



INTERsections

The Academic Affairs Chronicles
October 2018

A Message from Dr. Sanjay Rai

With more than half of the semester behind us, there is much good news to share and great work to celebrate. Humanities Days, celebrated on all three campuses last week inspires every one of us to increase our awareness of the issues facing people near and far and to act on what we have learned. The kick-off event, the World of Montgomery Festival (photo above), inspired us to celebrate the best of what we are and can do together. I have attended the World of Montgomery Festival for a number of years. This year's theme, light, included exhibits that highlighted China, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Germany, Grenada, India, Iraq, Nigeria, South Korea, Turkey and Ukraine - the people and cultures of these countries.

The opportunities for bright high school student provided by our Middle College Programs at Northwest and Northwood High Schools continue to generate excitement. Over 500 parents and students attended our first information session this fall (see photo to the right). The first Middle College graduates crossed the stage in May. More will earn their degrees this year.



The new Early College Program has brought nearly 50 talented high school students to the Rockville campus where they will earn their associate's degrees in one of our math-related programs, by the time they graduate high school. I had the opportunity to speak to these students and their parents last month at a session that provided an update on where the students were after six weeks in the program. Parents are still a little concerned about their high school student, even when that student is qualified for a college program. It was so exciting to see the students with their parents. The enthusiasm of the faculty and these young students was contagious. We were able to share the Spring 2019 class schedule, as well as the fact that there will be new degree programs on all three campuses next year: Cybersecurity and Computer Science on the Germantown Campus; Business, Secondary Education Mathematics, and Mathematics at Rockville Campus; and Biological Sciences, Nursing, Physical Therapy Assistant, Radiologic Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Surgical Technology on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. It should not surprise anyone that in MCPS, a school system with over 160,000 students, there are some very bright kids who can – and who want to – excel at a different level.

I am grateful to the faculty who teach the students in Middle and Early College, offering them an outstanding alternative to the traditional high school pathway, while recognizing that these young people are blazing a trail.

I am incredibly proud to share with you that Montgomery College is the first community college in the country to be accepted into the National Academy for Engineering's Grand Challenges Scholars Program (see below for more information). Both the University of Maryland Baltimore County and College Park are members, and we are delighted by this upcoming designation and what it means for our engineering students. This will test their mettle as they are confronted with some of the most significant challenges being tackled by engineering students and professionals. I am proud of our engineering department for their record of achievement that positioned us to part of this national initiative.

In addition, two of our efforts to address barriers to student success related to cos are proving to be incredibly successful. Now in its second full year, course sections that use only Open Educational Resources (z-sections) have more than doubled from 3,400 in Fall 2016 to over 8,000 this fall. Faculty are leaders in the state in this area, addressing student needs while maintaining rigor. We are also seeing an increase in interest in our Extended Winter Session with 734 students already enrolled!

Your efforts to address student success, student needs, and academic excellence are impressive and inspiring. Your efforts to leverage changing technology to increase student success is the response we must have to the dynamic higher ed environment. I remain grateful for all you do every day. Thank you.

Sanjay

First Community College Accepted into Grand Challenges Scholars Program (GCSP)



The Grand Challenges Scholars Program (GCSP) is a National Academy of Engineering (NAE) initiative to create an honors program that will develop the students who will solve the largest problems facing engineering and the world in the 21st century; problems like better medicines, solar power, reverse-engineering the brain, clean water, fusion, and carbon sequestration. Visit:

<http://www.engineeringchallenges.org/challenges.aspx>

More than 150 universities in the United States and internationally have Grand Challenges Scholars Programs. Nearly half of all undergraduates in engineering start their academic career at community colleges, so the NAE has made it a high priority to expand the GCSP initiative to community colleges. Over the last year MC has worked closely with the NAE in developing the model for how community colleges will participate in the GCSP initiative, and in designing a GCSP for Montgomery College to allow MC students to participate in this honors program both at MC and when they go on to UMD, UMBC, or other receiving institutions.

