

To: Montgomery College Community

From: Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President

Subject: Updates and Successes

Date: April 1, 2020

Good afternoon. We are officially halfway through the week! If your life is anything like mine, I am tired out at the end of the day—despite not having left my home. Even a month ago, I would not have thought that possible. The many adjustments we are all making to home life, professional tasks, and disease prevention efforts are taking their toll on all of us. Please remember to take care of yourselves and one another. Perhaps some a few good news items will re-energize us:

- Montgomery College's Health Sciences Division has packaged medical equipment—gowns, gloves, masks, face shields, bottles of hand sanitizer, and germicidal wipes. They are being dropped off at Montgomery County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. More than 3,000 individual items are included, and will be distributed to local medical facilities in order of urgency.
- Dr. Mitchell Davis gave a generous \$10,000 donation for emergency student assistance to the Montgomery College Foundation last night. A long-time supporter of scholarships at the College, Dr. Davis' care for the College community is unwavering.
- The CARES Act, the recent stimulus package adopted by Congress, is now providing the College some needed legal flexibility to revise federal Pell Grants for students more easily. Details about emergency funds for students will be forthcoming.
- MC's nursing simulation library is being used nationally to help nursing students train remotely during COVID. Thank you to the National League for Nursing for compiling these resources and MHEC for funding the [videos!](#)
- Montgomery College was featured in a *Washington Post* article today about higher education and responses to COVID-19.

I know many of you are grappling with how to explain our current circumstances to children—something I struggle with myself. Last night I got the chance to read two bedtime stories to nearly 400 children via a Facebook Live event. The event was sponsored by Generation Hope, an organization that provides support to students who are also parents. What a gift it was [to revisit some of my favorite books](#), and get Myles' help in sharing them with other children. Whatever family situation you find yourself in, I do hope you are experiencing some moments of closeness and, perhaps, a little escape into some shared, centering activities.