

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

April 2012



Montgomery College
endless possibilities



This month, I gave my first State of the College address, reassuring our community that though we are in the midst of many changes, the state of our College is strong. However, I stressed that we will only become stronger if we continuously adapt and find innovative ways to empower our students. An example of this innovation is our plan to create a common student experience (CSE): a set of truths that each and every student can come to expect from Montgomery College, regardless of campus. A group of College students, faculty, staff, and administrators crafted these truths, while another group, the Student Services Task Force, created a plan for restructuring student services in order to meet our CSE goals.

I commend the members of both task forces for their work to develop guiding principles around which we can unite and that, once implemented, will help our College meet our completion goals. These seven broad categories of truths, as articulated by the CSE Task Force, are:

- **Start Smart**
- **Maintain a Foundation of Support Opportunities**
- **Get Connected**
- **Build Community**
- **Enhance the Classroom Experience**
- **Encourage Student Success Every Step of the Way**
- **Plan to Cross the Finish Line**

I look forward to sharing more about these truths in the weeks and months ahead. Specific ideas include creating collegewide advising services and requiring First Year Experience programs and New Student Orientations. Additionally, the CSE Task Force suggests establishing momentum points— moments in a student’s experience at the College when we automatically check in on his or her progress.

As we move to a One College model, I have reassured our campuses that this does not include changing their individual campus identities. Becoming one does not mean becoming identical. I like to compare this idea to the dynamic in my family. My sister, Dawne, and I are two distinctly different women; Dawne is a banker, singer, single, and tall. Despite our differences, the core of who we are is the same. At the end of the day, I am DeRionne Pollard and she is Dawne Pollard, but we are both Pollard girls. At the end of the day, whether Rockville, Germantown, Takoma Park/Silver Spring, online, or a satellite Workforce Development & Continuing Education location, we are all Montgomery College.

As the College began implementing the suggestions from the CSE and Student Services Task Forces, I asked our campus leaders to reflect on how their campuses are working toward creating a common student experience. This is but a sampling of the hard work occurring in every corner of the College. I look forward to seeing how these efforts strengthen the state of our College in the years to come.



Board Discussion Questions:

1. Have you experienced or learned about initiatives that have helped multicampus institutions overcome similar challenges to the ones our College faces?
2. Why is the One College model so important?

Common Curriculum

Last semester, the College implemented Mathematics Prep (MA 094) collegewide, thanks to a collaborative faculty initiative. A collegewide Developmental Math Task Force, chaired by Professor Emeritus Ken Weiner, created a course that is offered in the same format on all three campuses, as well as online as a distance education course. A collegewide curriculum ensures that all students are taught the same content and held to the same standard. Online homework and proctored online tests ensure that uniform standards are met across the College.

The College is adjusting class sizes across campuses, departments, disciplines, and courses in an effort to achieve greater consistency. Instructional deans equalized the sizes of similar online courses across campuses, and they are making similar adjustments within disciplines.

The health sciences programs have developed and implemented information sharing and brainstorming events. During the sessions, the participants shared information about their curricula and generated ideas about how to help students succeed in the pre-health sciences stage of their education. Additionally, a panel of faculty and staff from health sciences presented information critical to understanding the nature of these programs and the completion challenges that their students face. A period of open discussion, question and answer, and sharing of ideas for student support followed this presentation. These information sharing events will be replicated collegewide so that all faculty and staff can help to support students who wish to succeed in the College's health sciences.

Computer Applications Professors Melissa Lizmi and Gail Youth created a set of collaborative instructional materials for core web courses. Web faculty can easily access, modify, and share the material online, which has led to greater consistency in course content across all three campuses. The department aims to have a common and collaborative set of course materials for all web classes by spring 2013.

