



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE COLLEGE COUNCIL



SEPTEMBER 2026

I am pleased to reintroduce this monthly report designed to provide a clear and concise snapshot of recent progress across Montgomery College in advance of the College Council's first meeting each month. This report supports participatory governance by expanding communication, equipping Council members with timely updates to share with their constituents, and encouraging continued dialogue as we work together to advance our Strategic Plan and Transformational Aspirations of Access, Completion, and Post-Completion Success.

ACCESS

MC TRIO EOC Funding Expands College and Career Pathways

Montgomery College has been awarded \$284,760 in federal funding for its TRIO Educational Opportunity Center (MC TRIO EOC), providing continued support for the program's college access services through August 2027. MC TRIO EOC serves more than 1,000 learners each year through individualized academic and career counseling, college admissions and enrollment support, financial aid assistance, career workshops, and guidance on alternative education pathways that include distance education, apprenticeships, and short-term, industry-recognized credentials. Staff help participants compare costs, timelines, and career outcomes to identify pathways that best fit their goals and circumstances. The program has operated continuously at Montgomery College since 2003, strengthening higher education and career opportunities for residents throughout the community.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Family-Friendly Study Spaces Support Student Parents

The Student Parent Program at Montgomery College has launched family-friendly study spaces at four locations across the county, creating welcoming environments for students balancing college and parenting responsibilities. Made possible through donor support, the spaces include interactive technology, activity stations, children's books, and comfortable study areas. These resources help student parents remain connected to the College while pursuing their academic goals in an inclusive environment that fosters success.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Montgomery College Earns Best for Families Honors

Montgomery College was recognized as a regional leader in higher education, earning first-place honors for Best Community College and Best Continuing Education in Washington Family Magazine's 2026 Best for Families awards. The annual readers' choice awards recognize organizations that make a meaningful difference for children and families throughout the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. These recognitions highlight the College's role in expanding access to high-quality education for learners at every stage of life.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

COMPLETION

2026 Commencement Celebrates Student Achievement

Montgomery College celebrated approximately 3,100 graduates at its 2026 Commencement ceremonies, with more than 1,500 students participating in the celebration of their achievements. The Class of 2026 included students from 111 countries and more than 400 dual enrollment students who earned college degrees while still in high school. The success of this year's Commencement experience also informed planning for next year, when the College will again offer a two-day ceremony format to provide graduates and their families with an enhanced celebration of this important milestone. Behind every graduate is the support of faculty and staff who help students navigate their educational journeys and achieve their goals.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Holistic Advising Network Strengthens Student Support

Montgomery College launched the Holistic Advising Network this August, with the aim of placing students at the center of the advising process and strengthening collaboration among professionals who support them throughout their College journey. The network brings together advisors, counselors, and other student support professionals to provide more proactive, coordinated guidance as students define their goals, navigate academic pathways, and progress toward completion. The initiative advances a more integrated approach to advising that helps students access the information, resources, and support they need to succeed.

Strategic Goal Supported:

Goal #3: Enhance educational and organizational effectiveness

New Student Orientation Pilot Program Builds Confidence and Belonging

More than 1,000 attendees were welcomed across 15 events as part of Montgomery College's New Student Orientation pilot program this summer, giving new students opportunities to build community and connect with academic, student support, and College resources before the start of the fall semester. Post-event survey responses showed that 93 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more confident about starting classes and were welcomed and supported as new members of the College community. The pilot demonstrates the value of creating intentional opportunities for students to begin their MC experience with confidence.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

MC Graduate Earns Prestigious National Scholarship

Montgomery College graduate Ronny Picardo was one of just 60 students nationwide selected for the 2026 Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship, which will fund his bachelor's studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. Picardo graduated this spring from both Northwest High School and Montgomery College, earning an associate's degree in general engineering while completing high school. He now will study aerospace engineering as a UMD Honors College student. His achievement demonstrates how Montgomery College's dual enrollment experience can accelerate students' educational pathways and connect them with opportunities for continued academic achievement and career success.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Collective Impact Institute Expands Pathways to Opportunity

Montgomery College launched the Collective Impact Institute in June, bringing together approximately 70 leaders from education, business, government, philanthropy, and nonprofit organizations to strengthen cross-sector collaboration across Montgomery County. Building on the foundation established by Montgomery Moving Forward, the Institute aligns partners around shared priorities including workforce development, economic mobility, and community well-being. The initiative builds on the College's accessibility, partnerships, and countywide reach to create more connected pathways to opportunity and upward mobility for residents throughout the region.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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

Alumni Networking Night Strengthens Connections Beyond Graduation

The Montgomery College Alumni Association welcomed approximately 150 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members to its inaugural Recent Alumni Networking Night in June. Led by 19 Alumni Ambassadors, the event connected students and recent graduates with alumni who shared career and personal guidance while creating opportunities for networking and community building. The event demonstrates the value of sustained relationships with students and alumni.

Strategic Goal Supported:

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