

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Return-to-Campuses, Forums, Student Support, Racial Justice
(Update #172)

Date: June 2, 2021

Good afternoon. I was pleased to see the robust engagement of hundreds of employees in our first virtual Return-to-Campuses forum today. In case you weren't able to attend and there was some excellent information conveyed, which will be available on the [recording](#). There were some important questions asked—about transportation, learning centers, hiring freeze, scheduling, exceptions, parking, and more. Some of the questions may already be answered in the new [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs) about Return-to-Campuses, so please consult these as well for information relevant to our return. Evolving questions will be answered in the FAQs site as they are asked. The next two forums are scheduled for [June 10](#) and [June 17](#) (registration is required). Two special forums for supervisors are being hosted—the one that occurred today—and one on [June 15](#).

As we begin to ease back to face-to-face experiences, students may feel additional stress, so the Student Health and Wellness Center for Success will be hosting a free support group. This [virtual opportunity](#) runs June 10 through July 15. It is geared toward students experiencing COVID-related adjustments, academic stressors, or any other mental health concerns. Please share this opportunity with students, as we try to build the inclusive communities for which we are well known.

Some more good news is that another free, four-week Biotechnology Boot Camp, funded by a Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) grant, will be training displaced workers for entry-level jobs in biomanufacturing. Replicating the boot camp held in January, the in-person training will take place in the Bioscience Education Center's fully equipped labs on the Germantown Campus from June 7 to July 11. Graduates from the first training are already working at companies such as BioReliance and Thermo Fisher Scientific. I am proud that the College is continuing the partnerships that make it an asset to the county's economic rebound.

One final note about racial justice: The recent wide coverage of the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa massacre has been painful, but promising. I have seen four or five stories about this massacre—which occurred in Oklahoma in 1921 but is not often discussed in U.S. history—on major media sites. The [testimony of several survivors](#) was recorded in front of the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil Rights in May and is a hopeful sign that historical memory is being revised to include these injustices. If you or your students want to learn more about the vibrant community once known as 'Black Wall Street,' its accomplishments, and tragic destruction, please use these [MC Library resources](#). MC resources include recordings of survivors, historical perspectives, and several documentaries about the atrocities.