Common College Process

Workforce Development & Continuing Education faculty, staff, and administrators are focused on enabling students to move seamlessly from a noncredit course to a credit program on any campus and vice versa. Examples of the ways that they are streamlining this process include:

- Students in an apprenticeship program benefit from an articulation agreement that awards equivalent college credits should the student continue toward a credit certificate or degree program.
- Instructors encourage students enrolled as a noncredit student in a co-listed credit class to explore the credit program option.



- Transitions coordinators help students complete a grant-funded program for the next learning opportunity at the College or in the community based upon students' interests.

A small task force at the Germantown Campus is reviewing the campuswide schedule and coordinating with other campuses to better align low-enrollment, upper-level courses to ensure that students will be able to plan ahead, know when and where to take these courses, and eliminate schedule conflicts. This will help students to complete their course work as quickly as possible.

Common Access to Student Services and Information

The Writing, Reading, and Language Centers on all campuses are exploring how to streamline center reporting through the use of common software like TutorTrak. This will enable all students to have a common experience when visiting centers, regardless of campus. It will also allow for common communication of tutoring sessions and student supports to faculty.

The Virtual Computing Lab (VCL) pilot program created environments that enable students to have 24-hour, remote access to computer programs housed on College computers. The team created, installed, and configured VCL environments that now support the delivery of computer science, information and interactive technologies, distance education, and traditional face-to-face courses.

Plans are underway for the collegewide training of counselors and front-line staff who work with veterans. New initiatives include a welcome packet and orientation targeted to veterans, an open house in the learning centers, and open gym hours specifically for veterans.

Representatives from all three campuses continue to develop a comprehensive and sustainable collegewide support services infrastructure connecting prospective health sciences students to resources that prepare them for the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS). As a result of ongoing collaborations, the following are some of the collegewide resources that the College created or acquired to construct a common experience:

- TEAS study manuals in of all of the College's main libraries
- An online LibGuide TEAS Resources web page
- A four-year license for the SkillsTutor program
- TEAS information sessions
- Ongoing one-on-one and group TEAS advisement sessions
- TEAS prep courses
- A TEAS information webpage with up-to-date information about the TEAS, score requirements for all health sciences programs, and study materials and resources

MC Pride and Allies, a new collegewide organization that supports the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community at the College, has organized around meeting LGBT student needs. They have identified faculty advisors for student groups on each campus. The purpose of these groups is to provide support to their peers, to make College resources more readily available to those who need them, and to educate their peers about LGBT rights issues.



A recently-formed student organization, the DREAM Club, provides enrichment and engagement opportunities for students with developmental disabilities who are enrolled in our noncredit programs.

Common Student Environments

The College's Office of Facilities based the design of both the Science Center at the Rockville Campus and the upcoming Germantown Campus Bioscience Education Center on the needs of students in the STEM fields. Facilities hosted a number of programming sessions with STEM faculty from all three campuses to discuss learning environments for buildings as well as for the future Takoma Park/Silver Spring Math and Science Center. The meetings helped focus plans for renovating Science East and Science West buildings on the Rockville Campus for the mathematics program as well as the renovation and addition to the Sciences and Applied Studies Building on the Germantown Campus for the physics, engineering, and mathematics programs. Early in the planning effort for the Science Center at the Rockville Campus, the College supported a series of meetings among the instructional deans for the STEM academic departments on the three campuses with a focus on promoting a common approach to planning, programming, and designing the STEM labs and classrooms for each campus.

Student Stories

Part of the College goal in the developmental math redesign is to enable motivated students to work at their own pace and move on to college-level math in a more expeditious fashion. An example is Catherine Yeboah, who placed in the beginning of part one of the new MA 094 course. Due to the self-paced nature of this program and her own motivation, in less than three weeks, she passed all of the tests in part one and is currently one test shy of the final exam for part two. Always in the lab, recently finished part two and is planning to complete her MA 099 course, Intermediate Algebra, by May. This means that she completed the equivalent of three semester-long courses in one semester.

