

**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE**

**Academic Services Council Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:00 AM– 12:00 PM via Zoom

Committee Members:	<i>Present:</i> Angela Nissing, Tracey Bodo, Michelle Chan, Rebecca Thomas, Patricia Maloney, Verhonda Sercey, Transcie Almonte-Sabio, Chingling Liu, Leah Scharlott, Deborah Stuart <i>Absent:</i> Hanan Mohamed
Academic Services Council Liaison:	Dr. Shinta Hernandez, Dean for MC Online & Academic Support (proxy for Dr. Deidre Price)
Invited Guests:	Katie Mount, Acting Dean of Student Affairs at Germantown Julie Levinson, Student Success Technology Director at OIT Sokol Mato, Director of Auxiliary Enterprises
Meeting Attendees:	Dr. Clevette Ridguard, Yvette Taylor, Janice Du Four, Sue Kim, Etroy Nelson, Tracey Little, Kassandra Aguilar, Matt McGoldrick, Norberto Gomez Jr, Jenny Hatleberg, Anestine Theophile-LaFond, Lucy Grinnell, Nafeesa Azizi, Roberto Hurtado, Nichole Land, Sue Halipa, Bridgette Grant, Amir Khademi

**Call to Order**

Chair Angela Nissing called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

**Approval of Minutes**

- February 18th meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as written.
  - Motion to approve by Transcie Almonte-Sabio. Seconded by Patricia Maloney.

**Constituent Concerns**

- Concern sent via email from a faculty/advisor from the biology department: Previously, students' unofficial transcript displayed the modality of each course section; this information is no longer visible on the unofficial transcript. Advisors/faculty must now browse semester by semester through a student's course schedule to see the modality. Advisors rely on this modality data for purposes such as assessing patterns related to DL vs. in-person performance, writing recommendation letters, advising students on honors modules.
  - Julie Levinson noted that concern is currently being addressed with Pamela Wessells of Records and Registration.

**Starfish and Counseling** - Katie Mount, *Acting Dean of Student Affairs at Germantown* and Julie Levinson, *Student Success Technology Director at OIT*

- Katie Mount provided an overview of Counseling and Advising, including staff, services, connection to different programs and services on campus, peak advising periods, ways for students to connect with a counselor or advisor, and BIT reporting. There is also First Year Experience programming for new students and the [Student Insider's Guide](#). See attached presentation for details. Additional information can be found on the [Counseling and Advising webpage](#) and [FAQ section](#).
- Julie Levinson provided an overview of Starfish, a student-success platform in place at MC since 2012. Highlights included a summary of key features (e.g., early alert, referrals, etc.) and tools for students (e.g., My Success Network, Degree Planner, surveys, etc.). These tools and features enable direct communication between students and faculty/advisors, allowing the latter to easily view students' academic information, progress, and academic trajectory during their time at MC and advise accordingly. See attached presentation for details.
  - Question: Can *any* staff/faculty make referrals? What happens when a referral is made?
    - Answer: Logic is set up with descriptions stating who receives the referral (e.g., a referral to DSS may trigger an email to the student but not DSS as this would be for informational purposes only).
  - Question: What have students' responses been getting "Starfished"? What is a "kudos"?
    - Answer: Sharon Anthony and Dr. Shinta Hernandez are initiating a tour to solicit student feedback and questions about counseling and Starfish will be included. "Kudos" are to send quick messages to students (e.g., words of encouragement); templates available and are editable.

**Slingshot** - Sokol Mato, *Director of Auxiliary Enterprises*

- Sokol Mato presented an overview of resources available on the Slingshot website, as well as updates based on feedback received from faculty and students since the beginning of spring 2025.
  - Slingshot information can be found by searching "[campus store](#)" or "bookstore" on the MC website. From there, students can find answers to Slingshot FAQs, such as opting out of auto purchase options, important dates (e.g., refund period), return policies, HUB locations, and step-by-step tutorials.
  - Some changes implemented based on feedback received:

- Worked with IT on removing “warning” ribbons in emails from Slingshot as students have reported not opening these emails thinking they are spam or suspicious.
- Worked with Banner team to add Slingshot choice to the registration course page.
- Slingshot Choice embedded as a tool on Blackboard for ease of access to the Slingshot Student Portal.
- Improving ease of distribution for WDCE students.

**Academic Affairs Update** – Dr. Shinta Hernandez, *Dean for MC Online & Academic Support*

- Provided updates on Academic Affairs. Highlights included:
  - Academic Master Plan Year One work nearing completion; report or presentation will be available soon.
    - Action item: Those who’ve received an email from Dr. Hernandez are asked to complete the survey on student support services offered by MC.
    - Surveys will also be sent to students on their use and thoughts about the services.
  - Learning Centers usage: Starfish has been helpful tool for referrals and data collection.
    - Brainfuse is available when learning centers are closed; other alternatives currently being researched.
  - Assessment Centers: Honorlock in place since Dec 2025 (no longer ProctorU); customer service and training experience have been positive.
  - [Title II ADA](#) compliance: Need to have 100% compliance by 4/24/26; CTL have been available to assist and offer trainings.
  - Storage space on Bb: Reminder to be mindful and fiscally responsible when using Bb for storage; consider other platforms for storage when possible (e.g., Yuja, Teams, etc.).
  - Summer fellowships for faculty through MC Online centered on dual enrollment, digital tools/platforms, and open pedagogy; applications due 3/31/26 midnight.

**Chair’s Report** - Dr. Angela Nissing, *Academic Services Council Chair*

- Dr. Nissing presented college-wide information for council members share with constituents, including five P&P items open for feedback, one of which (Recognition Awards P&P 380001) council members are urged to review; advocating for next year’s operating budget by emailing the County Executive Marc Elrich (use personal email); and emailing council members to support Theater Arts renovations (31 years since last renovation). Presentation attached.

**Old Business** – Tracey Bodo, *Academic Services Council Vice Chair*

- None

**Announcements, Updates, Closing Remarks** - Dr. Angela Nissing, *Academic Services Council Chair*

- Chair Angela Nissing invited council members to share suggestions for possible guest speakers at the May ASC meeting
- Reminder to vote at the next governance election
- Action item for council members: Invite a colleague/guest to attend the next meeting

**Adjournment**

- Without objection, the ASC chair adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.
  - Motion to approve by Tracey Bodo. Seconded by Verhonda Sercey .

