

# MONTHLY OUTLOOK

*A Meeting Preview with Data Insights and MC 2020 Progress*

February 8, 2019

## February Meeting Highlights—What to Expect and Why

Your next board meeting occurs on Monday, February 18, and includes these major items and topics at this time.

**Student Recognition.** At each Board meeting, we will acknowledge a student or group of students who have accomplished some feat, either academic, athletic, artistic, or community-oriented. This month we will feature the Montgomery College Chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), which helped build a community library in Panama.

**Constituent Conversation.** This month's constituent conversation will be held with the Faculty Council and facilitated by Dr. Debra Bright, associate dean of student affairs, and Dr. Rebecca Thomas, biology department chair. Our discussion on student retention continues.

**My Monthly Written Report.** My February *President's Focus* will continue to examine retention, this time through the lens of student finances. As you know, MC students qualify for diverse types of federal and state aid, as well as Montgomery College Foundation scholarships but some are still limited by financial need.

**Award of Contract for Soccer Field Complex Construction.** This contract provides construction services to build a National Junior College Athletic Association regulation soccer field complex on the Rockville Campus. The project involves two phases and begins in FY19, and includes construction of the soccer field as well as locker rooms. The field will be made of turf components that consist of a crushed aggregate stone base, a resilient expanded polypropylene shock-absorbing base pad, a synthetic turf carpet consisting of monofilament fibers, and an infill consisting of coated, high-purity silica sand.

**Montgomery College 2025 Strategic Plan Update.** Work on the development of *Montgomery College 2025*, our new strategic plan, has continued throughout the fall semester. Dr. Michelle Scott, deputy chief of staff and strategy, and Dr. Kevin Long, director of planning and policy, will provide an update on the efforts and present the draft plan. We are on track to bring a final plan for approval to the Board in June.

**Board's Schedule of Meetings for FY20.** A draft calendar of your FY20 meetings will be presented for your consideration. The final calendar is set to be adopted at your March meeting.

### The following item is on your consent calendar:

**Personnel Actions Confirmation Report.** This is a review of personnel actions taken in December.

**Retirement Recognitions.** Retirement resolutions for your consideration in February are for individuals who retired during the fall semester. In June, we will bring spring semester retirements for your action.

**Re-Naming of the Hillman Entrepreneurs.** By request of the donor, this action would rename the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program to reflect the company founded by David Hillman.

## Data Focus of the Month



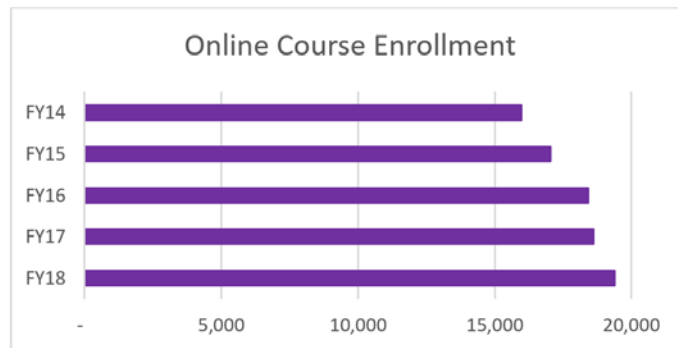
Online courses offer an opportunity for students to learn beyond the bricks and mortar of classrooms, often at their own pace, and at the times of the day that fit best into their schedule. During the last fiscal year, FY18, over 19,000 students were enrolled in 231 different credit courses. In addition, the College now offers five degrees completely online: business, computer science and technologies, criminal justice, general studies, and early childhood education technology. The College was recently ranked the 12th best online community college program in the country by [Best Colleges](#).

Enrollment in online courses continues to grow, with the FY18 enrollment 21 percent higher than the enrollment in FY14. The top three enrolled courses in FY18 were General Psychology–PSYCH 102, Introduction to Sociology–SOCY 100, and Critical Reading, Writing, and Research–ENGL 102. Human Growth and Development during the Life Span–PSYC 203 and Elements of Statistics–MATH 117 rounded off the top five.

Students in online courses generally pass at about the same rate as students in on-campus courses. For example, in the spring 2018 semester, the online course success rate was 73.7 percent compared to 77.8 for on-campus courses.

Enrollment is also growing in extended winter term, which features only online credit courses that begin in December. More than 60 sections were offered in the term beginning in December 2018 and had nearly 900 enrollments, an increase in enrollments of 42 percent over 2017. Success in these courses is higher than traditional semesters, with 83 percent of the students succeeding during this this extended winter term.

Another area of growth is in “blended courses,” that is, courses that are taught partially online and partially on campus. Over 5,000 students chose to enroll in such courses during FY18.



### Top 10 Highest Enrolled Online Courses *Fiscal Year 2018*

COURSE	STUDENTS
General Psychology–PSYCH 102.....	859
Introduction to Sociology–SOCY 100.....	596
Critical Reading, Writing, and Research–ENGL 102.....	547
Human Growth and Development during the Life Span–PSYC 203 ....	539
Elements of Statistics–MATH 117 .....	527
Introduction to College Writing–ENGL 101 .....	364
Medical Terminology I–HINM 115.....	356
Foundations of Human Communication–COMM 108.....	350
Principles of Healthier Living–HLTH 100.....	350
Transition to Professional Nursing Practice–NURS 205.....	336

## Montgomery College 2020 Update of the Month



The *Montgomery College 2020* strategic plan is a seven-year effort that began in FY13. The preferred future envisioned under Theme II, Access, Affordability, and Success, stated that “Montgomery College will provide students with a successful experience, from the first connection through the completion of students’ desired goals.” For many students, the completion of their desired goals (transfer or degree completion) occurs with the ACES program.

**What is the ACES program and when did it begin?** The ACES program—Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success—is a collaborative effort of Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), and the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) to support students and provide a seamless path to a bachelor’s degree. The program began in fall 2013.

**How does it support students?** The ACES program provides academic coaches to targeted high school students in 14 MCPS high schools, at all three MC campus locations, and at USG. The coaches provide both academic and student support through a case management approach. Coaches meet individually with students and provide test preparation, tutoring, and assistance with college applications and financial aid/scholarship applications, college visits, college transfer workshops, and other support services as needed. ACES coaches identify and address barriers to student success that may prevent a student from degree completion. During the 2018–2019 school year, ACES launched a career readiness component of the program which will begin with 11th grade ACES students this spring.

**How are ACES students doing this year?** Now in its sixth year, the program has served 2,472 students with 704 seniors and 809 juniors at the partner high schools, 898 ACES students enrolled in fall 2018 at Montgomery College and 61 enrolled at USG. The ACES program added its fourteenth school, Magruder High School, this year.

**What kind of financial aid do ACES students receive?** As of December 2018, 680 ACES students completed the FAFSA. The Montgomery College Foundation has provided 212 ACES students some funding. Additional awards:

- 424 Pell Grant recipients
- 225 MD Educational Assistance Grant recipients/28 MD Guaranteed Access Grant recipients
- 49 MD Senatorial/Delegate scholarship recipients
- 340 Board of Trustees grant/scholarship recipients: academic, special, and standard
- 6 Montgomery Scholars Scholarship recipients

**How are ACES students doing at MC?** ACES students continue to have higher first year fall-to-fall retention rates than other new students at MC, by as much as 19 percentage points. Course pass rates for ACES students were also higher than non-ACES students, by as much as seven percentage points.

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Be well,

DeRionne P. Pollard, PhD

*We empower our students to change their lives, and we enrich the life of our community. We are accountable for our results.*