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Subject: Appointment of the Acting Collegewide Dean for Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET)
Date: Monday, November 14, 2022 12:46:09 PM



Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Muhammad Kehnemouyi, Vice President and Provost, STEM and the Germantown Campus
Subject: Appointment of the Acting Collegewide Dean for Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET)
Date: November 14, 2022

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Nawal Benmouna has accepted the position of acting dean of the Science, Engineering, and Technology (SET) area beginning on November 12, 2022. Trilingual (French, English, Arabic) Dr. Benmouna has served as the chair of the Engineering, Physics, and Computer Science department on the Rockville Campus since 2014. Among other accomplishments as chair, Dr. Benmouna has spearheaded efforts to build a student pipeline to the quantum computing workforce. She partnered with Montgomery County Public Schools to generate quantum concepts in the middle school curriculum, and collaborated with the University of Maryland College Park (UMD) quantum leaders to create pathways to a four-year degree for MC students. She enabled the growth and transferability of the computer science program to UMD and provided support and resources in the development of the Early College engineering program. She pioneered program advising in the SET programs, including embedding advising in gateway courses, and instituted successful DFW-rate reductions in the gateway physics course. She previously taught physics courses as a professor in the Engineering, Physics and Geosciences department on the Rockville Campus, and as associate professor in the Physical Sciences department on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Dr. Benmouna has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on a number of significant grants, including the National Science Foundation S-STEM Achieving Community College Excellence, Success, and Scholarship grant. She serves as a member of the Introductory Physics for Life Sciences Advisory Board at UMD, as an initiative co-lead for the Achieving the Dream Comprehensive Advising Group, and as a collaborator on the Muon Scattering Experiment (MUSE) through the Paul Scherrer Institute for Nuclear Physics. Since 2014, she has served as an experimental physicist and student advisor at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, building a prototype data acquisition system for the international MUSE experiment. Based on this work, she has been published in *Physical Review* as recently as this year.

Dr. Benmouna earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in physics as well as her doctorate in physics from American University. Before coming to Montgomery College, she was a doctoral research assistant at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and a postdoctoral research scientist and visiting professor at George Washington University.

I look forward to welcoming Dr. Benmouna as the acting dean and supporting her in continuing to improve student success outcomes in science, engineering and technology, and supporting the goals of the College's strategic plan.

