

**From:** [MC Communications](#)  
**To:** [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#); [All Registered Students](#)  
**Subject:** The Monday Minute with Dr. Williams | September 16, 2024  
**Date:** Monday, September 16, 2024 9:44:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)

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September 16, 2024

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Learning and connecting are in full swing and extraordinary journeys are well underway! That has been evident during my visits to our multiple College locations throughout these opening weeks of the semester. As many of us enjoyed watching the Paris Olympics, you may have seen the women's triple jump, which was won by Thea LaFond-Gadson—who is the daughter of Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond, professor of speech right here at MC! Thea was competing as a representative of Dominica and her gold medal, the first Olympic medal for Dominica, is a testament to passion, perseverance, and excellence—all qualities we can embody as we make this year our best yet.

### Successful Student Journeys

Taking advantage of opportunity is a critically important component of student success. The College has so many resources that can empower you to launch your academic and personal journey even further. These opportunities include a [Club Rush and Resource Fair](#) on the Germantown Campus this Wednesday, and a [Mobile Market](#) on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, also on Wednesday, which is open to students, employees, and community members. Mobile Markets provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods at no cost. This Saturday, the Rockville Campus will host a [Family Empowerment Resource Fair](#) in recognition of National Student Parent Month. [Student parents](#) can also connect with other MC student parents for support and guidance. There will also be [pop-up events](#) in the coming weeks for student parents offering free baby supplies, hygiene items, and food.

### Building Belonging

There are many reasons why “cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone at the College” is one of our Strategic Plan goals. Belonging matters because it maximizes everyone's potential. I want to recognize the work of the [MC Pride and Allies](#), a group of faculty and staff who are fostering a welcoming environment for our LGBTQIA+ employees and students at Montgomery College. Another opportunity to cultivate belonging is MC's Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Task Force. Individuals are invited to express their interest in serving on the [task force](#). Finally, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM), the Library has some terrific [HHM resources](#), including the powerful video, *Somos*, about Latine identity, Hispanic heritage, and resiliency. I appreciate the individuals who are leading these three efforts and everyone at the College involved in growing our communal sense of belonging.

### Celebrating Voter Engagement

Tomorrow is National Voter Registration Day and MC is working to boost student and employee engagement and voter participation. Each campus will host tables with nonpartisan election information

and opportunities to register to vote—plus pizza. MC's efforts have earned us a Bronze Seal from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge for our student participation in the 2022 elections. Ensuring students have an "experience of economic, social, and community impact" is the objective of MC's Transformational Aspiration of Completion, and civic engagement and voting are fundamental parts of a robust democracy. I thank [MC Votes](#), which is made up of students, faculty, and staff, for its efforts to engage our entire College community in our nation's democratic processes.

With Raptor Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jermaine". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
President  
[@DrWilliams\\_MC](#)