Bruno Flaim enrolled in the College's noncredit TechLEAP program to study programming. After completing this track, he stayed on to pursue the web track. Since he did not have any industry experience in information technology, TechLEAP faculty suggested he take the credit networking series to round out his skill set before looking for employment in the IT field. After completing the credit course series, Mr. Flaim participated in a one-year internship with the College's InTech group, working in the Gaithersburg Business and Training Center. Based on his credit and noncredit learning experiences, along with his practical work experience through the internship, Mr. Flaim gained full-time employment with GEICO in a combined networking/programming database position.



COLLEGE BULLETIN

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Celebrating Students and Alumni

Thirteen Montgomery College honors students presented their research at the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council conference held at Frederick Community College. Natalie Berry, Bethania Custodio, Ingrid Duran, Doris Enriquez, Joseph Etoo, Jonathan Faure, Nicolle Gamez, Simcha Gratz, Hillary Kevin Koech, Alexis Martinez, Anthony Nearman, Pauline Sipin, Eunice Whipple, and Olivia Wondu discussed such diverse topics as *The Iliad*, the assimilation of the Ainu, transitional justice mechanisms in East Timor and South Africa, global warming, green chemistry, and the Paul Peck Humanities Institute's Library of Congress internship program. At that same conference, Sairam Nagulapalli, a Montgomery Scholars honors student, received the prestigious John and Edythe Portz Award for Outstanding Maryland Honors Student at a Two-Year College. He earned the distinction for academic achievement and service.

Over spring break, three visual arts students, Pablo Callejo, Claudia Gomez, and Ralph Moreno, visited Capital City Charter School in Washington, D.C., to talk to approximately 50 high school students about going to college and their experiences at Montgomery College.

Elizabeth Turk, a former student of Art Professors Komelia Okim and Orest Poliszczuk, held a solo exhibition of her work in March at Hirschl & Adler Modern in New York. Ms. Turk is a previous winner of fellowships from the MacArthur Foundation, the Smithsonian Artist Research Foundation, the Barnett and Annalee Newman Foundation, and the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

Jacqueline Menenza, former student of Art Associate Professor Tendai Johnson, received a best-in-show award for a student exhibition at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, where she is a student. Ms. Menenza exhibited work that she completed as a Montgomery College student.

Donna Wailing, former student of Art Professor Sumita Kim, exhibited her work this month at Contempo, a national juried exhibition at the Lighthouse Art Center of the Museum and School of Art in Tequesta, Florida.

Yelena Keyzman, a web careers student completing a certificate in web design, utilized digital skills acquired through courses in the Department of Computer Science and Information & Interactive Technologies to create a [video](#) illustrating the process of creating a 12-foot mural.

Eleven students from the Montgomery College Cricket Club competed in a national athletic competition, the American College Cricket Spring Break Championship in Ft. Lauderdale, battling teams from large universities across the country. In 2009, the championship's inaugural year, the Montgomery College Cricket Club swept the spring break competition and took top honors.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Biology Professor Gail Jenkins spoke at the "Engaging a New Generation of Students: Dynamic Strategies for Dramatic Results" symposium in early March at the Mandarin Oriental in Las Vegas. Her presentation, "From the Classroom to the Clinic," focused on techniques and



curricula enhancement that help students develop a working knowledge of the human body and critical thinking skills they need to succeed in health science programs and vocations. Interestingly, Professor Jenkins never left Montgomery County to deliver her Vegas presentation. She shared her talk virtually via a web camera/presentation program, Adobe Connect.

Dr. Barry Spieler, mathematics professor, gave a keynote address at the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Southeastern Section annual conference in Atlanta in early March. Dr. Spieler was the 2011 recipient of the MAA-Southeastern Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. His presentation, “A Teaching Journey,” highlighted inspiring people and crucial moments that shaped and continue to shape him as a teacher.

