

Thanking Our Retirees

April 25, 2011

RETIREE RECOGNITION RECEPTION PROGRAM
ROBERT E. PARILLA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
APRIL 25, 2011

Thanking Our Retirees

A Speech by
Montgomery College President
Dr. DeRionne Pollard

Dr. Pollard congratulates Montgomery College retirees, who cumulatively have dedicated 895 years to the College.

Good afternoon! It is an honor to be here to celebrate recent College retirees who have devoted so many years—for some of you more than half of your lives – to changing the lives of Montgomery College students. No matter what role you filled at the College, whether a professor, administrator, building service worker or another important position, you have played an instrumental part in our mission. Our sum is only as great as our parts – and you have been the parts for so many years that helped our College thrive.

Let's talk about a few numbers:

37—the number of College retirees who we are celebrating today, including five members of our community who left us too soon.

24— the average number of years these employees worked for Montgomery College.

895—the cumulative number of years these men and women devoted to the College.

895. If we could go back that many years, we would be in the year 1117 – centuries before anyone even knew America was on the map!

Being new to the College, I have to say the devotion of our employees immediately struck me. I cannot imagine many places where you can celebrate nearly 40 retirees and more than three-quarters of them have served more than 20 years! That is inspiring. It is you who help make our College such an inspiring place to work.

I want to leave you with an anecdote I heard about retirement. I can't vouch for its authenticity, but I am happy to endorse its message. As the story goes, musical composer Johannes Brahms decided to stop composing music to enjoy his golden years. But, after a period of time, Brahms returned to his roots and created a composition. When a friend asked him why, Brahms apparently said "I was so delighted by the thought of not writing that the music came to me without effort!"

What a great lesson for retirement—this is the time when you can truly enjoy what you love. Whether that is connected to your service at the College, or completely unrelated, I hope you will embrace this time and find what it is that truly delights your inner spirit.

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**Congratulations and THANK YOU for your years—
decades – of loyal service to changing lives.**