

## Message from the CEO Sharon Bland, J.D., CPM

December 16, 2020

Dear MC family,

As this semester comes to a close, I am heartened by so many of the good things that have occurred over the past few months including operationalizing the Equity and Inclusion Roadmap, the development of an anti-racist subcommittee under PACEI, the continuation of our popular Let's Talk dialogues series, the implementation of the [Search Advocate program](#), a successful Equity and Inclusion Fall Dialogue, five E&I pop-ups and the Excellence in [Equity Awards ceremony](#).

[Read more](#)

## Fall Equity Dialogue & Excellence in Equity Award Ceremony

On October 26, 2020, the Office of Equity and Inclusion sponsored and hosted the Fall Equity Dialogue & Excellence in Equity Awards ceremony where we discussed being anti-racist vs. not being racist. Dr. Andréa Brown and Professor Brandon C.S. Wallace presented 'From Dreamer to Revolutionary' discussing developing a social justice based framework for transformative leadership.

The evening ended with the 'passing of the baton' to each of our Excellence in Equity Award winners:



### Germantown Student Syed Fasih

One recommendation stated, "He can make any student feel welcomed and important. He has the gift of getting students involved." This is an invaluable skill in his many roles at the College. He is Vice President of the Student Senate, Chair of the Student Activities Board, and a New Student Orientation Leader and Student Ambassador.

Another nominator wrote, "I cannot count the number of times a student approached me saying, 'Syed told me to get involved.'"



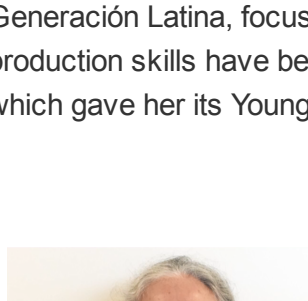
### Rockville Student Matthew Watson

Matthew is active in the student newspaper, The Advocate, in student life activities, and serves as a senator in the Rockville Student Senate. He is described as thoughtful, inclusive, and encouraging ensuring that all voices are heard.



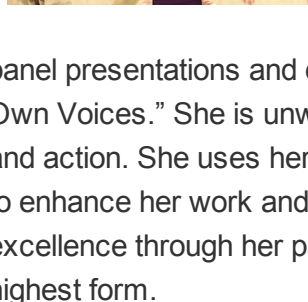
### Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Marbelis Fuentes

Marbelis Fuentes is a bilingual, culturally relevant educator and entrepreneur with excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills. Ms. Fuentes successfully completed her Associate of Arts in Teaching at Montgomery College and will transfer to Towson University. In her time at MC she has been active in ACES and in the CREATE (Culturally Responsive Educators Aspiring for Teaching Excellence) program where she designed presentations for culturally and linguistically diverse learners.



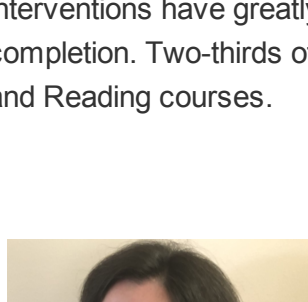
### Staff Martha Carolina Galeano

Carolina's focus is on diverse multicultural audiences, producing a range of digital content for social media, TV, and radio in Spanish, Amharic, Vietnamese, and French. She has received kudos from the Ethiopian Community Center in Maryland for the quality of the videos she helped create for different WDCE short term courses. She is also the host and co-producer of Generación Latina, focusing on Latino youth in Montgomery County. Her multicultural production skills have been lauded by the Maryland Hispanic Business Conference, which gave her its Young Entrepreneur Award.



### Staff Laura White

Laura promotes social justice, equity and inclusion, and diversity as an advocate, teacher, learner and activist. She advocates tirelessly for under-represented populations. In addition to developing classes for Professional Development, she created a yearly series of panel presentations and discussions featuring a special population called "In Their Own Voices." She is unwavering in her commitment to promote awareness, learning, and action. She uses her connections with Montgomery County government agencies to enhance her work and advance MC's mission. Laura meets all criteria for excellence through her passion, commitment, and dedication to social justice in its highest form.



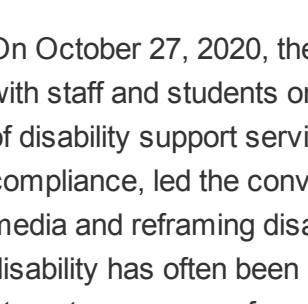
### Full-time Faculty Ellen Olmstead

Professor Olmstead is steadfast in her commitment to promoting social justice, equity, inclusion, and diversity across the College. She has shown these characteristics in the hiring of faculty, scheduling of classes, and coaching of vulnerable students. As the English Department Chair, she pioneered an early advising intervention strategy, in which she meets with students in Developmental English and Reading classes along with English 101A to create a plan for successful completion of the courses. These interventions have greatly facilitated student retention and successful course completion. Two-thirds of the students who conferred with her passed their English and Reading courses.



