MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

May 18, 2016

<u>MEMORANDUM</u>

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Data Strategies for Student Success

As I mentioned in my State of the College address in March, data is becoming an increasingly important tool in several of the College's strategies for student success. Improved data management practices can empower faculty, staff, and students in decision-making, help the institution track important metrics and milestones, and drive responsive change. Therefore, the College is moving to contract a software firm whose applications can guide students through academic and career paths in the most efficient ways. The technology will make data accessible on mobile and desktop devices to allow quick access to relevant information.

The new system will be useful for academic program selection guidance, course schedule development, career guidance, intervention strategies, transfer and articulation support, and many other areas. Above all the system will increase our access to and use of relevant data so that we can improve student success more thoroughly.

Last fall I convened a workgroup of faculty, staff, and administrators to begin the process of identifying the type of system that would best meet our needs. The workgroup consisted of employees from across the College, including representatives from all divisions—academic affairs, student affairs, administrative and fiscal services, and advancement and community engagement—and governance councils. Initial recommendations from this group were presented to Carl Whitman, vice president of instructional and information technology/chief information officer, and his team, which is overseeing the technical selection and implementation of the new system for student success. The workgroup will continue to be involved in the process.

Since this technology will serve all of the College community, it is important that the workgroup and subsequent implementation team understand the needs and ideas of future users. More opportunities to participate in the process will be communicated by Mr. Whitman. A website with more information will be made available during the first week of June and announced via InsideMC. In the meantime, if you would like to volunteer to be a tester or to attend a vendor demonstration to help ensure that the system meets our needs, please send an e-mail to datastrategies@montgomerycollege.edu.

I want to thank the faculty, staff, and administrators who worked on this effort this year for their time, dedication, and commitment to student success!