Community Engagement Centers

In 2015, the College opened two community engagement centers that provide information, workshops, workforce development classes, guidance/advising, and application assistance in post-secondary education. The first opened in February at the Gaithersburg Library. A second location in Silver Spring opened in June. College staff, who are bilingual, are on location to answer questions and connect residents to College and community resources during center hours. This work is possible thanks to our partnership with the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity, the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, and the Gaithersburg Library. Both centers have seen significant activity and community participation.

MOVING OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY

Charles E. Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity at the Gaithersburg Library

18330 Montgomery Village Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
240-777-4959

East County Community Engagement Center at Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

3300 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
301-890-1983

10,750
RESIDENTS VISITED CENTERS

437
PEOPLE MET WITH AN ADVISER FOR ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS

595 STUDENTS TOOK A MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CLASS AT A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER

ENGAGEMENT CENTER ACTIVITY BY THE NUMBERS
(two–year totals)

496
ATTENDED INFORMATION SESSIONS ABOUT COLLEGE PROGRAMS

$57,000
SUPPORT TO CENTER STUDENTS FROM MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

PERSONAL SERVICE, PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Smart Staffing

Our Community Engagement Center specialists speak multiple languages, providing access for people who speak English, Spanish, Amharic, and Arabic, as well as many other languages through an over-the-phone interpretation line. Staff are ready to help anyone take the next step toward success, whether advanced classes or basic computer skills.

Individualized Services

Community members can talk directly with Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) staff who are proficient in giving career and academic advising, assistance with GED certification and ESOL class enrollment, resume writing and review, FAFSA and scholarship application assistance, and financial information. For those interested in attending Montgomery College, College recruiters met with individuals inquiring about financial aid for attending college and Montgomery College programs (by appointment).

Courses and Workshops

Generous individual, foundation, and corporate donors made it possible for the community engagement centers to offer career development and other courses at no or very low cost to students. For example, the Washington Area Women's Foundation supported the Student Career Exploration course and gave low-income women a jump-start into a meaningful career.

Courses for the general population aim to increase knowledge and skills for employment. Throughout the year the College offered workforce development classes, such as Child Growth and Development (90-hour certificate), SafeServe, computer classes in English and Spanish, English as a Second Language, Employment Bootcamp, and Career Exploration. In April and May 2016, a five-week computer course, Microsoft Office Computer for the Workplace at the Gaithersburg center, provided practical experience with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Workshops requiring a shorter time commitment included: How to Pay for College, GED Information Session, Citizenship Application Clinic, Apartment Maintenance Orientation, Financial Planning, and Working in Childcare. Classes at the centers are free; residents pay for materials only ($15) or for the cost of the book. The Montgomery College Foundation provided $57,000 in scholarships and funds for books to students taking classes at the centers.