### Part-time faculty Amy Carratini

Dr. Carratini works closely with her colleagues across the College and around the world to promote radical inclusivity and social justice. Her Global Classrooms Faculty Fellowship has given her the opportunity to work with a fellow colleague from the University of Gondar in Ethiopia where she engages in cultural exchange, dialogue, and fosters international partnerships.

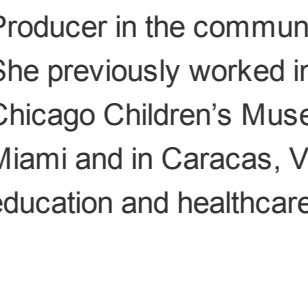


### Administrator Donna Kinerney

Dr. Kinerney has committed her professional life to serving immigrants, non-English language speakers, students who dropped out of public school, individuals with limited reading skills, and those with limited financial resources. Her passion and dedication to serving the underserved is her secret driver. Her work has led to the award of many millions of dollars in grants which have provided resources to disconnected and underserved communities. Dr. Kinerney's work embodies the kind of inclusive environment that we seek to build at the College.

## Let's Talk Social Justice and Disability

On October 27, 2020, the Office of Equity and Inclusion hosted a panel discussion with staff and students on disability and social justice. Sue Haddad, collegewide chair of disability support services, and Christopher Moy, director of ADA & Title IX compliance, led the conversation on the history of how disability is portrayed in the media and reframing disability. The audience was led through a discussion on how disability has often been misinterpreted and used as a way to discriminate and stereotype groups of people based on inaccurate historical concepts. Students and staff with disabilities talked about their experiences in education and answered questions from the audience regarding accommodations in the classroom and in the workforce.



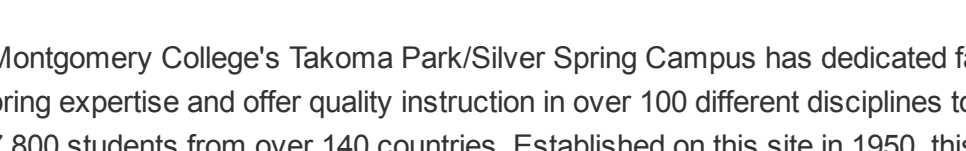
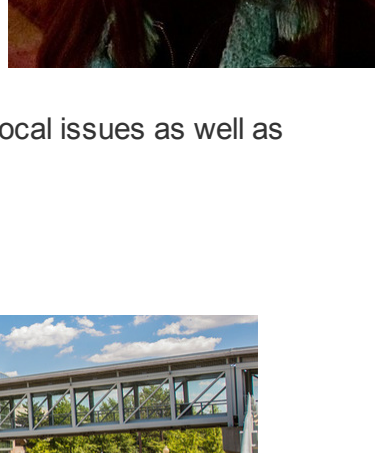
### Talent Share Program with OEI by Shade Akinrimisi M.Sc.

When HR introduced the Talent Share program in May, I immediately informed my supervisor of my interest in this new initiative. I wanted to pitch in to help other units and team members from different departments where assistance was needed. Also, I wanted to participate in this program in order to expand my professional development, while giving me the chance to work with other employees whom I otherwise may not have had the opportunity to interact.

[Read more](#)

## Meet our new Senior Vice President Liaison - Vanessa Zambrano!

Vanessa Zambrano serves as Strategic Content Producer in the communications department at MC. She previously worked in Public Relations for the Miami and in Children's Museum, Venezuela, and as a reporter in Chicago and in Caracas, Venezuela, where she covered local issues as well as education and healthcare policy.



## Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus-Where Opportunities Abound!

Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus has dedicated faculty who bring expertise and offer quality instruction in over 100 different disciplines to more than 7,800 students from over 140 countries. Established on this site in 1950, this historical and city campus is the headquarters of the College's health sciences program and home to the School of Art + Design.

[Read more](#)

## White Fragility Course Opportunity

Do you understand the meaning of white fragility? Examine the definition of white fragility and white privilege. Analyze systemic racism in the justice system and policing. Discuss the Black Lives Matter movement. Explore issues of race and racism in America through the lens of Robin DiAngelo's theoretical work and supplement with statistical analyses from works, like Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow* and a critique of DiAngelo from Kelefa Sanneh. Three sessions on Mondays: February 1, 2021 - February 15, 2021. Sign up [here](#).

