From: The President
To: MC Communications List
Subject: Giving Thanks
Date: Friday, November 19, 2010 12:01:06 PM

Thanksgiving | 2010

Montgomery College
Office of the President

November 19, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

My heart is filled with gratitude this holiday season. I am grateful for the warm welcome my family and I have received from the College and the surrounding community; I am grateful for the support you showed me during the inauguration in October; and I am grateful for the opportunity to join you in our mission of changing lives.

In the past few weeks alone, I have observed incredible acts of dedication to our students and to each other, and for that I give thanks.

I give thanks for the faculty members who have engaged in passionate dialogue about student success and the completion agenda here at Montgomery College.

I give thanks for the members of the College staff who work to provide the critical services our students and employees rely upon.

I give thanks for the team in Workforce Development and Continuing Education who continue to position the College in places where we can most benefit our community.

I give thanks for MC students like Jason Ciemielewski, a biotechnology major who joined me at a recent meeting of the American Association of Community Colleges to share his perspectives on college completion.

I give thanks for our youngest students, like those pictured above at our Early Learning Center on the Germantown Campus. I smile when I look at the beautiful piece of artwork created by these children whose start here will help them one day achieve their potential.

I give thanks for the Office of Business Services for earning an exceptional review for the

tenth year in a row from our external auditing firm. I have never witnessed such an outstanding track record at a community college.

I give thanks for my colleagues who have given their time and talents to create an exciting, new production of *The Happy Elf,* which was given an enthusiastic thumbs-up by my son.

I give thanks for the sacrifices everyone at Montgomery College is making during these challenging economic times. No one gives thanks for the necessity of furloughs, but I do hope you enjoy the extra day before Thanksgiving with family and friends.

I give thanks for the influential voices in our local community and the education community who recognize our value as an institution and the excellence of our people. Two particular examples come to mind: a recent editorial in *The Gazette*, titled "Higher Education for All;" and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's recognition of our own Dr. Deborah Stearns as the 2010 Maryland Professor of the Year. Congratulations to Dr. Stearns!

I give thanks for the members of our volunteer boards who devote countless hours each month to the success of Montgomery College and our students. I applaud the members of the Board of Trustees, the Montgomery College Foundation Board, and the Alumni Board of Governors.

For these few examples and many more, Montgomery College is an amazing institution. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. I wish each and every one of you a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Be well,
DeRionne