On October 30 at the NAE annual meeting in DC, Montgomery College was accepted as the first community college to have a Grand Challenges Scholars Program. Dean Muhammad Kehnemouyi spoke at the conference about the demands and rewards of developing a GCSP at a two-year institution. The MC program will serve as a paradigm for other community colleges to develop their own programs. Prof. David Kuijt will be the director of the GCSP program at MC.

GCSP scholars will develop competencies in research, multidisciplinary, service learning, entrepreneurial, and multicultural approaches, and apply them to their chosen Grand Challenge Problem. Each student chooses their own Grand Challenge; they interact with mentors who advise them on choosing activities (like Engineers Without Borders, a NIST internship, Study Abroad, certain coursework, the Raptor Tank Entrepreneurship competition, and so on) that will allow them to develop skills in several of the above competencies.



Academic Master Plan Update *Initiative 2: Alternative Scheduling and Delivery*

Offering the right classes at the right time to the right students is the challenge and goal of the AMP Scheduling Initiative. This is part art, part science. The science: In addition to having pathways defined in Program Advising Guides that inform full-time and part-time, including evening/weekend students, of course sequences, having the analytic capability to know how many students are in each program and the ability to chart their progress through course sequences, will give chairs and deans the data to predict the number of seats (and sections) needed. The art: Chairs and deans will have the information needed to coordinate the development of a schedule that allows students to select the recommended block of courses – program requirements and general education – based on where they are in their program to advance toward degree completion.

As a part of Montgomery College’s Academic Master Plan, the Scheduling Committee was charged with recommending software that uses institutional data to create effective Collegewide scheduling. In January 2018, through approval by the Board of Trustees, Montgomery College purchased Ad Astra Information Systems’ software scheduling packages Astra Schedule™, and Platinum Analytics™. The products will help the College optimize classroom space usage and course section offerings, reducing section cancellation rates.

Astra Schedule™ is a scheduling platform that integrates with campus student information systems (SIS) to optimize classroom space usage. The Office of Information Technology completed the technical setup including establishing connectivity with MC’s SIS so that MC data can be utilized by Astra Schedule™, for analysis. The MC Astra Schedule team comprising members from Academic Affairs, OIT, and Student Affairs has developed room and course information files that Astra Schedule™ will utilize to provide optimized schedule proposals.

The data analytics package, Platinum Analytics™, provides weekly snapshots to the deans about suggested course additions and reductions. In addition, a full term wrap up report is generated each semester, which helps us to keep track of our progress on building a better schedule. The Ad Astra Information Systems’ software packages are expected to be fully utilized for the creation and analysis of the Fall of 2019 schedule. Areas for measurement and evaluation are seat utilization rates, course cancellation rates, standard week classroom utilization, and off-grid waste.

Next steps include posting a three-year viewable schedule, enabling students – including our majority part-time students - to chart a pathway from start to completion. The Scheduling Committee will also make a recommendation regarding guaranteeing a significant part of the schedule, permitting faculty and students to plan ahead.

Update to September's Intersections *AMP Initiative 1: Embedded Coaching Can Decrease DFW Rates*

	<u>ATPA</u>	<u>non-ATPA</u>
ACCT221	45.6%	57.3%
CHEM131	26.1%	34.5%
ENGL102	22.0%	28.4%
MATH096	41.5%	43.7%
MATH165	25.7%	44.1%
PHYS161	27.4%	28.5% (Spring 2017)
PSYC102	22.5%	24.4%

Last month's *Intersections* included an update on Embedded Support through ATPA and referenced the impact of coaching on DFW in embedded support classes. Data indicate that for Spring 2018, embedded coaches served 124 sections, and that 7 out of the 11 disciplines that received ATPA embedded support had lower DFW rates than the non-ATPA courses in the same disciplines.



What is the General Education Standing Committee up to?

Cinder Cooper Barnes and Tammy Stuart Peery
General Education Standing Committee Co-chairs

Beginning in fall 2016, the General Education Standing Committee (GESC) began processing course recertification forms, and since then, 235 courses have been reviewed. There are currently 195 courses that meet statewide general education transferability and MHEC requirements, and 103 that have global perspectives designations.

