

# ALL THE DIFFERENCE



Discover all the difference  
*you're making at Montgomery College.*

# Your Support Empowers STEM Careers *in Montgomery County*

You play a crucial role in shaping the futures of Montgomery College (MC) students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). STEM drives innovation and solves complex challenges that affect us all. As technology continues to advance, so does the need for skilled professionals in STEM fields. MC is poised to address this need and, with your support, we educate and train talented students. Many students face financial barriers

which may hinder their ability to pursue higher education in these critical areas.

Your contributions directly impact the lives of students, empowering them to achieve their dreams and contribute meaningfully to our community and beyond. Your support helps us nurture the next generation of innovators, problem-solvers, and leaders who will drive economic growth and make a positive impact on society.



The College continues to see increasing interest and enrollment in classes offered through the STEM programs. Dr. James Sniezek, dean of instruction for Chemical and Biological Sciences, believes the College is essential to meeting the demand for a skilled workforce.

The STEM programs serve more than 13,000 students each semester. With twenty-seven years of experience at MC, Dr. Sniezek sees the College as essential to developing skilled workers and placing them in well-paying careers. Dr. Sniezek is committed to recruiting students into STEM fields. He works to make courses more accessible, which helps grow our local economy and provides students with pathways to career success.

**DONORS LIKE YOU HELP US MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE, ADDRESSING THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF HARD-WORKING STUDENTS. YOUR SUPPORT EQUIPS THEM WITH THE SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE TO JOIN THE WORKFORCE AND MEET THE GROWING NEEDS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.**

To improve accessibility and flexibility for students and to make it easier for working students to attend classes, the College converted some courses into alternative formats. Continued exploration into emerging technologies such as virtual reality and computer simulations will allow students to engage with their coursework from anywhere, enhancing their performance and success.

“At MC, we have talented students who do not qualify for federal financial aid. They still require financial assistance to earn the degrees and certificates needed to advance and stay current in evolving careers. These difference-makers need the help of our generous donors to advance in these career-shaping programs that will uplift not only the student but also help support the industries that employ them and benefit the entire Montgomery County community.”

**DR. JAMES SНИЕZEK**

Dean of Instruction for Chemical and Biological Sciences

**Renew your gift online today at [montgomerycollege.edu/give](http://montgomerycollege.edu/give)**

# You make it all possible.

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## ► BIOTECH IS BOOMING

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### Your Gifts Give Students Industry Training

#### Did you know?

The average starting salary in a biotech career is about \$65,000.

MC recognizes that our students seek degrees and certifications that will lead them to well-paying jobs and meaningful careers. MC professors like Dr. Collins Jones, biotechnology program coordinator, build relationships with employment partners throughout Montgomery County in order to develop industry relevant curriculum. MC is working on innovative solutions to recruit and retain talented students in STEM to build a pipeline of skilled workers in high-demand fields such as biotechnology.

#### Your Impact

Your generous donation directly supports our students to acquire skills relevant to the biotechnology sector, especially in the emerging Cell and Gene Therapy fields. MC meets this need through a new

certification program designed with industry input to make our students workforce-ready.

#### How you help us?

Your support allows students to learn in cutting-edge programs regardless of their financial circumstances. By contributing, you enable us to equip our students with the necessary skills and connections to secure employment. Most students completing three or more biotechnology laboratory courses find full-time employment within six months, often even before completing their studies. Once in the industry, students begin a career path that can lead in many directions including management positions.

Your gift helps students transition directly from education to employment at local biotechnology companies and research organizations such as the National Institutes of Health.

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[Our] faculty are connected to the local and national biotech industry and we are here to help students begin their career journey in biotech. The biotech faculty coupled with access to state-of-the-art equipment and employment opportunities make MC a great value and prepares students for success in the workplace.



**DR. COLLINS JONES**  
Biotechnology Program  
Coordinator

## ►► BIOTECH PROGRAMS AT MC

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### MC Biotech Connects Students with the Science Community

Biotech programs at MC are equipped with impressive facilities and equipment, which generate positive feedback among students and partners. Some of the strategies for engaging with the community are led by Mark Nardone, director and co-founder of Bio-Trac®, a graduate/post-graduate level hands-on laboratory training workshop for research scientists.

#### Your Impact

Our engagement with the community and industry partners creates invaluable opportunities for students. These initiatives help build a robust talent pipeline for the local economy.

“The MC Biotech program offers numerous pathways for those wanting a career in biotech or to excelling in a field they already work in. An A.A.S. degree, certificate program, or continued education through BioTrain and Bio-Trac® addresses all types of students, including scientists with advanced degrees. With more than 2,400 life sciences companies in the region, the demand for skilled employees is very competitive. MC Biotech students are prepared and highly sought after by area biopharma companies.”

#### MARK NARDONE

Director and Co-Founder  
of Bio-Trac®

Donations help us sustain and expand these community engagement efforts, ensuring we continue to attract and support the brightest minds in science and technology.  
Make your gift online today at:

→ [MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/GIVE](https://MONTGOMERYCOLLEGE.EDU/GIVE)



## *What's New on Campus?* Pinkney Innovation Complex for Science and Technology (PIC MC) at the Germantown Campus



The Hughes Network Systems Satellite Production Facility located on the Germantown Campus.

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Germantown Campus is a resource hub for co-locating industry partners and interacting with students and faculty. President of Montgomery College, Dr. Jermaine F. Williams recently said during the April 18 PIC MC ribbon cutting event that, "The arrival of this facility will create new opportunities for student internships, mentoring, and potential employment. The College is proud to contribute to the pipeline of highly skilled talent fueling the local workforce."

PIC MC is led by Tommy Luginbill, the executive director, who joined in

January 2024. PIC MC houses the Holy Cross Germantown Hospital, a full-scale hospital on campus. This one-of-a-kind partnership provides students with career opportunities that include real-world experience in healthcare.

Hughes Network Systems, which provides cutting-edge manufacturing, opened a new facility for satellite manufacturing on our Germantown Campus in spring 2024. Hughes employees will be instrumental in providing mentorship to students.

**Make a gift today and support our PIC MC students by equipping them with the skills needed to succeed in high-demand STEM fields.**

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