Respectfully submitted by  
Michelle Chan, Academic Services Council Secretary

# A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO COUNSELING & ADVISING

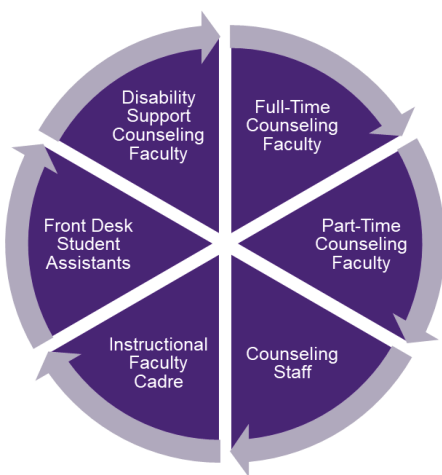
PRESENTED BY:

KATIE MOUNT, ACTING DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS,  
GERMANTOWN

JULIE LEVINSON, STUDENT SUCCESS TECHNOLOGY  
DIRECTOR



## COUNSELING & ADVISING IS HERE TO HELP



Our team is comprised of full-time and part-time Counseling faculty, some with a specific focus on students with disabilities.

We also have instructional faculty from a range of academic departments that serve as “Cadre” advisors.

Our front staff, including student employees, are also here to assist!

# HOW CAN WE HELP?

- With a focus on support to achieve educational goals, we are here when students need someone who will listen, help, and assist in order to enhance student success and wellness.
- Counselors help with personal, career, and academic goal setting and assist with planning courses to fulfill those goals. We also teach student success courses, such as First Year Seminar, and provide interventions and support when students need help.

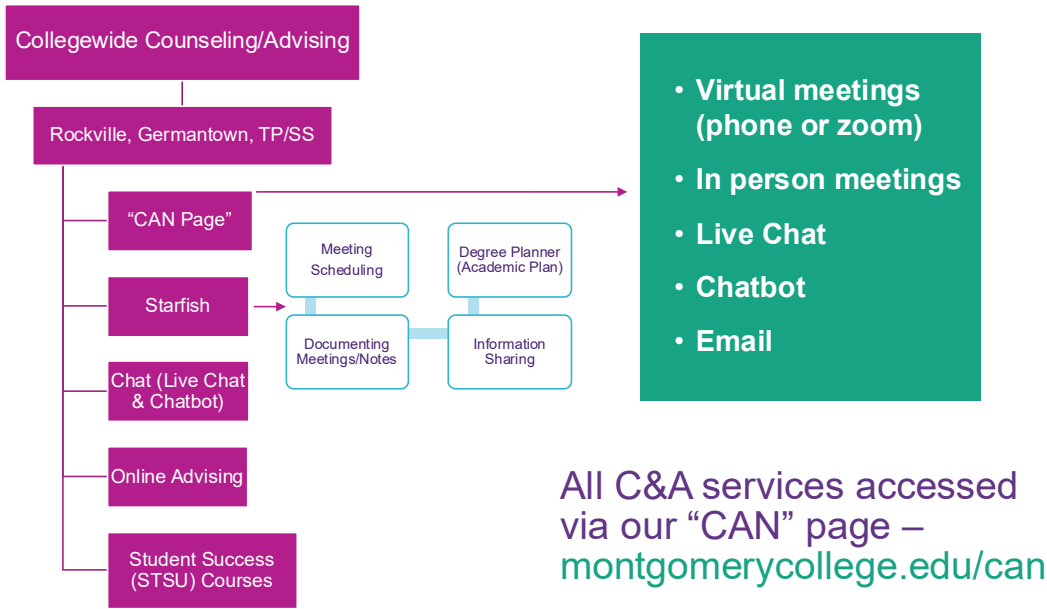


# Collaborate with us!

Collaboration & referrals to other college and community supports, including the Office of Financial Aid and Office of Student Life



# Ways to Connect with Counseling & Advising



5

MEET WITH US: MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/CAN  
 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: MC\_COUNSELINGADVISING/  
 FIND US: GT CAMPUS-SA BLDG, RM 250, RV CAMPUS-SV BLDG, RM 206, TP/SS CAMPUS, ST BLDG, RM 233  
 DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: DSS@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU OR 240-567-5058  
 E-MAIL US: COUNSELING@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU



## Meet with a Counselor/Advisor

We're here to help you plan your education and meet your academic goals. There are various ways students can connect (PDF, 5) with someone in counseling and advising.

Click on the "Chat with Us" button below for help accessing our virtual and on-campus services.

Students with disabilities: [Learn how to schedule an appointment with Disability Support Services \(DSS\).](#)

[NEW STUDENTS](#) | [RETURNING STUDENTS](#) | [FACULTY AND STAFF](#)

[montgomerycollege.edu/can](http://montgomerycollege.edu/can)

## Ways to Connect with Counseling & Advising

**Live Chat with Us**

Best for quick advising questions that can be answered by a Counselor within 5-10 minutes.

[QUICK ADVISING QUESTION? CHAT WITH US.](#)

**Live Chat Hours:**  
 Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
 Thursday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.  
*\*Hours may change at any time.*

**Virtual Assistant (Chatbot) Hours:** 24/7

Click on the "Chat with us" button.

**Send a Question to Us**

Best for quick questions about a specific/concrete issue that can be answered quickly by a Counselor.

Contact form available 24/7; Response time is within two business days.

[SEND A QUESTION](#)

**Meet with Us Virtually or In Person**

Best for comprehensive advising needs.

**Hours of Operation:**  
 Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST

Virtual meetings are held via Zoom or phone. In-person meetings are available on all three campuses.

Use Starfish to schedule:

- [Virtual Meeting](#)
- [Germantown Campus Meeting](#)
- [Rockville Campus Meeting](#)
- [Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Meeting](#)
- [East County Education Center Meeting](#)

After scheduling, you'll receive a confirmation email with instructions to your Montgomery College email account.

If you need help scheduling a meeting or to request a meeting outside of normal hours, fill out our [request form](#).

