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Montgomery College President Reacts to Release of Montgomery County Executive's Recommended FY14 Budget *Recommendation for County Funding of \$99 million to College*

In response to today's release of the Montgomery County Executive's fiscal year 2014 recommended budget, Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, president of Montgomery College, issued the following statement:

"I am pleased that the Montgomery County Executive today recommended an increase of \$3.7 million in funding, totaling \$99 million in county support for the coming year, to support Montgomery College's budget for fiscal year 2014. The Board of Trustees and I thank the County Executive for his continued support of our College and of our efforts to provide affordable high quality higher education for county residents. He clearly recognizes that an investment in Montgomery College's employees and students contributes to the future vitality of our county.

In preparing the College's budget request, we focused on our most valuable resource, the men and women who empower our students to change their lives. We believed it was essential to provide Montgomery College employees with salary enhancements, since employees have made personal and professional sacrifices over the last several years, including taking furlough days in fiscal year 2011 and no additions to base salaries in at least three years. In addition, for the first time in years, I am proud that our budget request does not assume a tuition increase in an effort to ease the fiscal burden on our students who have been shouldering a greater share of our budget.

In the coming months, we will work to ensure that councilmembers know of the sacrifices our employees have made and continue to make to serve our students, and we will emphasize the academic excellence we provide every day to our students and the imperative to remain affordable for our students. We look forward to working with the Montgomery County Council during its budget deliberations."

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