INTERSECTIONS

Welcome back! I hope your summer was fulfilling, whether you engaged in adventurous or relaxing activities, research, teaching, peaceful moments for reflection, or maybe Olympic fever!

I found time to reflect on our journey through the last academic year as the baton was passed to this new academic year. The race – our work – continues, but let me remind you of some of the major undertakings of last year on which we will continue to build this year. Program Success Strategies for our 16 highest enrolled programs and DFW Reduction Initiatives for our most highly enrolled and gateway courses have both shown some immediate successes and informed efforts that I know will be underway this fall. What is most exciting to me is the work being done to make courses more challenging and more engaging while increasing student success rates. Standards are being raised. Faculty are connecting content to the world our students inhabit piquing their curiosity and desire to learn more. As our student population changes and technology puts information at our finger tips, we will need to continue to be innovative as ideas about relevant content and relevant pedagogy change.

These initiatives to increase student success, combined with many other initiatives, provide just a sampling of the numerous efforts aligning with the MC2020 goals of increased enrollment, graduation and transfer rates; reduced cost and time to degree; and better alignment with 4-year institutions and business and industry – to better prepare our students to succeed: implementation of the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act; redesign of General Education and General Studies, expansion of the developmental education placement pilot; development of the Academic Master Plan; embedding OERs to deliver or supplement content and online degree programs; expanding partnerships and grant awards; creation of an online catalog with Program Advising Guides; implementation of the Achieving the Promise Academy; and joining Achieving the Dream.

I want to thank all our faculty and staff for their hard work and passion in leading these successful initiatives. We will continue these focused efforts to help all of our students succeed. Best wishes for a great semester.

Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Intersections, August 2016 Edition

First Annual Academic Affairs Student Success Retreat

On August 2nd and 3rd, department chairs, deans, vice presidents and provosts, faculty council chairs, and members of the Academic Affairs senior leadership team came together to hear student success presentations from faculty and to talk about all of our combined efforts over the last academic year, and what next steps might look like. Dr. Pollard challenged us to achieve equitable outcomes for all students – tying in with the efforts of Achieving the Dream. She shared her impressions of the student success work being done and emphasized how important the conversations were. Low graduation rates, low transfer rates, significant cost and time to degree, and placements options are all topics of national concern. The focus on completion is here to stay. We have to do better for the nearly 60% of students who do not graduate or transfer within 4 years.

We had the opportunity to hear about DFW reduction and Program Success Strategies, some of which were included in the May edition of Intersections. If you would like to see what was presented, please join the Academic Affairs Resource community on Blackboard. Many of the presentations from the two-day event are posted. In addition to the many examples of student success initiatives inside the classroom, we were presented with opportunities and resources available outside the classroom, including learning more about

- Achieving the Promise Academy Coaches who are available currently in Communications, Business, Criminal Justice, Biology, General Studies, and Engineering whose focus is closing the achievement gap. The Coaches are part-time faculty who have a background in one of the selected areas and provide mentoring and guidance to students who might benefit from additional support. This is an additional support for students and a resource for faculty in these academic areas
- Open Education Resources (OERs) which reduce the cost of a degree and provide 24/7 access to content and supplemental course materials.
- Master Teacher Institute – The cornerstone of student success is excellent teaching. ELITE is developing n Institute in collaboration with our faculty that will highlight excellence and offer opportunities to learn and share.

It was a very exciting retreat, and I look forward to seeing the impact of our continual efforts to address student success.

Plus 2 Initiative

What is the power of 2? If 2 more students graduate from every viable program, our graduation rate for 2011 students increases from **14.2%** to **20.4%**. If 2 more students transfer from every viable program, our transfer rate increases from **22.3%** to **28.4%**. That is an overall increase of **12.3%**. Two is a very powerful number.

Let's apply this concept to three highly enrolled courses. If 2 more students pass each section of:

- ENGL101 - the success rate increases to 83%, and the DFW rate decreases to 17%
- BIOL150 - the success rate increases to 71.6%, and the DFW rate decreases to 28.4%
- PSYC102 – the success rate increases to 81.2%, and the DFW rate decreases to 18.8%

The impact of increasing the success rate will be reflected in our retention rate and ultimately, in our completion rate. That is the real impact of helping two more students to succeed.

Montgomery College Open Education Resources (OER) Award and Initiatives

More than 100 sections this Fall are being offered using OER, where no textbook is used. Various Open Education Resources (OER) efforts are part of MC Open, an Academic Affairs initiative that helps faculty redesign courses using Open Educational Resources (OER) to leverage pedagogy that fosters student success while reducing costs and increasing access to course materials. Montgomery College is committed to providing OER course options leading to degree completion (commonly called Z-degrees) and engaging diverse student learning styles. MC Open also supports goals in the Academic Affairs master plan to increase student success and make college more affordable to Montgomery County   residents.