**Check in for Your Meeting**

Check in for your scheduled in-person, on-campus appointment:

- [Germantown Check-in](#)
- [Rockville Check-in](#)
- [Takoma Park/Silver Check-in](#)

No drop-ins; meetings must be scheduled via Starfish. [Learn how to schedule a meeting in Starfish.](#)

**Top Questions Students Ask**

- [Academic Advising & Planning](#)
- [Meet with a Counselor/Advisor](#)
- [First Year Experience](#)
- [Disability Support Services](#)
- [Student Success Courses](#)
- [Transfer Advising/Opportunities](#)
- [Personal Counseling](#)
- [Career Services](#)
- [International & Multicultural Student Services](#)
- [Locations, Faculty and Staff](#)

# COUNSELING & ADVISING

Spring 2026 

## MEETINGS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

To schedule a meeting (by Zoom, phone or in person), login to Starfish (linked from [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can) - requires MyMC login & password) to find available appointment days/times.

If you need assistance with scheduling a virtual meeting or an on-campus meeting, fill out our request form linked from [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can)

## Disability Support Services (DSS)

**New students to DSS** must self-identify to begin the process for accommodations and services. Please visit [montgomerycollege.edu/dss](https://montgomerycollege.edu/dss) and click on the 'New Students' tab to complete the 'New Student Intake' form. Once DSS reviews the intake form, you will be contacted to schedule an intake appointment

**Returning Students to DSS** must request accommodations each semester, including Winter and Summer sessions. Students can find the request for Services Form and additional instructions on the 'Returning Students' tab at [montgomerycollege.edu/dss](https://montgomerycollege.edu/dss)

[montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services](https://montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services)

## Important Updates & Closures

Counseling & Advising updates and closures will be posted to [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can).

Student Dates and Deadlines: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/dates-and-deadlines.html](https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/dates-and-deadlines.html)

## Health and Safety Campus Protocols

• Before your arrival on campus, review the current public health guidance available at: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/return-to-campus/vaccines.html>


• If you are sick, please do not come to campus for an in-person meeting. You may cancel or request to switch to a virtual meeting.


## ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING OPTIONS

**Returning Students with Declared Majors**  
Students are encouraged to work with Program Advisors or Academic Department Chairs. Locate program advisors & download advising guides at: [montgomerycollege.edu/academics/program-advising](https://montgomerycollege.edu/academics/program-advising)

### All Students—By Live Chat or E-mail

Students with quick questions about a specific and concrete issues are encouraged to use live chat or send a question to the online advisor (this is not ideal for new students or students that need to complete academic planning for the upcoming semester) at: [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can)

For chat, click on: 

For e-mail, click on: 

### Newly Admitted and Prospective Students

Newly admitted and prospective students in need of assistance navigating the enrollment process should direct their questions to Raptor Central. Call 240-567-5000 or complete the Raptor Central Online Request Form at: [montgomerycollege.edu/raptorcentral](https://montgomerycollege.edu/raptorcentral)

### Visiting Students

Students from other colleges and universities visiting for one semester should follow the steps outlined on: [montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/visiting-students.html](https://montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/visiting-students.html)

### Prior Coursework Review for Prerequisite Overrides

Students with transfer credits seeking an exemption for placement testing or a prerequisite override should complete the prior coursework review by going to [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can) --> "Send a Question" and selecting "How to Transfer In"

# COUNSELING & ADVISING

GERMANTOWN | ROCKVILLE | TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING | ECEC

January 2026

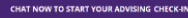
## SAME DAY ADVISING ONLY

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

Most same day meetings will be held virtually by phone or zoom and focus on immediate academic planning needs in preparation for the upcoming semester.

Appointment scheduling via Starfish will resume on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. From February-July, you may schedule meetings in Starfish for Financial Aid SAP appeals and for more detailed academic, transfer, and graduation planning beyond the current semester.

During the same day (first checked-in, first served) advising meeting period, you will need to check in at [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can).



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[montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services](https://montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services)

### Important Updates and Closures

- Wednesday-Sunday, December 24, 2025-January 4, 2026: MC Closed for Winter Break.
- Monday, January 19, 2026: MC CLOSED for MLK holiday

Additional Counseling & Advising updates and closures will be posted to [montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can).

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CONNECT WITH US



Questions? Contact Us: [counseling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:counseling@montgomerycollege.edu) or  
Germantown: 240-567-7734 | Rockville: 240-567-5063 | Takoma Park/Silver Spring: 240-567-1480  
Disability Support Services: [dss@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:dss@montgomerycollege.edu) or 240-567-5058

Help is available from Raptor Central at 240-567-5000 or [montgomerycollege.edu/raptorcentral](https://montgomerycollege.edu/raptorcentral)

[montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can)

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[montgomerycollege.edu/can](https://montgomerycollege.edu/can)

## Advising/Academic Planning

What is academic planning?	—
Academic planning is the process of defining your educational goals in order to determine the best path to accomplish them. Course planning is a significant part of this process and is best done in collaboration with a Counselor or Program Advisor. It is critical that you play an active role in this process from start to finish.	
What is academic advising?	+
What happens if I have questions for other offices (e.g., Financial Aid or the Cashier)?	+
How do I obtain academic advising?	+

## Appointments

Who will I be working with during my meeting in Counseling & Advising?	—
Our team is comprised of full-time and part-time Counseling faculty. We also have instructional faculty from a range of academic departments that serve as "Cadre" advisors.	
What type of questions and requests are appropriate to ask during my meeting?	+
What happens if I have questions for other offices (e.g., Financial Aid or the Cashier)?	+
How can I meet with someone in Counseling & Advising?	+

## Counseling/Mental Health

Does Montgomery College offer personal counseling?	—
Counseling & Advising can provide brief personal counseling on a short-term basis to deal with an immediate concern. The primary emphasis is on supporting students to achieve their educational goals.	
Counseling & Advising does not provide ongoing therapy services to students, but can provide referrals to other resources and services.	
The college community has resources and programming, both in the community and on campus, to help students get and stay mentally healthy. Check out some great resources: Mental Health and Wellness	
I am experiencing a mental health crisis. What should I do?	+
What other resources are available to support my health and wellness while at Montgomery College?	+



# STARFISH STUDENT SUCCESS PLATFORM

## KEY FEATURES

<b>Communications Hub</b>	Centralizes communication between students, faculty, and staff, allowing us to record notes, send messages, share updates, and track interactions in one place. By reducing fragmented communication, we can work together to better support our students.
<b>Early Alert System</b>	Supports our efforts to initiate timely interventions to connect our students with support resources before problems escalate, as well as positive reinforcement to boost motivation and encourage engagement.
<b>Referral Management</b>	Facilitates coordination and communication between different academic and students support service areas and ensures our students are connected with the right resources quickly and more effectively.
<b>Degree Planner</b>	Allows for collaborative planning to map out a personalized academic plan, sequencing course requirements, to aid in visualizing the journey from start to completion.
<b>Scheduling</b>	Gives students various ways to connect with providers in their MC CARES Network.



