

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President
Subject: **Welcoming the Spring Semester and Affirming Our Mission**
Date: January 21, 2025

As we begin the Spring semester, I want to extend a warm welcome to each of you. This new term brings fresh energy, renewed focus, and countless opportunities for discovery and achievement. The College is entering this spring season mindful of the public and political influences that have the potential to affect higher education at the state and federal level. As in prior seasons of change, the College will focus on fulfillment of our mission, which remains unchanged: to serve as the place where students discover their passions and unlock their potential to transform lives, enrich the community, and change the world.

As we enter seasons of change, whether these are led by legislative or budgetary changes, we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring a safe, welcoming environment that is dedicated to the well-being and success of all our students and employees. This includes our commitment to:

Open Access: Montgomery College is a pillar of our community and an open access institution that welcomes all who seek education and opportunity.

Respect for Privacy: We respect and uphold the privacy of all individuals in accordance with federal regulations, and we maintain a strict commitment to safeguarding student information.

Sense of Belonging: Montgomery College is an institution committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice as values essential to its mission. The College affirms the rights of all persons to work, study, and pursue opportunity through education and employment free from fear and distraction. The College does not tolerate harassment, bullying, or intimidation for any reason. We encourage anyone experiencing or witnessing such behavior to report it so that we can address concerns promptly.

Support and Resources: A range of resources—including counseling and advising, basic needs assistance, wellness services, and emergency aid at MC and in Montgomery County—are available to help our students, faculty, and staff thrive, including:

- [Basic Needs Assistance](#)
- [Emergency Aid for Students from the MC Foundation](#)
- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)
- [Know Your Rights](#)
- [MC Counseling and Advising](#)
- [MC Public Safety](#) (Dial 7-3333 from any campus phone or 240-567-3333 to reach Public Safety Central Dispatch for all campuses and locations. In case of a life-threatening emergency, someone should call 9-1-1 and then notify the Office of Public Safety.)
- [Montgomery County Resources](#)
- [Resources and Support for International Students](#)
- [Student Wellness Center](#)

At Montgomery College, we are a vibrant, diverse community that promotes belonging, personal growth, and academic excellence. As I stated in my memo at the start of the Fall semester, *Reaffirming Our Mission and Focus*, our commitment to access, completion, and post-completion success is unwavering. We believe in creating a culture where all students, faculty, and staff are safe, supported, and empowered to explore their full potential.

As we monitor the changing political and educational landscape, we will continue to share helpful information and resources as appropriate to ensure fulfillment of our mission and continuity of our College operations, always prioritizing the well-being and success of all our students.

Thank you for all you do to make Montgomery College a place of inspiration and opportunity. Let's work together to make this Spring semester a fulfilling one of growth, discovery, and success.