community in a positive way!”

---Alberto Marino, WMATA Office of Talent Acquisition