The Office of Equity and Inclusion presents  
First Fridays book discussions

A year-long discussion series delving deeply into the book, *How to be An Anti-Racist*, by Dr. Ibram X. Kendi

Friday, February 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. - Chapters 7 and 8  
Friday, March 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. - Chapters 9 and 10  
Friday, April 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. - Chapters 11 and 12  
Friday, May 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. - Chapters 13 and 14

For additional information, contact [equityandinclusion@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:equityandinclusion@montgomerycollege.edu)

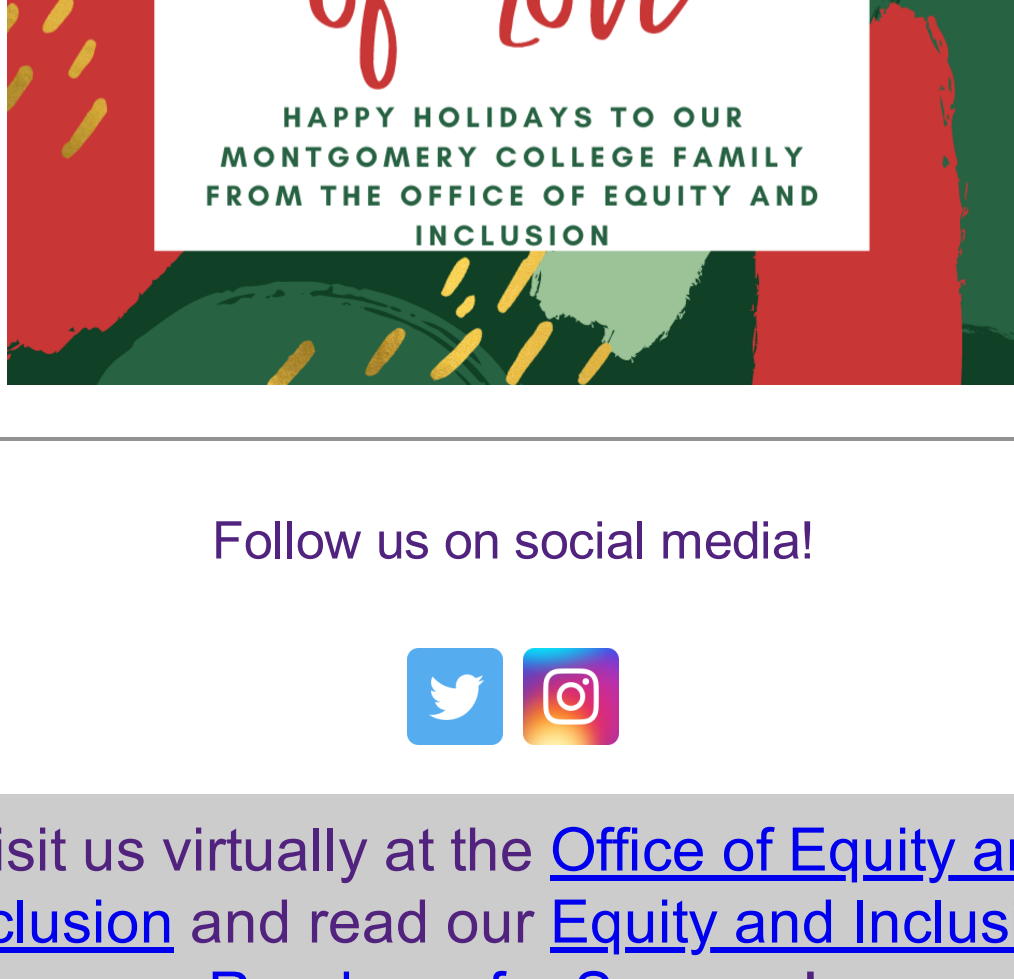
## What people are saying about our events and programs:

*"I will be more conscious and intentional in talking with others about racism."*

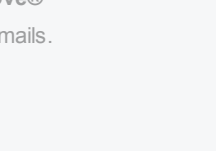
*"There's a lot of listening that I need to do as a white person. I will continue to listen and learn."*

*"I learned a great deal about the appropriate use of language and will be more sensitive to the images I see in the media as it relates to individuals with disabilities."*

*"I was touched by many things that were said. For example, the discussion of positive relationships and friendships as a springboard for transformational dialogues."*

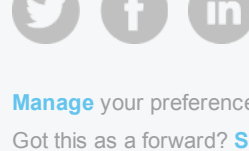


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Visit us virtually at the [Office of Equity and Inclusion](#) and read our [Equity and Inclusion Roadmap for Success!](#)

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