

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Extension of Remote Status and Community Access to Campuses
Date: May 13, 2020

Well, it's a beautiful spring day this Wednesday in week eight of remote teaching, learning, and working. I'm reminding myself to notice something positive every day, even if it's just a patch of wild flowers or a clear sky. As we are surrounded by stressful news, I find it helps my equilibrium to bring some gratitude into the picture. I continue to be grateful for the incredibly hard work happening to support students. Just over 5,000 CARES funding packages have been distributed to MC students and 2,000 additional applications for round two are being processed. That is an extraordinary amount of work, compressed into a very compact time frame.

Also working diligently are the planners at MC: as we map out a variety of contingencies, we are collaborating across divisions and disciplines to ensure no corner of the College is left unexamined. As you may have seen, MC is providing a new space for updated information at [Resilient MC](#), where you can find details on the structure of classes and transition phases that we anticipate. Speaking of updates, the College will continue in remote status until **Monday, June 1**, when we will re-evaluate our plans. This decision is linked to Governor Larry Hogan's stay-at-home order, as well as local health metrics and recommendations from the College's Coronavirus Advisory Team.

I am delighted to have already received a dozen questions in preparation for the **May 21** Conversation with Leadership. Thank you in advance for contributing to that dialogue. Our goal is to make it informative and accessible, and I look forward to addressing your most pressing concerns.

As we plan for faculty, staff, and students, we are also keeping our communities in mind. Hundreds of special activities take place on our campuses each year and many of those events are scheduled months in advance. At this point the College is not prepared take reservations for such events, before a thorough assessment of necessary health protocols has taken place. Therefore, we are reluctantly putting a moratorium on community events held at the College until **September 1, 2020**. At that time we will reassess the status.

I'll end on a positive: the three-day blood drive at the Germantown Campus has been a rousing success. With all appointments fully booked and meticulous social distancing measures in place, the American Red Cross was able to collect much-needed donations. Thank you to the courageous donors—several MC faculty and staff were among them—who stepped up to fill this critical need. I continue to be amazed by the selflessness of our community in these uncertain times.