A Fox News reporter in Charlotte, North Carolina, interviewed Speech Professor Lauralyn McWilliams about her role in the American Association of Community College’s Make it Personal: College Completion initiative, a national program to raise awareness of and engage students in addressing issues of unplanned pregnancy and personal choices. Professor McWilliams explained how she incorporates these issues into her curriculum. The reporter discovered Professor McWilliams in a [YouTube video](#) that Jim Walters, director of student life at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, and the National Campaign to Prevent Unplanned Pregnancy shot in fall 2010.

On a related note, Jim Walters, along with English Professor Robert Giron and Professor Giron’s former EN 101A student Stephanie Ndifohndung, gave a presentation on the Make It Personal initiative at the Innovations 2012 Conference in Philadelphia in March.

Professor Ed Ahlstrom exhibited his artwork this month in *23 x 23*, an invitational show at the Waverly Street Gallery in Bethesda. Professor Ahlstrom also participated in the Remembering Ross Merrill exhibition, commemorating the former National Gallery of Art’s chief of conservation, who was a key figure in establishing Montgomery College’s internship program at the gallery. The exhibit took place at the American Painting Fine Art gallery in Washington, D.C.

Art Associate Professor Michael Sellmeyer served as a juror for the Montgomery Village Foundation Art Exhibition in March.

Small Paintings from 7 Schools, an exhibition organized by Art Professor Ed Ahlstrom and Art Associate Professor Ken Jassie, took place at the Sarah Silberman Gallery in March. The exhibition included 25 artists from American University, Corcoran College of Art, George Washington University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, the Maryland Institute College of Art, and Salisbury University.

Dr. Mei-Ching Chen, part-time professor in the Department of Computer Science and Information & Interactive Technologies (CSIIT), and Dr. Andy Yao, professor of CSIIT, secured a training contract for Workforce Development & Continuing Education to deliver a Project



Management Professional Boot Camp to employees of DSFederal, a Maryland-based consulting firm.

English Professor Katherine Smith recently published in several publications: A poem in the journal, *Measure*; three poems in the journal, *Poems and Plays*; three poems in the publication, *Unsplendid*; and a fictional piece in *Amazing Graces: Yet Another Collection of Fiction by Washington Area Women*.

A rave review ran in [The Washington Post](#) in March for the photography exhibition *Terraforming: Contemporary Discourse in Landscape Photography*, which was on view through early April in the King Street Gallery at The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center.

Dr. Jeanann Boyce, professor of computer science and technologies, served as a community awards judge for the Montgomery County Science Fair. She judged the engineering submissions for middle and high school students and presented awards and certificates from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

WD&CE launched the Special Thanks, Appreciation, and Recognition (STAR) Employee Recognition Program to foster a new era of recognition, appreciation, and unity for all the good work done in the department. WD&CE employees and clients will be recognized throughout the year in various media tools, events, and professional development activities.

Speakers and Events

Mr. Patrick Beldio, sculptor, philosopher, and teacher, spoke at the March Athenaeum Symposia in Globe Hall. Mr. Beldio, whose works of art are displayed at the Kennedy Center and through private and public collections across the United States, addressed “The Future of Art: Re-enchancement in Contemporary Art.” In April, Frank Islam, author and entrepreneur, addressed the topic of “Renewing the American Dream: A Citizen’s Guide for Restoring Our Competitive Edge.”

The College organized a special International Women’s Day in March as part of Women’s History Month. The theme was Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures. It featured Montgomery College students, high school students, and a panel of College professionals and students. The women’s studies annual scholarship fundraising breakfast honored Dean Carolyn S. Terry as the 2012 On Her Shoulders We Stand award winner, as well as the 2012 student scholarship winners. The event featured a special poetry reading by Professor Kateema Lee.

The Department of History and Politics hosted a [lecture and book signing](#) in March by author Ira Shapiro, former staff member for five Democratic senators and author of *The Last Great Senate*.

Montgomery College hosted Republican and Democratic debates for 6th Congressional District candidates in late March at the Germantown Campus. MarylandReporter.com editor and publisher Len Lazarick moderated these debates, which the AARP sponsored. The Montgomery



College television station videotaped and rebroadcast the debates in the days leading up to the primaries.

