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To: [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#); [All Registered Students](#)
Subject: Appointment of Interim Vice President and Provost, Art, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences and the Rockville Campus
Date: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 3:54:40 PM



Memorandum

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Sanjay Rai, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Subject: **Appointment of Interim Vice President and Provost, Art, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences and the Rockville Campus**
Date: August 3, 2022

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of Dr. Eric Benjamin as the interim vice president and provost, for art, business, education, English, and social sciences and the Rockville Campus, beginning immediately.

Dr. Benjamin earned a doctor of philosophy in counseling psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and brings expertise in several key areas: content expert, student success initiatives, and research. Dr. Benjamin has taught for 16 years, as well as being a faculty associate with Johns Hopkins University for nine years. At Montgomery College, he has taught Introduction to Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Abnormal Psychology, Personality Psychology, College Survival, and Study Skills Development. He held appointments at Riverside Hospital in Washington, D.C., as the director of clinical care and the staff psychologist. He has published in national journals including *Applied and Preventive Psychology*, *Society for Applied Sociology*, and *E-Journal for Teaching and Learning in Diverse Settings*, and has presented at events including the American Psychological Association and Diversity 2000. He was also an editorial board member for the *Journal of College Student Development* for four years, during which time he evaluated articles for current relevance, social validity, and contributions to field.

He has served as the dean for education and social sciences since 2017, where he helped align academic curricula and program offerings with the Academic Master Plan and the College's strategic plan. He has developed, managed, and evaluated outcomes for over \$1 million in grants and supervises the educational and financial management of the Center for Early Childhood Education. He engages in collegewide leadership and governance including the Academic Regulations Committee and served as a co-chair of the Self-Study Steering Committee for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education for the College's most recent re-accreditation process. He continues to serve as co-convener for the deans.

A great deal of Dr. Benjamin's research was with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, where he was a senior research associate, and centered on understanding student success by applying noncognitive predictors of student success in the training of educators. As an investigator for Project Inspiration with Johns Hopkins University, he constructed social and academic interventions for at-risk elementary and middle school students. As department chair, Dr. Benjamin was instrumental in developing new and innovative approaches to accelerate student success and support the goals of the Academic Master Plan, including supporting the development of the Culturally Responsive Educators Aspiring for Teacher Excellence (CREATE) cohort in early childhood education, and successfully launching open educational resources (OERs) in psychology to reduce student costs and time-to-degree. Student success has long

been part of what Dr. Benjamin has sought to achieve, and his efforts will continue in this role.

Dr. Benjamin has worked with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to implement institutional interventions and evaluation programs addressing the achievement gap, and has presented workshops as part of this effort. He was instrumental in developing a proposal to collaborate with MCPS to offer support staff the opportunity to become classroom teachers.

I look forward to a successful transition and Dr. Benjamin's leadership and thank Dr. Kimberly Kelley for her service to the College as the vice president and provost for art, business, English, education and social sciences and the Rockville Campus. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

The College plans a national search for an academic leader who will simultaneously focus on the Rockville Campus and provide collegewide leadership, and I look forward to your engagement in the search process.