## STARFISH IS ROLE BASED



- Not everyone sees the same things!
- What you can see and do depends on your role.

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### • **Instructional Faculty can:**

- View basic student info
- Raise flags or kudos and make referrals
- Fill out progress surveys
- Manage office hours or appointment scheduling

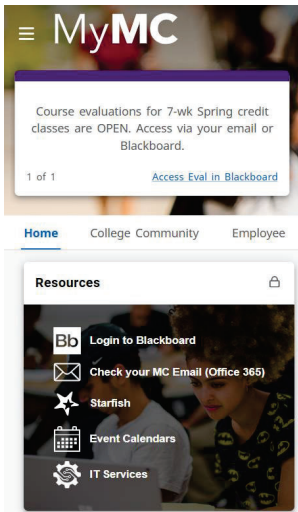


# STARFISH BASICS:

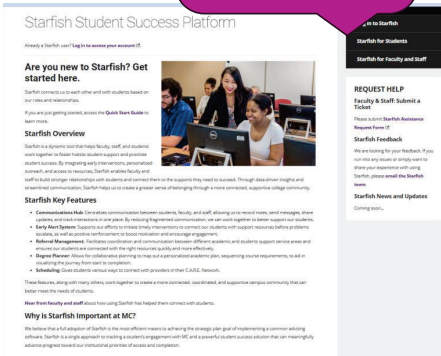
## HOW TO LOG IN, WHERE TO START, AND HOW TO GET HELP



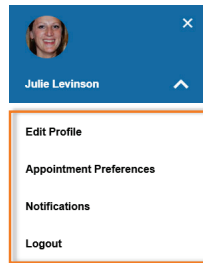
### 1. Login



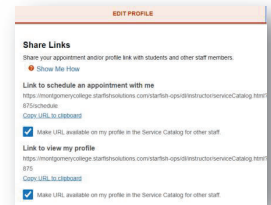
**Request Help**  
Faculty & Staff  
Access On Demand Resources [↗](#)  
Submit Starfish Assistance Request Form [↗](#)



### 2. Review/Update Your Profile



#### Create a "Share Link"



#### Add, Edit or Delete Locations

My Locations

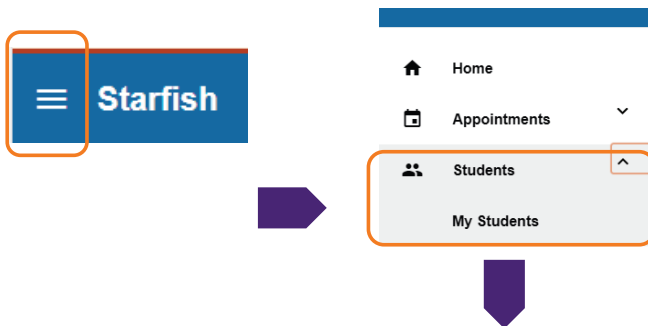
Customize your appointment locations

[Add Location](#)

Name	Type	Actions
ELAP_Zoom	Online	1
<a href="https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/jrkehnbzrbyoo">Instructions</a> <a href="https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/jrkehnbzrbyoo">https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/jrkehnbzrbyoo</a>		

[MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/STARFISH](https://MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/STARFISH)

## BRIEF DEMO: FINDING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN YOUR SECTIONS



**MY STUDENTS**

TRACKING    STUDENT SURVEYS    ATTENDANCE    PROGRESS SURVEYS

My Students

Search: Student Name, Username, or ID

Connection: **INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101**    Term: Spring 2025

Name	Phone	Cell Phone
Professor		
COLLEGE WRITING SUPPORT ENGL011 202530_ENGL011_31876		(301) 5
CRITICAL READ/WRITE/RESEARCH ENGL102 202530_ENGL102_32460		(301) 7
CRITICAL READ/WRITE/RESEARCH ENGL102 202530_ENGL102_30975		(240) 28
INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101 202530_ENGL101_31352		(240) 7
INTRO TO COLLEGE WRITING ENGL101 202530_ENGL101_31875		

# FOUR TYPES OF TRACKING ITEMS TO FACILITATE FEEDBACK

## 1 Flags

Used to raise concern about students. Defined workflow is essential.

Can be raised by:

- Faculty or staff ("user raised")
- Students ("user raised")
- System Data ("system raised")

## 2 Kudos

Used to acknowledge positive progress and achievements of students.

Frequently used in these scenarios:

- Inside the classroom
- Staff engagements
- Milestones

## 3 Referrals

Used to direct a student to make an appointment or visit a particular service on campus, often in response to a Flag or advising session. Defined workflow is essential.

## 4 To-Do's

Used to direct a student to complete a specific action, sometimes in response to another Tracking Item or as part of a larger workflow and institutional timeline (i.e., registration for graduation).

