

A Fundraising Campaign for
OUR COLLEGE | OUR COMMUNITY | OUR FUTURE



CASE FOR SUPPORT

MC MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



Montgomery College is one of the nation's most dynamic institutions dedicated to serving society, building futures, and transforming lives. In a culture and an economy where we face vexing questions, Montgomery College is a wellspring of answers. In a society where we face entrenched challenges, Montgomery College is a source of solutions.

At this moment, Montgomery College presents a profound opportunity. It is a chance to impact our community and our world in the ways that matter most—educating ambitious, engaged, and productive citizens, and in doing so, reducing poverty, increasing economic mobility, and advancing social justice.

To seize this opportunity, the Board of Trustees of Montgomery College adopted a strategic vision with bold aspirations for the future. To fulfill those aspirations, we are publicly launching a \$50 million campaign. Our goals are to expand access to the transformational educational experiences that we offer, to increase every student's potential for success in college and in life, and to ensure a bright future for our community.


Please join us. —>

OUR CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Montgomery County, Maryland, is one of the most vibrant communities in the United States. Widely regarded as the most diverse county in the nation, people of many different cultures, religions, ethnicities, economic circumstances, and countries of origin live side by side. It offers a wealth of economic and career opportunity, with a strong presence of corporate and government stakeholders, as well as the full range of industries and occupations. It is rich with cultural opportunities, from art to cuisine to entertainment. It is, finally, an educational powerhouse, home to more than half of the top 10 public high schools in the state of Maryland.

Amid this landscape, Montgomery College serves the community extremely well. Over the decades, MC has placed hundreds of thousands of students on the path to upward social and economic mobility. It has educated and trained the essential workforce that has served, and continues to serve, our community in the most fundamental ways. And it has always done so at a good value, at a reasonable cost, close to home, with programs that offer students credentials and degrees that are relevant and necessary in our economy, our culture, and our society. In a county and a community that is shining brightly, Montgomery College has long been a source of light.





Over the decades, Montgomery College has placed hundreds of thousands of students on the path to upward social and economic mobility.

Nevertheless, in today's world we are confronted with and confounded by challenges. Three are significant for the future of Montgomery College and the vitality of our community.

FIRST, despite the documented wage advantage of those who have completed degrees and certificates from an institution of higher education, some individuals claim that it is not worth the cost, and that it doesn't effectively prepare students for future success.

SECOND, in Montgomery County and across the nation, we are beset by workforce shortages in essential professions. In recent years, we've seen headline after headline about shortages in such fields as nursing, teaching, logistics, cybersecurity, HVAC, public safety, and computer programming.

FINALLY, despite the excellence of our public-school system, we see an entrenched and growing problem: too many young people adrift. Right now, there are thousands of recent Montgomery County public high school graduates who are neither in college nor in the workforce. Given the world of possibility that our community offers, these challenges together amount to a tragedy of unfulfilled potential.

Montgomery College offers an opportunity to confront these challenges and overcome these obstacles.

Those who might question the value of higher education will find a good value at MC, where high-quality career preparation can be accessed conveniently at a reasonable cost.

A community concerned about the shortage of professionals in healthcare, education, public safety, and information technology will find relevant degree and nondegree programs at MC. Those who for whatever reason are not pursuing education or work after high school can find at MC many paths to a better future—whether that be through job training, gaining a credential, earning an associate's degree, or simply testing the waters of college life before setting one's sights on a four-year institution. But for our answers and solutions to be truly useful, they must be applied. And so, we must connect more people to the promise of Montgomery College.



By supporting the Montgomery College Foundation, donors transform the lives of students, enhance our economy, invigorate our community, and strengthen our county for years to come. Our campaign is grounded in the transformational aspirations that inspire the Montgomery College Strategic Plan for 2023–2028. These aspirations align with the three stages of a student’s journey of engagement with MC: before they come, when they’re here, and after they move on into the world.

Your gifts to this campaign will not be isolated acts of generosity, rather a driving force that powers the lifecycle of engagement with Montgomery College. They will be the engine for transformation of students, their families, our economy, and our community.

Three stages of a MC student’s journey.

ACCESS

Creating a college-going culture across our county.

COMPLETION

Providing an inclusive, supportive, student-centered, and goal-oriented educational experience.

POST COMPLETION SUCCESS

Equipping students to create a better life and to build a stronger community.



ACCESS

Creating a college-going culture across our county.

Access is not simply opening the doors of the institution to those who are interested in attending.

