

From: [MC Communications](#)
To: [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#); [All Registered Students](#)
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February 17, 2025

MC's unwavering attention to students and their success remains constant. There are countless ways for students to engage, advance your academic journey, and enrich your community. I encourage every student to seize these moments: The more you get involved, the more you'll gain.

Arts Opportunities Abound

Turning artistic dreams into creative careers is the focus of my latest *Backpacks on the Go* video. I sat down at a pottery wheel with creative artist Romula Hawthorne who graduated from MC with a double major and is continuing to build her portfolio as a continuing education student. Romula shows me how the ceramics studio is used and shares some highlights from the King Street Gallery on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Hands-on learning like Romula's enriches our students and creates cultural awareness that extends into the community. I am so proud of our arts department. If you haven't already, I encourage you to connect with MC on our social media channels, where we share new releases in our monthly [Bow Ties and Backpacks](#) video series.



Connect, Engage, Empower: Your February at MC

This month, we invite you to explore a wide range of opportunities designed to connect you with your passions, build community ties, and empower your future. Kick off the week with tomorrow's Takoma Park Silver Spring [Volunteer Fair](#)—a great way to give back and get involved. Then, on Wednesday, discover new interests at Club Rush events taking place on the [Germantown](#), [Rockville](#), and [Takoma Park/Silver Spring](#) campuses. A special Black History Month [documentary](#) tomorrow features the desegregation of a local site, Glen Echo Park, through the courage of students and allies.

Smithsonian Fellowships and Innovation Grants

Two chances to enhance teaching and pursue innovation are readily available this month. The [Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship](#) has benefitted hundreds of faculty members since 1998. I invite you to [hear directly](#) from the 2024 fellows on Thursday about their accomplishments, and learn about the potential for using Smithsonian museums as powerful teaching tools. And for faculty and staff considering applying for [MC Innovation Grants](#), please join this discussion on Friday to learn more about what makes a successful application. Questions will be answered about the application process, and this year's theme, "Achieving Student Success through Bold, Innovative, and Transformational Opportunities."

Have a wonderful fourth week of classes!

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

President

[@DrWilliams_MC](#)