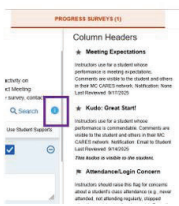
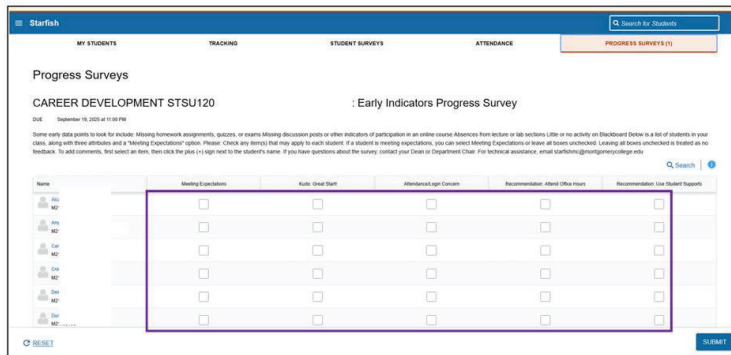


## BRIEF DEMO: COMMUNICATING WITH/ON BEHALF OF YOUR STUDENTS

The screenshot shows the Starfish interface with a navigation bar containing icons for Flag, Referral, To-Do, Kudos, Success Plan, Message, and Note. Below this, there are two main panels: 'My Students' and 'TRACKING'. The 'My Students' panel shows a list of tracking items with details for a referral and a kudo. The 'TRACKING' panel shows a 'Create Note' form with fields for Note Type, Date, Subject, and Note, along with checkboxes for sharing options. A purple arrow points from the 'Note' icon in the navigation bar to the 'Create Note' form. A pink box with a search bar contains the text 'Tip: Use Ctrl-F to search by keyword' and the search term 'counseling'.



# PROGRESS SURVEYS



**Column Headers**

- ★ **Meeting Expectations**  
Instructors use for a student whose performance is meeting expectations. Comments are visible to others in their MC CARES network. Notification: None Last Reviewed: 9/17/2025
- ★ **Kudo: Great Start!**  
Instructors use for a student whose performance is commendable. Comments are visible to the student and others in their MC CARES network. Notification: Email to Student Last Reviewed: 9/17/2025
- ★ **Attendance/Late Concern**  
Instructors use when they have a concern about a student's class attendance (e.g., none observed for attending/regular classes).

**Recommendation: Attend Office Hours**  
Instructors use when they want to encourage a student to meet with them. Comments are visible to others in their MC CARES network. Email Notification Sent to: Student Last Reviewed: 9/17/2025  
*This to-do is visible to the student.*

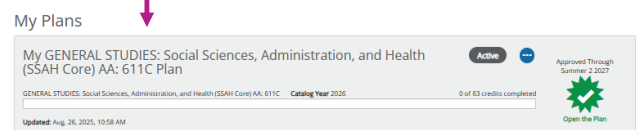
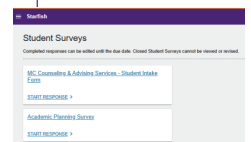
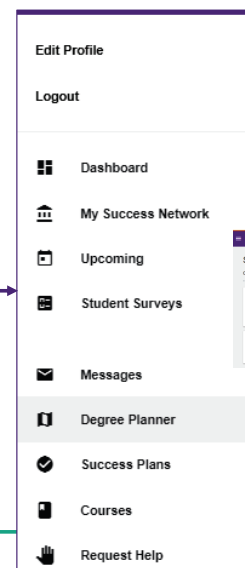
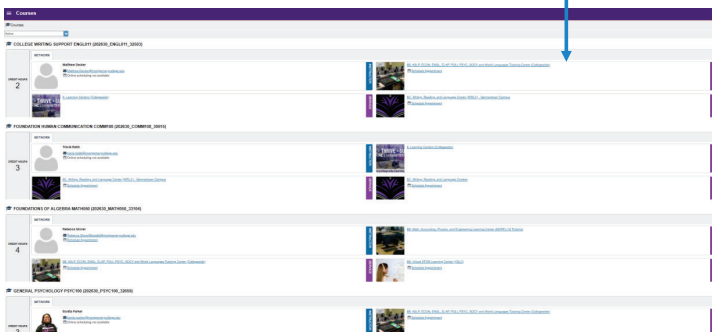
**Recommendation: Use Student Support**

- When a progress survey opens, you will receive an email notifying you that you have a progress survey(s) to complete for your courses.
- Your students will be populated in the progress survey.
- Click the box beneath each flag name and/or kudo name that you deem as appropriate for an individual student.
- You can also enter text comments which can be helpful to students and others in their MC CARES team.



# STUDENT VIEW

- Personalize your profile
- Schedule meetings with members of CARES network
- Complete student surveys (e.g., intake questionnaire)
- View academic plan in Degree Planner
- Request help
- *And more*



# SELF-SCHEDULE VIA STARFISH

**My Success Network**

[Return to Campus Dashboard for Students](#) | 
 [Admissions, Enrollment or General Questions?](#)
[Contact Student Central](#) | 
 [Financial Aid/FAFSA Questions?](#)
[Contact the Office of Financial Aid](#) | 
 [Visiting from Another College?](#)
[Review Next Steps](#) | 
 [Completed 15+ Credits?](#)
[Get Help from a Program Advisor](#) | 
 Need assistance with scheduling? Go to: Counseling & Advising [montgomerycollege.edu/can](mailto:montgomerycollege.edu/can) - click on "Start Chat" during our live chat hours or e-mail: [counseling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:counseling@montgomerycollege.edu)

Search services and people

How can we help?

Your Connections

- Sharon Gray-Coker  
Early College Coordinator
- Christina McGill  
Early College Coordinator
- Tiffany Shaw  
ACED Academic Coach
- Leslie Lindeman  
University of Maryland College Park Pre-Transfer Adv...
- Muhammad Rahman  
(L5) Instructional Faculty

Non-peak  
Not August or January

**Schedule Appointment**

**Counseling & Advising - Virtual Services (all campuses)**

What do you need help with?

<input type="radio"/> 01. First Semester-Course Placement Review & Academic Planning	<input type="radio"/> 02. Next Semester-Academic Planning
<input type="radio"/> 03. Academic Difficulty/Restriction and/or Learn About Student Success (STSU) Courses	<input type="radio"/> 04. Course Placement Follow-Up
<input type="radio"/> 05. Transfer Out Advising	<input type="radio"/> 06. Transcript (Unofficial) Review ( <a href="mailto:montgomerycollege.edu/professing">montgomerycollege.edu/professing</a> )
<input type="radio"/> 07. Degree Evaluation Question	<input type="radio"/> 08. Discuss Major/Program
<input type="radio"/> 09. Visiting Student Advising ( <a href="mailto:montgomerycollege.edu/visiting">montgomerycollege.edu/visiting</a> )	<input type="radio"/> 10. Financial Aid Appeal (SAP)

**Your Services**

**Counseling & Advising - Virtual Services (all campuses)**

Counseling & Advising is available to help via our virtual services (phone or zoom) with educational, transfer, and career planning. They are also available to listen to concerns and offer strategies and connect students with community services, if necessary, or assist them in crisis and other difficult situations.