Addressing the College's goal of reducing costs to students, Montgomery College is committed to offering textbook-free courses that use Open Education Resources. We have many individual courses where faculty use their own OER or OER developed by external faculty. The natural next step is to develop complete degree programs using OER.   The College received a 31-month grant from Achieving the Dream to offer a complete General Studies degree using OER. This degree impacts more than 9,000 students within the major but many of the courses are General Education courses required by other majors.

The first courses are required to be offered in Spring 2017 but we will be offering courses in Fall 2016. Internal funding is being requested to offer two other degrees using OER. An additional initiative under development in FY17 is to offer OER in at least one course in each of our top 16 programs.

Montgomery College Awarded $4 million TECHHIRE Grant

Montgomery College is one of 39 awardees of TechHire partnership grants announced by the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (DOLETA). Intended to launch innovative training and job placement models as a means of advancing career pathways and creating new jobs for local economies with a home-grown workforce replacing H-1B Visa workers, the TechHire funds will enable Montgomery College to offer training and support to 400+ people across the County. The TechHire Montgomery (THM) project will build on the foundation of the DOLETA funded Cyber-

Technology Pathways Across Maryland (CPAM) consortium in which the College is the lead organization of a 14-member community college consortium enhancing cyber-technology career opportunities throughout the state. This new grant funded program represents a coordinated effort between Montgomery College, the Tech Council of Maryland, WorkSource Montgomery, Inc., and employers including Atlantech, Attronica, InfoSys and VariQ to offer training and supports that lead to middle- and high-skilled information technology (IT) jobs. THM training will lead to occupations in three IT pathways: 1) Information Support and Services, 2) Networking, and 3) Programming and Software. Participants, depending on specific needs, may receive supportive services including English language skill, soft skill or cultural support training, financial coaching and/or support for certification and testing. Dean Donna Kinerney is the PI on this grant project.

This partnership is an exciting opportunity to build upon Montgomery College's commitment to economic development, growing the knowledge economy of the region, collaborating with government and industry, and expanding the opportunity for well-paid jobs here in the County. TechHire Montgomery (THM) joins Infosys, Tech Leap, BioTrain, BioTrac, and MI-BEST (Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training), among others as an excellent resource for the members of our community, as students and employers. Infosys is the College's critical partner. MC has been providing training for their new hires over the last year. Infosys has filled nearly 100 new programming positions, including MC students. The College, working with the County, played a critical role in helping Infosys grow and establish their headquarters in Montgomery County.

Special Acknowledgement

It is with tremendous gratitude that I acknowledge Interim Vice President/Provost of the Rockville Campus, Joan Naake, as she returns to her Germantown faculty duties after eight months. Joan took over responsibility for the Rockville Campus on short notice and did more than maintain the status quo until Dr. Kimberly Kelley arrived. She learned of and celebrated the amazing talents and contributions of the Rockville faculty and staff. As the Academic Affairs Division focused on data, she was instrumental in increasing data awareness and data mining efforts to drive student success initiatives – part of the Collegewide focus on program success strategies and DFW reduction efforts. Progress on construction projects underway – Science West Wing and the parking garage – continued. She supported preserving Parking Lot 13 for student parking. With the grace and wisdom for which Joan is so well known, she addressed campus issues equitably and ensured that the campus moved forward during the interim, guaranteeing a smooth transition when we welcomed Dr. Kelley. Joan, thank you so much.

Welcome New Faculty and Vice President/Provost

Dr. Kim Kelley
Vice President/Provost, Rockville Campus

Dr. Kelley was most recently at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside as the associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in library science with an emphasis on information science from Emory University, and a doctorate in higher education policy, planning and leadership from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Professor Ronald Beverly
Photography

Ronald Beverly earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts in design from Howard University, and master's degree in fine arts in photography from The George Washington University.

Professor Sabrina Bielefeldt
Nursing

Sabrina Bielefeldt received a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Virginia, and Masters of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Maryland.

Professor Arneshuia Bilal
Nursing

Arneshuia Bilal received a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from the University of Maryland, and Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

Professor Lena Choudhary
Nursing

Lena Choudhary received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Loyola University and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Stevenson University. She earned a Master of Science in Nursing and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland.

Professor Rashi Jain
AELP

Dr. Rashi Jain is originally from India, where she completed her undergraduate studies in English literature as well as German as a foreign language. She earned a master's and then a doctoral degree in education, specializing in TESOL, at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Professor James Murray
AELP

James Murray received a bachelor's degree in anthropology and a master's degree in TESOL from Florida International University.

Professor Ginger Robinson
Criminal Justice

Ginger Robinson received an Associate of Arts from Harford Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Public Policy from the University of Baltimore, and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Baltimore, School of Law.

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Professor Maurice Shihadi
Business

Professor David Torain, II
Mathematics

Dr. Torain earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Master of Science in Applied Mathematics from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. He earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Clark Atlanta University, Atlanta GA.