

From: [MC Communications](#)
To: [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#); [All Registered Students](#)
Subject: The Monday Minute with Dr. Williams | October 23, 2023
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October 23, 2023

October is replete with numerous experiential learning opportunities. The College's Nobel Laureate Speaker Series starts today with astrophysicist [Dr. John C. Mather](#), who played a leading role in the development of the [James Webb Space Telescope](#), which was launched two years ago. This is an incredible opportunity for students to meet and interact with a Nobel Prize recipient!

Humanities Days Are Here

The humanities disciplines provide a powerful way to engage with the world, and the annual collegewide weeklong celebration of the humanities begins today. Artificial intelligence and its interaction with humans is the theme: [AI: Celebrating Authentic Intelligence, Voices, and the Human Experience](#). With 25 open-access events, both in person and virtual, there is something for everyone on human ingenuity and its intersections with intelligence-based technology.

Parenting Students Get a Boost

Montgomery College has been selected to partner with Ascend at the Aspen Institute and receive \$75,000 to implement two strategies to advance student-parent work. One strategy will focus on data about student-parents, and the other will enhance professional development for faculty and staff in their support of student-parents. The recent Family Empowerment Resource Fair at the Rockville Campus was dedicated to educating and connecting individuals who care for children of all ages with the resources they need to be successful at parenting and, at the same time, furthering life goals. These resources help to support the success of our student-parents.

Higher Ed Leaders Join Forces to Support DEI

As you may have noticed, a number of states have passed new laws that attack diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts over the past year. The extremes include states where programs and even discussion of DEI have become illegal. This week, I joined a coalition of higher education leaders and institutions in signing a [letter](#) to oppose such efforts that limit or cancel DEI in higher education. This newly formed group aims to fight against efforts in states that are eliminating DEI values, dictating what can be taught, and restricting what faculty can and cannot say. Clearly, these are antithetical to our fundamental MC values of equity and inclusion, which we hold dearly, as we seek to empower everyone to succeed.

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent initial 'J'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

President

[@DrWilliams_MC](#)