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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery College Awarded \$1.16 Million, Five-Year Nurse Support Program II Grant to Support the Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Center

Funds to Bolster Professional Development for Nursing Faculty and Hospital Educators Across the State of Maryland

Montgomery College was awarded a \$1.16 Million, five-year Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) grant by the Maryland Higher Education Commission to continue supporting the [Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Center \(MCSRC\)](#). The MCSRC is a statewide funding initiative authorized under the auspices of the Nurse Support Program II (NSP II) and jointly approved by the Health Services Cost Review Commission.

The MCSRC is designed to increase the quality and quantity of simulation used in nursing education. Nursing simulation education uses life-sized mannequins as patients with a computerized interface and video component, allowing instructors to create realistic patient care scenarios and to teach students critical decision-making and patient care skills. Simulation provides a safe environment for nursing students to learn new skills and procedures, and can be used for up to 50 percent of the clinical experiences required in nursing programs. Montgomery College maintains a comprehensive MCSRC website, which provides simulation information to nursing programs.

The MCSRC was created in July 2015 with support from NSP II, and is administered by the College's Nursing Program to support Maryland's 27 nursing schools. The additional funds of \$1,164,017 will provide critical professional development for nursing faculty and hospital educators to gain skills in the use of simulation in nursing education. Providing high quality simulations requires not just the physical facilities and high-level technology, but faculty who have been educated and trained in incorporating simulation into the curriculum. The grant funds are timely given the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased need for simulations in remote teaching and learning environments.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and the pivot to remote teaching and learning will have a lasting impact on how we deliver education to our students," said Dr. Monique Davis, collegewide instructional dean of Health Sciences and director of Nursing. "We can use simulation in nursing, allied health fields, and other disciplines to broaden opportunities for our students to learn critical career pathway skills."

The award follows two NSP II grants totaling over \$1.3 Million, awarded in July 2018. The first NSP II grant of \$1,266,050 funded MCSRC's purchase of simulation equipment for pre-licensure nursing schools in need of additional resources. The second grant of \$45,850 supported MCSRC's efforts to train nursing faculty and staff in the use of simulation. The latest award will continue to expand the MCSRC's capacity for nurse education in the state.

"Montgomery College and the Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Consortium continue to play critical roles in training our state's nursing workforce," said Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, president of Montgomery College. "COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent role of nursing in our state's health care systems, and

reinforced the value of investments such as the NSP II funds. MC is grateful for the partnership of the Health Services Cost Review Commission and the Maryland Higher Education Commission.”

Montgomery College’s [Nursing Program](#) enrolls more than 540 nursing students each fall and spring semester. Graduates obtain an Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) and are prepared to deliver competent nursing care in a variety of health agencies under the supervision of experienced, qualified practitioners. The Nursing Program is based in the Health Sciences Center and Institute, located on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College.

About NSP II

The [Nurse Support Program II](#) is funded by the Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) and administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The program was established to provide funding for expanding and improving nurse education in the state of Maryland to meet an anticipated nursing shortage.

About Montgomery College

[Montgomery College](#) is a public, open admissions community college with campuses in Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, plus workforce development/continuing education centers and off-site programs throughout Montgomery County, Md. The College serves nearly 54,000 students a year, through both credit and noncredit programs, in more than 130 areas of study.