

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President
Subject: Honoring Juneteenth
Date: June 19, 2020

Good afternoon. In commemoration of June 19, popularly celebrated as the end of slavery in the United States, I am ceding my video slot today to a most notable historian, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Lonnie Bunch III. As you may know, Sec. Bunch was the founding director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, which houses an extensive collection of artifacts, some related to slavery in the United States. Given our nation's particular cultural moment—and our continued struggle with state violence against people of color—this seems like the right time to hear from Sec. Bunch on his [expert insights](#) around the significance of Juneteenth, emancipation, and social change.

Building on these reflections, I invite you all to join me for a special Let's Talk virtual event on Tuesday June 30 at 12 noon. The topic will be how the SayHerName movement is evolving and how American society can more clearly reject violence against women of color. Recent national protests against police violence have popularized the chant "Say His Name," a call to memorialize male victims of violence. A cry to "Say Her Name" also resonates for many of us, as we recall the tragedies of Sandra Bland, Breonna Taylor, and Tanisha Anderson, among others. I'm eager to be involved in this special dialogue put on by the Office of Equity and Inclusion. I hope you will join us and register here: [Let's Talk - Part 3](#)