

From: [Academic Affairs](#)
To: [Savona, Laurie A](#)
Subject: Appointment of Dean of Virtual Campus
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Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Michael Mills, Vice President, Office of E-Learning, Innovation and Teaching Excellence
Subject: Appointment of Dean of Virtual Campus
Date: November 22, 2021

With the completion of an internal search that resulted in interviews with qualified candidates, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Shinta Hernandez as the dean of the virtual campus beginning January 3, 2022.

Dr. Hernandez currently serves as department chair of sociology, anthropology and criminal justice for the Rockville and Takoma Park Silver Spring campuses. Previously, Dr. Hernandez was a sociology instructor, teaching both on-campus and online, and a SOCY 100 Common Course coordinator. Dr. Hernandez has a doctor of philosophy in sociology from the University of Maryland College Park, a master of public policy in social policy from Georgetown University, and a bachelor of arts in psychology from Brandeis University.

Dr. Hernandez led her department through the creation of various online courses that employed Quality Matters standards to enhance online pedagogy, increase student engagement and improve overall student success in the online environment. She led the implementation of Z-courses using culturally relevant Open Educational Resources that resulted in students in her disciplines saving approximately \$1 million in textbook costs. She provided leadership and helped develop the comprehensive seven-week Structured Remote Teaching (SRT) training as part of the 2020 Summer Professional Development Institute for more than 700 full-time and part-time faculty, ensuring best online practices, embedded student services and relevant discipline connections.

Dr. Hernandez has facilitated workshops on decolonizing the curriculum, social justice and inclusive curriculum, tough empathy pedagogy and open education. She also facilitated Constituent Conversations with the Board of Trustees and governance councils on matters relating to student success, retention and graduation. Currently, Dr. Hernandez serves as chair of the Faculty Advisory Council for the Maryland Higher Education Commission and as vice president of professional development for the Community College Consortium for Open Educational Resources. She has also served as a co-designer and facilitator for the

MarylandOnline Leadership Institute and as the Montgomery College representative for the Maryland Sociology Affinity Group. She was awarded the Montgomery College Outstanding Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching and Advising in 2017 and the Teaching Excellence Award from the National Institute for Staff and Organization Development in 2018.

I want to thank the search committee for their commitment to the College and their diligence in this process.

I look forward to working closely with Dr. Hernandez to launch the virtual campus as Montgomery College continues to meet the needs of students. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Hernandez in her new role.