From: The President
To: MC Communications!
Subject: Communication Opportunities about the Maryland Dream Act
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:04:32 PM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

September 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

To: Montgomery College Colleagues

From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

Subject: Communication Opportunities about the Maryland Dream Act

With the fall semester well underway, I wanted to take this opportunity to reintroduce you to action taken by the Montgomery College Board of Trustees in June. Our trustees unanimously voted to support the Maryland Dream Act, which provides in-state tuition rates to undocumented college-aged students who meet certain requirements. The legislation will be on the November ballot as Question Four.

For the trustees, the legislation embodies our mission as an open access institution, and it is the right thing to do for the College. It also stands as a reaffirmation of our long-standing practice to provide the lowest tuition rates to all recent Montgomery County Public School graduates.

As a follow up to the board's summer vote, the trustees and I have been working on a number of opportunities to communicate support of the Maryland Dream Act. I invite you to participate in the taping of my new television show, **"Conversations of Consequence," next Wednesday, October 3,** in Theatre Two of the Cultural Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. This first episode will feature a panel of College faculty members providing an interdisciplinary, academic look at the Maryland Dream Act, the associated impact on our community, and the ensuing debate in our state.

Educational in nature, the show directly relates to *Montgomery College 2020*, Theme IV of our strategic plan, which envisions the College as a place for neutral dialog. This will be an interactive show, and I look forward to having you and your students in the audience to share thoughts and ask questions. Please arrive shortly before 1 p.m. to allow you time to get settled before cameras start rolling.

Another opportunity for thoughtful discourse will be at my second Town Hall Meeting, which will take place Tuesday, October 16, at 12:30 p.m. If you recall, these meetings offer time to talk, and share ideas, successes, and concerns. We will webstream the meeting from the Rockville Campus in the Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education. Remember there are two ways to watch the Town Hall Meeting: (1) in person or (2) on your desktop computer or mobile device at https://new.livestream.com/MontgomeryCollegeLive/TownHall.

Finally, Board of Trustees Chair Stephen Kaufman and I soon will finalize an opinion piece that we hope will appear in one of our regional newspapers. I also participated in an interview with WUSA Channel 9, where I explained that access to higher education is a private and a public

good. The story is expected to air in the coming days. Other plans include editorial board meetings and additional news media coverage.

I believe in the power of education, and you have my commitment that I will continue my work with the trustees to ensure all young people in our community have access to higher education in Maryland. Thank you for the work you do every day to support our students and our educational mission.