It is deliberately and continually working in the community to create a college-going culture. It is not merely illuminating the path to a better life, but actively guiding people on that path, assuring them that they belong on that path, and showing them where the path can take them. With your support, we will invest in the following priorities.



Through our **Presidential Scholars Program**, we will make specific, comprehensive investments and deliver evidence-based solutions that effectively address the particular challenges facing African American male students to ensure they enroll in college and remain in college through completion of a degree.

We will build on investments in our **Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program**, which increases college degree completion and professional success for students who have been historically underrepresented in higher education. We will sustain investments in academic and college guidance, a cohort-based approach, scholarship support, and career readiness that our students need to enroll in college, stay in college, and complete college.

Through our collegewide **Honors Programs**, we will provide unique learning and growth opportunities, and significant scholarships, for our brightest academic stars and most motivated high-potential students. These five special cohort programs currently include: Renaissance Scholars (honors learning community), STEM Scholars (students majoring in STEM), the Macklin Business Institute (business students), Montgomery Scholars (interdisciplinary honors program for high school graduates), and the Scholars Circle (high-achieving college students).

COMPLETION

Providing an inclusive, supportive, student-centered, and goal-oriented educational experience.

Completion is not just earning a degree, but ensuring that all credentials that the College offers provide experiences of economic, social, and community impact.

Belonging is not merely about a spirit of acceptance, but about ensuring that everyone at MC—students, faculty, staff, and visitors—have appropriate and equitable access to services, experiences, and opportunities. With your support, we will invest in the following priorities.



Our investment in **Student Parent Programs** will help to create the conditions for parenting students to complete a college degree. Our supports for parenting students, which could include early education, childcare, peer groups, etc., will contribute to their success by strengthening their resiliency and ability to weather crises while also positively benefiting their children.

Our **Emergency Assistance** funds will ensure that our institution is prepared to help our students respond to financial difficulties that have the potential to end or derail their college dreams. In times of crisis, our students will be able to access emergency funds for food and shelter, other basic needs and emergencies or receive temporary tuition advances to continue their studies.

The **Student Wellness Center's food security programs** are more necessary than ever to remove hunger and food insecurity as a barrier to college. Our Fuel for Success programs (i.e., mobile market, food pantries and food lockers, and grab-and-go programs) address food insecurity on each campus with flexible options that meet the needs of our students.

Athletics and Program Support will ensure that the student-athletes fiercely competing in their chosen sport on our campuses have the scholarships and financial assistance they need to earn a degree. At the same time, we will ensure that our athletic program has the financial resources, facilities, and coaching staff it needs to recruit high-caliber athletes and ensure they are on the path to a college degree.

POST-COMPLETION SUCCESS

Equipping students to create a better life and to build a stronger community.

Our institutional ability to transform lives is measured by the success of our students after they leave Montgomery College.

When students move on from MC, whether they are transferring to a four-year program or entering the workforce, they need to have mastered skills that will ensure success on their journey and allow them to earn a family-sustaining wage. With your support, we will invest in the following priorities.



Our newly created **Industry Certification and Credentialing Fee Assistance Fund** will help to remove barriers to work for students who have completed their course of study at Montgomery College. Students completing degrees or certifications in business, education, health care, information technology, public safety, technical trades, and transportation are required to sit for exams that confirm their skills and knowledge before they can begin their chosen career.

Our **Transfer Scholarship Fund** will provide funding for scholarships to unlock opportunities for students in the next stage of their higher education journey, whether transferring to a four-year institution in Maryland or an out-of-state college or university. Our commitment to college completion means we remove financial obstacles that might prevent transfer students from continuing on the path to a bachelor's degree.

Our **Experiential Learning & Career Connections Fund** provides opportunities for student graduates to learn by doing and makes vital connections with others in their industry. We will invest in their future success by supporting their participation in experiential learning (internships, externships, and fellowships) and the most critical conferences, meetings, and events in their field. This support might include registration and entry fees and transportation.

OUR GRAND TRANSFORMATIONAL ASPIRATION

At this moment, Montgomery College offers a profound opportunity. We offer answers to complex questions that confound our culture. We offer solutions for significant challenges that confront our society. By committing to access, belonging, completion, and success, Montgomery College can be the nation's model of a community's college.

In doing so, we can positively impact American society broadly: reducing poverty; increasing economic mobility; advancing social justice; and educating ambitious, engaged, and productive citizens. This is the grand transformational ambition of our time.

We welcome your insights and ideas about our vision, our goals, and our campaign. With your support, we can enhance our community, build futures, and transform lives.

By committing to access, belonging, completion, and success, Montgomery College can be the nation's model of a community's college.



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