[SCHEDULE](#)

MEET WITH US: [MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/CAN](http://MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/CAN)  
 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: [MC\\_COUNSELINGADVISING/](https://www.instagram.com/mc_counselingadvising/)  
 FIND US: GT CAMPUS-SA BLDG, RM 250, RV CAMPUS-SV BLDG, RM 206, TP/SS CAMPUS, ST BLDG, RM 233  
 DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: [DSS@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU](mailto:DSS@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU) OR 240-567-5058  
 E-MAIL US: [COUNSELING@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU](mailto:COUNSELING@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU)



# SELF-SCHEDULE VIA STARFISH

**Schedule Appointment**

09-07-2021 → 09-09-2021

Filter: All session types

September 2021

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Wednesday, September 08 6 available

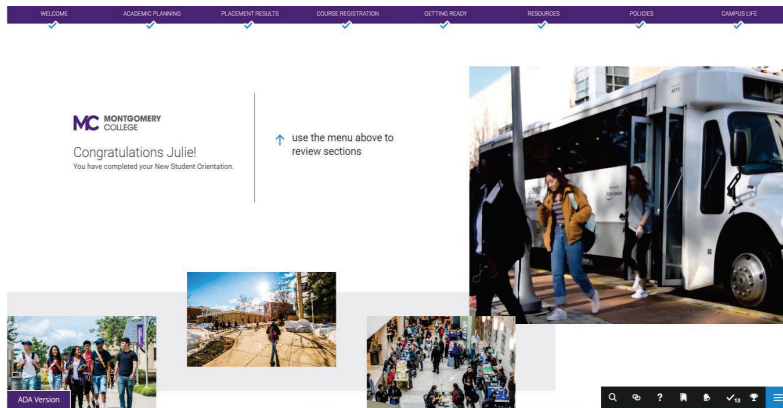
<input type="radio"/> 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm <span style="float: right;">30m</span> Norma Winffel Counselor/Professor - Hablo español *GT-CA_Phone	<input type="radio"/> 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm <span style="float: right;">30m</span> Barbara LaPilusa Counselor/Professor *GT-CA_Web Conferencing
<input type="radio"/> 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm <span style="float: right;">30m</span> Norma Winffel Counselor/Professor - Hablo español *GT-CA_Phone	<input type="radio"/> 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm <span style="float: right;">30m</span> Sadi Ahmad (L5) Cadre - Takoma Park/Silver Spring *TPSS-CA_Web Conferencing
<input type="radio"/> 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm <span style="float: right;">30m</span> Sadi Ahmad (L5) Cadre - Takoma Park/Silver Spring *TPSS-CA_Web Conferencing	<input type="radio"/> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm <span style="float: right;">60m</span> Comesha Griffin Part-Time Counselor TPSS/ Phone



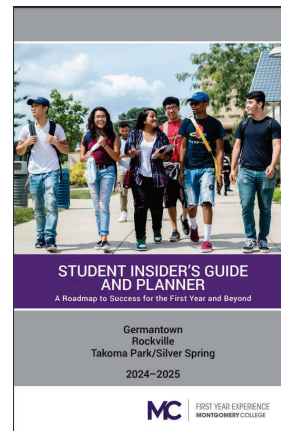
# FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

montgomerycollege.edu/fye

New Student Orientation



Student Insider's Guide



MEET WITH US: MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/CAN  
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM: MC\_COUNSELINGADVISING/  
FIND US: GT CAMPUS-SA BLDG, RM 250, RV CAMPUS-SV BLDG, RM 206, TP/SS CAMPUS, ST BLDG, RM 233  
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: DSS@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU OR 240-567-5058  
E-MAIL US: COUNSELING@MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU



## ★★ Successful Students Don't Depend on Luck— They Have Skills! ★★

- STSU 100 - First Year Seminar [↗](#)
- STSU 101 - Seminar for International Students [↗](#)
- STSU 102 - Mindfulness and Resilience in College [↗](#)
- STSU 110 - Study Habits Development [↗](#)
- STSU 112 - Building Math Confidence [↗](#)
- STSU 114 - Memory Development [↗](#)
- STSU 120 - Career Development: Dynamics and Application [↗](#)
- STSU 122 - Principles of Academic Success [↗](#)
- STSU 124 - Happiness and Well-being [↗](#)
- STSU 200 - Introduction to Student Leadership [↗](#)



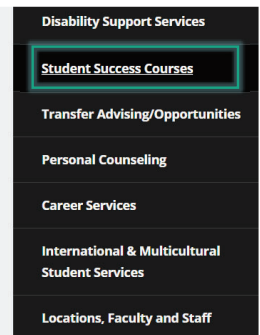
If you want to...

- ease the transition to college, consider taking STSU 101, STSU 100
- learn about campus resources, consider taking STSU 101, STSU 100
- develop a success network, consider taking STSU 101, STSU 100
- manage my time better, consider taking STSU 110, STSU 100
- create an academic plan, consider taking STSU 110, STSU 100
- set and achieve goals, consider taking STSU 110, STSU 122, STSU 100
- improve study habits, consider taking STSU 110
- find potential majors or careers, consider taking STSU 120
- identify my interests & skills, consider taking STSU 120
- eliminate self-defeating behaviors STSU 122
- develop learning strategies for math STSU 112

**Learn about our  
Student Success  
(STSU) Courses!**

Watch our Strategies for Success Videos!

