From: The President
To: MC Communications!
Subject: New Opportunities to Develop International Partnerships
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2012 11:26:17 AM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

September 20, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: New Opportunities to Develop International Partnerships

Our Montgomery County community is increasingly turning to Montgomery College to enhance and develop international partnerships. I believe this speaks to our mission and to our role as both a higher education leader and an anchor institution. While firmly rooted in the county, we are deeply committed to using education as the pathway beyond our boundaries. Next week, a team of Montgomery College faculty, staff, and administrators will travel to Ethiopia, and a separate team will travel to India.

At the request of Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, a 10-person team of Montgomery College faculty and staff—led by Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, senior vice president for student services—will accompany the Montgomery County delegation to Ethiopia, September 23–30. The purpose of the visit is to build a connection with the county's new Sister City—Gondar City, Ethiopia. Operating funds will not be used for this trip.

The College team will spend most of its time with colleagues from the University of Gondar, where the College will present a mini-symposium on the American community college model and higher education practices in the United States. The symposium also provides a forum to discuss student support services, community partnerships, and workforce development activities that benefit our Montgomery County community.

During the same week as the Ethiopia visit, I will lead a second team from Montgomery College and Discovery Education, a subsidiary of Discovery Communications, to India. Montgomery College has worked closely over the past year with Discovery Communications to develop a robust program of internships, seminars, and career panel discussions. Our visit will enhance our collective efforts to educate students for the global economy and expand our partnership to include the creation of digital course, teaching, and faculty professional development materials.

The India visit is funded by the grant through the United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) and partners in India. No College funds will be used for this visit.

Our visits stand as testament to Montgomery College's increasing leadership on issues of importance both locally and globally. They also have demonstrated relevance in light of the College's recent grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which seeks to increase international education offerings and to internationalize the humanities curriculum with the establishment of an Institute for Global Studies. Echoing our mission of empowering our students and enriching our community, the trips offer professional development for faculty and staff and enhanced relationships with our educational partners, which will benefit our students.

I look forward to sharing more information about these partnerships as they continue to develop. Thank you.