

**From:** [DeRionne Pollard, Montgomery College President](#)  
**To:** [MC Communications!](#)  
**Subject:** Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Spending for Student Success  
**Date:** Thursday, May 12, 2016 2:11:19 PM

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**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**  
Office of the President

May 12, 2016

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Montgomery College Colleagues  
**From:** Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President  
**Subject:** Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Spending for Student Success

As you likely heard in my State of the College address last month, I am creating a Blue Ribbon Taskforce on Spending for Student Success, which will lead our efforts to increase efficiencies throughout our institution. The ideas and input of faculty and staff will be integral to this process. I have invited three co-chairs to serve—a faculty member, a staff member, and an administrator—and am pleased that they have agreed to share their substantial expertise and talent with this initiative.

Professor Bruce Madariaga was formerly a senior economist with the federal government and has taught economics at the College since 2001. He is the author of *Economics for Life: 101 Lessons You Can Use Every Day!* Donna Schena is the associate senior vice president for administrative and fiscal services and has worked at the College for 38 years. She has served in leadership roles in three of the four divisions at the College, and has worked as a full-time faculty member. Antonio Vidal is a civil engineer with more than 30 years of experience in business, marketing, and sales, who has worked at the College for 11 years. A graduate of the MC Leadership Development Institute, Vidal works as the data coordinator for the Adult English for Speakers of Other Languages and Literacy grant program in Workforce Development & Continuing Education.

I have asked the taskforce to work with me over the summer to develop a member recruitment plan, a timeline, and goals. They will ultimately oversee the process of evaluating proposals from across the College for increased efficiency and smarter spending. Since budget planning is a long-term process, I expect the work of this taskforce to last several years. Nurturing a culture that balances spending and student success is task that requires collaboration and commitment. I have selected these representatives of the College for the depth of their experience and broad connections throughout the institution. The efforts of this taskforce will be central to our work at furthering student retention, progress, and completion, and I hope they will inspire wide community dialogue and participation across the College.

I want to thank the stewardship group that helped to develop several ideas behind the taskforce over the course of this year, including Dr. Stephen Cain, Ray Gilmer, George Payne, Bob Preston, and Dr. Janet Wormack. These ideas have laid the foundation for the promising work that is to come.