

**To:** Montgomery College Community  
**From:** Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President  
**Subject:** **Reaffirming Our Mission and Focus**  
**Date:** September 4, 2024

The start of a new academic year at Montgomery College provides an opportunity to restate and reaffirm our mission as the place “where students discover their passions and unlock their potential to transform lives, enrich the community, and change the world.” Simultaneously, it is important to acknowledge the challenging times we continue to face. Complicated geopolitical issues and events, both domestic and international, permeate our lives, affecting us in varied and profound ways. Amidst this, we are guided by our College values statement, which affirms that “at our core, we believe in welcoming all students and all employees into a community that emphasizes belonging.”

Our commitment to empowering students to change their lives through education requires us to focus on their access, completion, and post-completion success within our institution of learning. Ensuring the physical and emotional well-being of our community is paramount. To achieve this, we must make certain that all students, faculty, and staff:

- are safe from physical violence or threats of violence on our campuses;
- have access to the emotional and mental health support they need; and
- can engage in critical thinking, healthy conversations, and respectful interactions across differences without fear of retaliation or discrimination.

As president, always acting as the principal representative of MC to the community and in the best interest of the College, I am dedicated to building a culture and climate of equity and inclusion, where all have a sense of belonging. Therefore, I will continue to support opportunities for genuine dialogue, allowing our learning community to hold diverse perspectives, listen, be heard, and reach their own conclusions.

I will not issue statements on politically charged affairs or matters where comments could be perceived as partisan or divisive. However, I will address incidents that place our community at risk, significantly impact College operations, or detract from our core mission and values.

Our College, one of the nation’s most diverse institutions of post-secondary education, prides itself on safeguarding the sanctity of individual voices and deepening understanding. My actions will always strive to represent my commitment to fostering a safe space for civility, respect, and understanding. I look forward to the year ahead with great optimism, confident in the strength and resilience of our college community. I am deeply appreciative of each and every one of you—students, faculty, and staff—who are dedicated to making our College a place where everyone can thrive. Together, we will

continue to build a future filled with promise and possibility so students can transform lives, enrich the community, and change the world.