

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Rockville, Maryland

Agenda Item Number: 10
February 20, 2017

AFFIRMATION OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE VALUES

BACKGROUND

Developments on the national stage have created anxiety and uncertainty among students, faculty, and staff with respect to diversity at our institution. An uncommonly vitriolic presidential campaign period and several recent debates and actions at the national level have provoked concern and confusion among many in our community.

In reinforcing the College's mission of inclusion and opportunity for all, the Board of Trustees has expressed its intention to make a public statement of Montgomery College's values.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees issue its Affirmation of Values statement, committing the College to craft policies and practices that combat intimidation, harassment, and hate crimes, to nurture a culture that condemns such affronts, and to maintain spaces for learning that are welcoming to all people.

BACKUP INFORMATION

Resolution

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Rockville, Maryland

Resolution Number: **17-02-021**
Adopted on: **2/20/2017**

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Subject: Affirmation of Montgomery College Values

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees believes that the rich diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff at Montgomery College is one our unique strengths; and

WHEREAS, Our educational mission is advanced by intentionally cultivating learning environments where equal opportunity flourishes; and

WHEREAS, Many in our community have experienced concern rooted in the incivility of the recent presidential election rhetoric and several recent debates and actions at the national level; and

WHEREAS, The president recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the following resolution; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees accepts the Affirmation of Values statement as a declaration of the College's stand that access to educational opportunity should not be impeded by race, national origin, religious identity, or immigration status; and be it further

Resolved, That the College will continue to defend the rights of all persons to study and pursue opportunity through education, free from fear and discrimination, and that our institution will continue to be a place where all people are welcomed.

AFFIRMATION OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE VALUES
Affirming Montgomery College's Commitment to Radical Inclusion

February 20, 2017

Over the course of seven decades, Montgomery College has grown into an institution where radical inclusion—that is, deeply rooted values of welcoming all individuals who seek higher education or continuing education—is an essential element of our identity. By intentionally cultivating our campuses as places where equal opportunity flourishes, we have advanced our own educational mission, contributed to the aspirations of Montgomery County, and added to the vision of our nation.

Despite the incivility of the recent presidential election, several events on our campuses have created engaging, civil discussions of controversial topics. Montgomery College faculty and staff have gone to great lengths to create robust learning environments where all persons feel safe voicing their perspectives and where intellectual rigor is the basis for engaging across difference.

The Board takes pride in our institution's commitment to the dignity of all peoples. We believe that the rich diversity of our student body, faculty, and staff is one of our unique strengths. At the same time, we acknowledge that many in our community have experienced insecurity rooted in the incivility of the election's rhetoric and several recent debates and actions at the national level. Discrimination against people of color, international or undocumented students, and students of any specific religious tradition have no place in a civil society or in our learning environments. We will continue to craft policies and practices that combat intimidation, harassment, and hate crimes, and to nurture a culture that condemns such affronts.

The College will continue to affirm the rights of all persons to study and pursue opportunity through education, free from fear and distraction. Our institution will continue to be a place where diversity thrives and where difference is celebrated.

As the College celebrates its 70th anniversary, we will continue to reflect upon the history of our institution and the progress we have made in expanding our notions of inclusivity. Our commitment to advancing education in ways that best empower our students has deepened. So has our promise to infuse 21st century education with the timeless tools of tolerance, civility, and respect.