

Hello again.

The weather is warming up, and that means spring break is almost here.

Before many of you leave for vacation, I wanted to update you about the College's recent advocacy efforts.

Late last week, Maryland community college presidents gathered in Annapolis. We were there to testify at a hearing of the House Appropriations Education Subcommittee on community college aid.

The Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, Clay Whitlow, and the President of the Community College of Baltimore County, Sandra Kurtinitis, spoke on behalf of all community colleges.

We had a very important message to share with the Maryland General Assembly: Do not make any more reductions in aid to community colleges!

The advocacy work continued closer to home, right here in Montgomery County. I, along with Board member Steve Kaufman and Foundation Board Chair Doug Firstenberg, met with County Council President Nancy Floreen on Monday to discuss our capital budget.

The next day, the full Council held a Work Session on our Capital Improvement Program. Following a report and recommendation by Education Committee Chair Valerie Ervin, the full council voted to approve our request to renovate and modernize Science East and West on schedule, pending final reconciliation, of course.

I thanked the Council for its continuing support of Montgomery College.

As the College continues to work through its budget challenges, I remain so thankful to the College Foundation for providing additional resources to support our students and programs.

On Wednesday, I attended the Foundation Board meeting. I asked the board members to help the college with advocacy by writing letters, making phone calls, visiting our elected officials, and engaging the community.

Over the last year, the Foundation has raised \$2.1 Million for the College and provided \$1.2 Million in scholarship aid. Those efforts allowed us to provide scholarships for 700 students.

I am so grateful for their efforts.

Our Alumni Association is another amazing advocacy resource for the College. On Monday, the Alumni Board met with the College Board of Trustees and learned of the status of the presidential search and about our capital projects, upcoming plans, and our advocacy efforts through reports by Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Michael Lin and me.

The joint group participated in topical table discussions to brainstorm ways to provide additional and more effective support to the College.

I want to thank our alumni for all they do to support this wonderful institution.

Finally, I encourage all staff to attend Staff Professional Day on Monday, March 15th, at our Germantown campus. It will be an educational and inspirational event, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

No matter where you go or what you do during our spring break next week, I hope you take time to tend to your internal spirit.

So until next time, take care.