Since the implementation of the redesign, the committee, along with various stakeholders, created pedagogically informed certification forms and offered training sessions on completing the forms and ensuring that courses were intentional in helping students meet the following outcomes:

- Demonstrate an awareness of discipline specific inquiry and methodology to acquire foundation knowledge in content areas.
- Apply integrative thinking across disciplines in order to solve complex problems through collaboration and the synthesis of knowledge.
- Apply the principles and methodologies of a variety of disciplines to consider the ideas, history, values, and/or creative expression of various cultures within the global community.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the skills needed to become self-confident, independent, lifelong learners, in order to meet the mental, physical, and ethical demands of personal and professional life.
- Demonstrate an understanding of leadership skills that foster an active commitment to civic and social responsibility.

This year the GESC's focus is on advancing general education thematic pathways advising, introducing students and faculty to the general education program and the principles of general education, and providing professional development on areas of meta-cognition and self-reflection.

During the next round of certifications, the GESC will be moving the process online via Curriculog, coordinating more closely with the Collegewide Curriculum Committee, and adopting a calendar similar to the CAR cycle.

In an effort to make our work as a committee visible to the college community, our meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes are available on our lib guide: <https://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/gened>; student and general faculty information are available on our website:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/GeneralEducationProgram/>; and faculty are encouraged to attend our meetings, which are held on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 2-4pm in SC152 at the Rockville campus. Faculty, staff, and students who have questions about General Education can contact the committee at our dedicated email address: gened@montgomerycollege.edu.

Department Detail

What You Need to Know About Assessment

by Dr. Cassandra Jones

Collegewide Assessment Team

The Collegewide Assessment Team (CAT) identifies needs and develops recommendations regarding college-wide assessment of student learning in order to strengthen the college and enhance its accountability. For example, the group has changed the questions on the report forms, timeline for assessment reports, and recommended the implementation of “Assessment Labs” and the new “Assessment Review for General Education” in October. The members of the CAT provide feedback for each General Education Assessment Course Report and Program Assessment Report submitted. 2018/2019 Team Members include: Joanne Carl, Deborah Grubb, Kathy Lewandowski , Rachel Ndonye, Laurent Ndeze , Debbie Morris, Darren Smith, Jim Sniezek, and Alla Webb.

Assessment Mentors

In response to faculty feedback, a mentoring program has been established for disciplines regarding the assessment process. Each discipline will have access to an assigned Collegewide Assessment Team (CAT) member for guidance in completing the necessary reports and answering general questions about the process itself. Disciplines will be notified with information regarding their assigned mentor and contact information.

General Education Assessment Workshop

There was a General Education Assessment Workshop for all disciplines working on their data analysis for the 2018/2109 academic year. Disciplines that recently collected data should have an initial draft of their reflection form completed by November 15th.

Faculty Fellowships

There are two faculty fellows working with the Assessment Team this academic year. Melissa McCeney and Debbie Grubb are assisting with revisions to the assessment process, as suggested by the Middle States Accreditation Review, and assisting with various components of the assessment process. Melissa will be assisting with various data projects in assessment. Debbie will be visiting all campuses during the semester in October and November to provide information on the process and solicit feedback from faculty members regarding assessment reform design.

Assessment Activity

General Education

Writing Reports - Courses in Social, Behavioral, and Natural Sciences

Collecting Course Data - Courses in Arts, English 102, Health, and Communications

Program Assessment Reports Due

Architecture Technology, Building Trades, Cybersecurity, Interior Design, General Studies, and Computer Science

Program Review/College Area Review Participants

Communications, English, Film, Health, Mathematics, Circle Scholars, Montgomery Scholars, Renaissance Scholars



DATA POINT

205 MC graduates received the UMUC Completion Scholarship in FY18, which allows students to earn a bachelor's degree for \$12,000.