- Note Taking [↗](#)
- Tackling the Textbook [↗](#)
- Personal Responsibility [↗](#)
- Time Management [↗](#)
- Test Taking [↗](#)



# DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

## DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISABILITIES:

- Learning Disability
- ADHD
- Psychiatric Disability
- Physical Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injuries
- Blind/Low Vision
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing

## COMMONLY USED ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Extended time (Double Time on Exams, Tests & Quizzes)
- Access to class notes
- Use of a computer
- Calculator

## DSS CONTACT INFORMATION:

- [dss@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:dss@montgomerycollege.edu)
- <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss>



## DSS – How to Request Services in 3 Steps

**#1 – Go to DSS Web Site** ➡ **#2 – Fill out the New Student Intake Form** ➡ **#3 – Wait for DSS Counselor to Contact Student**

[montgomerycollege.edu/dss](http://montgomerycollege.edu/dss)

or

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/counseling-and-advising/disability-support-services/index.html>

Request for Services

New Students    Returning Students

- Complete the online student intake form using your Montgomery College Student ID number.
- You may upload a scanned PDF copy of your documentation. If you do not have a scanned copy, complete the form and click Submit. You may bring paper copies of your documentation to your initial intake appointment with a DSS counselor.
- DSS will review your information and contact you to schedule an initial intake appointment.

NEW STUDENT INTAKE

# THE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION TEAM (BIT)

- A campus based team of faculty and staff, including Counseling faculty and Public Safety, whose mission is to **help maintain a healthy, safe and secure campus environment** by reviewing and addressing reports of student behaviors of concern.



The team does its work through:

- Threat assessment
- Referrals to campus and/or community resources

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- When students hit a snag, feel confused or just don't know how to move forward:
  - Call: 240-567-5000
  - Email: [counseling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:counseling@montgomerycollege.edu)
  - Request Help Form: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7802589/Counseling-Advising-Meeting-Request-Form>





**MONTGOMERY  
COLLEGE**

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION  
EXTRAORDINARY OUTCOMES



# MC GOVERNANCE



## CHAIR'S REPORT

DR. PAUL MILLER, COLLEGE COUNCIL CHAIR

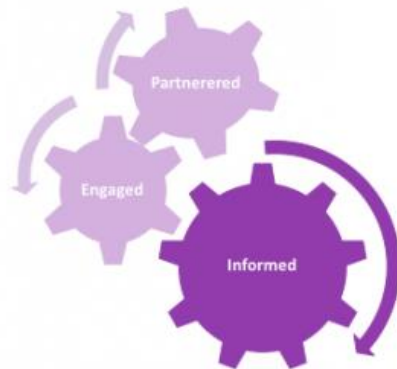
March 10, 2026

## WHERE TO FIND MC NEWS AND EVENTS



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE  
**EMPLOYEE MATTERS**  
*EMPLOYEES MATTER*

Inside **MC**



## Staff Enrichment Day



**Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 8:00 a.m-4:00 p.m., Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus**  
*Exceptional Staff. Extraordinary Impact*

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# REMINDER TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK ON P&P ITEMS

### **32100: ALLOCATION, RECRUITMENT, AND APPOINTMENT OF REGULAR EMPLOYEES AND TEMPORARY WITH BENEFITS EMPLOYEES**

Public comments will be accepted until

March 16, 2026

### **95006: DRONE/UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE USE**

Public comments will be accepted until

March 27, 2026

Comments can be submitted on the [Policy and Procedures Website](#)



# REMINDER TO SUBMIT FEEDBACK ON P&P ITEMS

## 89001: USE OF COLLEGE OWNED VEHICLES

Public comments will be accepted until

April 3, 2026

## 85001: USE OF FACILITIES

Public comments will be accepted until

April 3, 2026



## Governance Recommendation 38001: RECOGNITION AWARDS

Public comments will be accepted until

April 3, 2026

Comments can be submitted on the Policy and Procedures Website



## ADVOCACY FOR YOUR COLLEGE *WHAT YOU CAN DO*

### Advance the College's FY27 Operating Budget

1. Email the County Executive: [Marc.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Marc.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  - Ask him to fully fund the College's FY27 operating budget request
  - Submit the budget to the Council on March 15
  
2. Stay tuned for activities before the Montgomery County Council
  - Will hold hearings and worksession in April and beyond



## ADVOCACY FOR YOUR COLLEGE

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Send emails to Councilmembers re: **Theatre Arts renovation**
  - [Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Jawando@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  - [Councilmember.Mink@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Mink@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  - [Councilmember.Evans@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Evans@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  - [Councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Fani-Gonzalez@montgomerycountymd.gov)
  - **BCC:** [College Council email address](#)
- a. Brief message:
  - a. Community college students need modern classrooms and labs, especially Montgomery College's Theatre Arts building.
  - b. Please support MC's capital budget and the Theatre Arts renovation.
- b. Sign your name
- c. *Email from home.* Identify yourself as affiliated with Montgomery College
- d. If you live in Montgomery County, include your home address

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## DATA ROCKS! PANEL DISCUSSION

2026  
MARCH

**25**

Wednesday  
10:30 a.m.

**In Person**  
Montgomery College  
Rockville Campus  
SC152

**Space is limited.**  
**Register in Workday.**



**Join Analytics & Insights/Data Asset Management for an engaging panel discussion with your colleagues from across Montgomery College divisions.**

#### Panelists

Ms. Liz Greaney  
Chief Business-Financial Strategy Officer (Administrative and Fiscal Services)

Ms. Janee McFadden  
Associate Senior Vice President for Student Success and Engagement (Student Affairs)

Dr. Jeff McGill  
Associate Senior Vice President of Operational Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives (Academic Affairs)

Dr. Paul Miller  
College Council Chair (Governance)

Ms. Emily Schmidt  
Marketing Director (Advancement and Community Engagement)

#### Moderator

Dr. John Hamman  
Chief Analytics & Insights Officer (Office of the President)

**Data is positive! Data is good! Data-informed decision-making is necessary! DATA ROCKS! at Montgomery College!**

**MC MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**



## 3rd Annual AAWCC-MC Conference

**For Faculty, Staff & Students!**  
**Save the Date**

**Friday, April 24, 2026**  
**8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Germantown Campus, BE151/152**

### Registration Perks!

- Lunch Provided
- Networking
- Giveaways
- Professional Development
- 2026-2027 Membership
- And much more...



KEYNOTE  
SPEAKER



Dr. Daria Willis  
President, Howard  
Community College

Topic: "Resilience and  
Reinvention: Succeeding  
and Leading in Times of  
Rapid Change."



