



September 5, 2023

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As we enter the first week of September, the energy across the College has been high and new classes are surging ahead. I hope everyone has found a new resource and taken their first positive steps toward their fall semester goals.

### **Students: Transformation Is Here for You**

I was thrilled to visit each campus last week and interact with exuberant students. Some were new and others returning to MC, but all were eager to meet friends and start the semester. On each campus, there were welcome events for everyone with snacks, maps, and games—terrific ways to get oriented and engaged. I hope you will visit the upcoming [community resource fairs](#) this month on each campus, which will focus on physical and mental health. As I mentioned last week, resources for [tutoring](#), [libraries](#), [counseling and advising](#), [employment](#), and [food](#) are ample. I encourage you to explore them all, to support your efforts in finding your passion and unlocking your full potential.

### **Faculty and Staff: Opportunities for Transformation**

Opportunities for faculty and staff to enrich their pedagogy are available this fall. The [Academy for Teaching Transformation](#) is a professional development program offering three workshops aimed at exploring innovative pedagogy and creating learning activities that push students' interests to the next level. This series is especially helpful for those in their first three years of teaching at MC. The [MC-Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship](#) this year focuses on Creating Classroom Conversations That Foster a Hopeful Future to Meet the Challenges of a Rapidly Changing World. It is a terrific chance to connect your discipline with the unique resources of our wonderful local museums—experiential learning at its finest.

## Hispanic Heritage Month on the Horizon

As a Hispanic Serving Institution, the College is proud to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in September and October. This year's theme, Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America, recognizes the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions. Organizers have developed [an array of offerings](#) for students and employees that kick off on September 14. Recognitions like this help the College community celebrate its diversity and strengthen the sense of belonging for everyone. Please watch for more information throughout the month including special events, field trips, family day, speakers, and more.

Speaking of diversity, MC was ranked seventh among community colleges for [international students](#). Along with our diversity and high quality of education, MC's affordability was a big draw with international students. The College is proud of our international student body and our international employees and the cultural enrichment they bring to our community.

With Raptor Regards,

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

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
President  
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