

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President

Subject: Governor Wes Moore Appoints Dr. Sanjay Rai as Acting Maryland Secretary of Higher Education

Date: April 12, 2023

I am proud to announce that Governor Wes Moore today named Dr. Sanjay Rai, the College's senior vice president for academic affairs, as acting secretary for the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). This is a prestigious appointment that plays a major leadership role for post-secondary education in Maryland. Although this news is bittersweet for the College, Dr. Rai's appointment to Gov. Moore's leadership team will come as no surprise to the students, faculty, and staff who have learned and worked alongside him at Montgomery College. He starts his new role in early May.

Dr. Rai's skills and achievements make him uniquely qualified to support Gov. Moore's vision for advancing post-secondary education in Maryland. His accomplishments while at Montgomery College have benefitted thousands of students, bolstered the College's academic programs, and forged valuable collaborations with community, industry, and government. His dedication to equity, innovation, and academic excellence has made a very real difference for all of us at Montgomery College. We look forward to continuing our relationship with MHEC to advance student success in Montgomery County and across Maryland.

Since his appointment to the senior vice president position in 2014, Dr. Rai has transformed the Academic Affairs Division, leading efforts to pursue grants, forge partnerships with business, and cultivate curricula. He provided leadership in developing a collegewide academic structure, which encouraged collaboration, innovation, and intensified focus on student success. He also led the development of the Institute for Part-time Faculty Engagement and Support, thereby expanding part-time faculty engagement in student success efforts. The strategies and initiatives he inspired and developed continue to evolve in support of student success. As senior vice president for academic affairs, he also oversaw the Workforce Development and Continuing Education unit, a self-sustaining contributor to employers, the community, students, and the College.

Prior to serving as the College's chief academic officer, Dr. Rai led the Germantown Campus as vice president and provost. In that role, he supported the creation of the Hercules Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology at Montgomery College (PIC MC) Foundation, which supports the Innovation Complex, providing an integrated academic, business, and research environment. In addition, the Paul Peck Academic and Innovation Building was made part of the campus during his Germantown tenure to address the burgeoning life science industry with 25 start-up companies working on projects and providing learning opportunities for our faculty and students. During this time, construction of the Holy Cross Germantown Hospital was completed, the first hospital on a community college campus, which led to an Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership Award from

the American Association of Community Colleges. Dr. Rai also supported the development of the Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia, the Hillman Entrepreneur Program, and the development of the Biosciences Education Building.

Dr. Rai has also made a community impact by serving on several Boards and taking on multiple leadership roles. A difference maker at Montgomery College and in the community, Dr. Rai has received several awards for his leadership and dedication to advancing the community we serve. He completed a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, an M.S. in mathematics from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Canada, and an M.S. in mathematics and a B.S. in statistics, physics, and mathematics from the University of Allahabad in India. Dr. Rai continues to actively contribute to the field of mathematics by authoring numerous scholarly articles and other academic publications. Seen as a pillar in the field, he has received several awards for teaching and scholarship.

On behalf of the entire Montgomery College community, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Rai in this exciting new endeavor leading Maryland's post-secondary education system. Good luck, and thank you, Dr. Rai!