# SAVE THE DATE: TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY - APRIL 23, 2026



## Montgomery College Library

### Subscribe to MC Library News!

Enjoy getting the library newsletter and other updates from MC Library?  
You now need to opt in to continue receiving library news.

[Subscribe to MC Library News](#)

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## ANNOUNCING TWO COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES IN 2026

### Day 1: Thursday, May 21, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Majors in Business, Education, Liberal Arts, Social Sciences and all GITE Programs

### Day 2: Friday, May 22, 2026 – 10 a.m.

Majors in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Health Sciences

Rockville Campus Athletic Field under the Commencement Tent





We still urgently need volunteers for MC Experience 2026 at two campuses:

- Rockville: 4 additional Group Leaders needed
- Takoma Park/Silver Spring: 16 additional Group Leaders needed



## YOUR VOICE MATTERS: HELP SHAPE OUR SELF-STUDY REPORT

### Ways to Get Involved

We know everyone has a different schedule, so we've provided several ways for you to participate:

#### 1. Asynchronous Review (March 4-13)

Prefer to work at your own pace? A link to the report will be posted on the [Middle States webpage](#) by March 4. You can provide your feedback at your convenience, but it must be submitted by March 13, 2026.

#### 2. In-Person Campus Meetings

Drop by one of our campus-specific sessions to share your thoughts:

- Rockville (SV416): Thursday, March 12 | 12-1:15 p.m.
- CT (S201): Thursday, March 12 | 2-3:15 p.m.

#### 3. Staff Enrichment Day: Special Sessions

Join us at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring (TP/SS) campus on March 18 for focused Middle States sessions. Whether you are an early bird or prefer an afternoon slot, we want to hear from you. Details to follow in the Staff Enrichment Day program.



# Accessibility in Action: Getting Ready for the ADA Title II 2026–2027 Deadlines



<b>C</b>	<b>Caption Everything</b> ✓ Captions on all videos ✓ Transcripts for audio	
<b>L</b>	<b>Logical Layout</b> ✓ Proper headings ✓ Content is well-organized	H1 > H2 > H3 
<b>E</b>	<b>Easy to Read</b> ✓ Clear language ✓ High contrast text	
<b>A</b>	<b>Alt Text for Images</b> ✓ Descriptive alt text ✓ Text for charts & graphics	
<b>R</b>	<b>Responsive Design</b> ✓ Works on all devices ✓ Adapts to zoom & resize	

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE COLLEGE COUNCIL



MARCH 2026

As we approach the mid-point of the spring semester, we can take pride in the progress we are making across our Transformational Aspirations of Access, Completion, and Post-Completion Success. These updates reflect coordinated efforts across the College, as well as sustained advocacy at the state and county levels to protect operating and capital priorities. March also provides an opportunity to recognize Women's History Month and the leadership, scholarship, and contributions of women across our College community. Together, these efforts demonstrate continued alignment with our Strategic Plan and measurable impact for our students and community.

## ACCESS

### **Student Trustee Shares Dual Enrollment Journey**

In a recent episode of [Bow Tie Chats](#), Student Trustee Renata Podlesny shared her experience in Montgomery College's dual enrollment program. Renata described how taking college courses while still in high school has provided rigorous, affordable academic preparation and accelerated her pathway toward degree completion. Her story highlights how dual enrollment expands early college access, reduces cost barriers for families, and empowers students to begin their higher education journeys with confidence and momentum.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #1: Enhance connections between Montgomery College and our community

### **Multilingual "Ask Monty" Expands Access for Families**

Montgomery College enhanced its "Ask Monty" chatbot to automatically translate responses when users submit questions in other languages. With students representing more than 140 nations, this tool reduces language barriers and provides accurate, real-time information directly from College webpages, strengthening equitable access for multilingual learners and their families.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #2: Cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College

### **Enrollment Offices Extend Service Hours**

Enrollment management offices expanded in-person hours across all College locations, including evening service on Tuesdays. Raptor Central, Records and Registration, and Financial Aid offices are providing greater flexibility for students balancing coursework, employment, and family responsibilities.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

### **Translation and Interpretation Services Strengthen Inclusion**

Translation and interpretation services remain available through the Office of Community Engagement to ensure students, employees, and residents can fully access College resources. Materials are available in multiple languages, and interpreters support events and advising. These services reinforce inclusive and equitable access across our community.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #2: Cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College

## **COMPLETION**

### **ATD 2026 Leader College Designation Affirms Student Success Gains**

Montgomery College has been named an Achieving the Dream 2026 Leader College following a comprehensive national review process. The three-year designation recognizes measurable gains in student success and equity through sustained, collegewide reform.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

### **Performing Arts Students Earn Regional Honors**

Eighteen Montgomery College performing arts students competed at the American College Theatre Festival Region 2, representing the College among students from 80 institutions across nine states. Students advanced to semifinal rounds and earned honors in performance, direction, and collaboration, reflecting academic rigor and strong faculty mentorship.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

### **Data Science Program Ranked #5 Nationally**

Montgomery College's online associate of science degree in data science was ranked fifth nationally in [TechGuide's 2026 Best Online Associate Programs](#). The ranking reflects faculty support, graduation outcomes, and student success metrics in a high-demand field.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

## **POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS**

### **Alumnus Becomes Youngest UMB Engineering Graduate**

Alim Saidkhodjaev, who began at Montgomery College through dual enrollment, became the youngest graduate of the University of Maryland's Cyber-Physical Systems Engineering program at age 19. He now serves as a research engineer, exemplifying accelerated pathways to high-demand careers.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #4: Increase economic impact for our students and community

### ***Eleva Tu Futuro* Highlights Latinos in STEM**

Season two of Montgomery College's Spanish-language podcast [\*Eleva Tu Futuro\*](#) highlights Latino alumni in STEM fields, beginning with bioengineer Viviana Bentley. Her journey reflects the impact of access, mentorship, and culturally responsive support.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #2: Cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College

### **Students Engage in Advocacy in Annapolis**

Students traveled to Annapolis for Student Advocacy Day last month, meeting with elected officials and participating in civic engagement activities. The experience strengthens leadership skills and prepares students for active participation in their communities.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #1: Enhance connections between Montgomery College and our community