

From: [Academic Affairs](#)
To: [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#)
Subject: Appointment of Dean of Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Science
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Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Margaret Latimer, Vice President and Provost of the Collegewide STEM Unit and Germantown Campus
Subject: Appointment of Dean of Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Science
Date: July 2, 2020

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Milton H. Nash, as Dean of Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Science effective July 1, 2020. He has served well in the position as acting dean during the past academic year, leading his area through the transition to the sudden and unexpected emergency remote teaching necessary to complete the spring semester and continues that leadership as we transition to structured remote teaching.

Dr. Nash, a first generation college student, holds a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Georgia and was the first African-American to receive a master's degree in mathematics from Princeton University. Before serving as the acting dean, Dr. Nash served as chair of the Mathematics, Statistics, and Data Science Department at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. He first joined the College in 2011 as an associate professor teaching developmental math, calculus I & II, and differential equations. The following year he became co-chair of the department, a position he maintained until he was named chair in 2014. For several years, he served as a co-chair of a sub-committee charged with writing a chapter of the College's most recent Middle States self-study, actively participated in the Diversity Plan workgroup, and contributed to the Academic Restructuring Plan. Dr. Nash has served on numerous faculty search committees and has been a strong advocate for equity in math faculty hiring and currently chairs a subcommittee on the President's Advisory Committee on Equity and Inclusion (PACEI).

As an educator, Dr. Nash has been guided by a belief in the potential of all people to thrive as students of mathematics. Dr. Nash believes that the study of mathematics - contrary to its reputation as a forbidding subject - can be empowering and that it can enhance lives in innumerable ways. The faculty advisor to the Takoma Park Math Club until 2019, he has actively promoted the participation of women and underrepresented minorities in the mathematical sciences. In fact, he led several highly diverse teams of students to strong showings in regional and national math competitions.

Furthering his desire to see students succeed, Dr. Nash served as a co-PI and campus coordinator of the 5-year, \$1.8 million NSF-funded GT-STEP grant (Graduate and Transfer Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Talent Expansion Program "designed to assist STEM majors ... in acquiring their associate degrees and/or facilitating their transfer to a four-year institution." He also co-authored an innovation grant - Academic Inclusion Networks - which was designed to provide embedded support to students in gateway STEM courses. The overarching purpose of the project was to intentionally welcome students to their studies in MC STEM programs, to provide additional supports to students who might benefit, and to enhance their chances for success in their chosen STEM majors.

More recently, Dr. Nash led a collegewide team of faculty and staff in efforts to reform the

developmental math curriculum. Nationally developmental education has been a significant barrier to college completion. It also adds to the financial burden that students carry and disproportionately impacts underrepresented minorities. His efforts have resulted in a co-requisite developmental math curriculum that enables most students to earn a math credit in a single semester. Student success in mathematics has seen demonstrable gains in the wake of these innovations, including a DFW rate that has changed from the pre-redesigned rate of 35%-64% for FY16-FY18 to the post redesign rates of 17%-38% for FY19.

Dr. Nash's passion for and commitment to equity and social justice is indisputable, and was aptly recognized by his receiving the inaugural Excellence in Equity and Inclusion Award from the College in May 2019.

I look forward to working closely with Dr. Nash on the on-going and ever-developing student success efforts underway in the STEM unit, including efforts to ensure that STEM at MC is inclusive and welcoming to all students. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Milton Nash to his new role.