In early April, Norman Augustine, the primary author of the update of the National Academies' report "Rising above the Gathering Storm, Revisited," served as the keynote speaker at a lecture at the Germantown Campus. Mr. Augustine joined a roundtable discussion on how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education is pivotal to America's success. Other panelists included Dr. Pollard; MedImmune Senior Vice President Steve Projan; Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development Secretary Christian Johansson; Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Joshua Starr; Congressman Christopher Van Hollen; and MIT President Emeritus Charles Vest.

The First Year Experience (FYE) Program and the Nursing Department sponsored a talk on "American Indian and Alaskan Natives: Health Care Quality and Access" with Robert McSwain, a member of the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, who is the deputy director for management operations for the Indian Health Service (IHS). The IHS, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, is the principal federal health care advocate and provider for American Indians and Alaska Natives. The nursing classes discussed cultural concerns regarding the assessment and the delivery of care, and the FYE Common Reading Program discussed the *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie.

An event called Yoga & Poetry for Women Survivors of War took place in early April and raised funds for Women for Women (WfW) International, a nonprofit organization that helps women survivors of war. College student Aurelie Bibentyo, a native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, shared her experiences as a volunteer translator for WfW in her home country over winter break. Anne Becker, a former Takoma Park Poet Laureate, read a poem and lead participants in writing messages of hope and healing to the sponsored women.

And, in a related event this month, a group of students and faculty members took part in a Run for Congo Women, which benefited women survivors of war through WfW.

MC News

In March the Office of Human Resources, Development, and Engagement recognized 188 College employees during the annual Length of Service Awards Ceremony. The College recognized one individual for an astonishing 45 years of service! Moreover, 10 employees celebrated 40 years of service, and 17 employees celebrated 30 or 35 years. The majority of recipients have served Montgomery College for 25, 20, 15, or 10 years.

The Stepping Stone Club is a new student club that supports students from nontraditional social settings. The club's founder and President James Toler and Vice President Alex Buie have lived in homeless shelters in Montgomery County.

The Boys to Men mentoring program hosted a 2012 Black Facts competition, which drew over 70 student participants and included prizes, certificates of appreciation, and an awards ceremony.



In the a series of discussions featuring Discovery Communications professionals and their advice on career paths, Montgomery College students, staff, and faculty heard firsthand stories told by some of Discovery's brightest leaders earlier. The "Discover Your Career" panels are part of the broader "Discover Your Skills" campaign the media company launched last year. The guests' expertise included programming, production, advertising sales, and digital and social media in February. Another panel in March focused on emerging technologies in media.

The College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute held its annual Holocaust Commemoration in late March on the Rockville Campus. This year's program featured a facilitated panel discussion with Professor Kenneth Jassie and Montgomery County Holocaust survivors Emanuel Mandel and Edith Lowy. Holocaust survivors and members of the College community participated in a candle lighting ceremony, and the audience heard performances by student musicians under the direction of award-winning Music Professor Dawn Avery.

At MC Books & More, the Montgomery College bookstore, customer online orders through its *inSite* program totaled nearly 900 between December and mid-February. Customers can receive their orders via mail or pick them up in person.

Earlier this year, the bookstore implemented new VERBA software, which works with the retail operations database to ensure that prices on textbooks are competitive with those of online booksellers and other competitors.

Along the lines of promoting textbook affordability, the textbook rental program continues to expand. Within one year of launching this program, MC Books & More increased the number of textbook rental offerings from its initial 30 titles to 200 titles collegewide.

Earlier this spring, the College's Retail Operations within the Auxiliary Services unit launched a customer loyalty program. Students, faculty, staff, and community members may sign up for the program and earn one point for every dollar that they spend. Customers may redeem their points for MC Books & More gift cards, which are good towards future purchases at any retail operations location.

