“Community colleges are an undervalued asset in our country. Not only is that not right, it’s not smart.”
~ President Barack Obama, July 14, 2009 announcing the American Graduation Initiative

**Montgomery County needs Montgomery College now more than ever. Why?**

- Montgomery College is the most affordable, high quality, option for higher education in Montgomery County.

- Montgomery College is the second largest undergraduate institution in Maryland behind University of Maryland College Park.
  - Enrollment continues to rise, particularly in a bad economy; MC’s credit enrollment is up 7% over last fall.
  - MC educates 26,000 credit students and 34,000 non-credit students, for a total reach of 60,000 students annually.
  - There is a growing number of first generation students in Montgomery County Public Schools.
  - High achieving high school students have been priced out of four-year schools.

- We have a workforce in need of retraining to meet current employer demand and projected needs.

- The workforce of the future begins at MC with the education and training necessary to provide:
  - Lab bench workers for our biotech companies;
  - The new “green economy” workforce
  - Health care workers to address the nursing shortage; and
  - The next generation of engineers and scientists through our STEM programs – science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
    - MC has the largest engineering program of any community college in the country.
    - Enrollment in biotech courses have increased by 26% since Fall 2008.

**ADVOCACY SCHEDULE:**

| January 13 | Maryland General Assembly (MGA) convenes |
| January 20 | Governor sends budget to the MGA |
| January 15 | County Executive submits capital budget |
| Mid-February | County Council holds public hearings |
| March 15 | County Executive submits operating budget |

| Mid-April |
| County Council holds public hearings |
| April 5 |
| MGA must adopt a budget by this date |
| April 12 |
| MGA adjourns |
| Late May |
| County Council adopts capital & operating budget |
Capital Fund Requests:
• Complete the Rockville Science Center --- provide funding for the furniture and equipment
• Construction of the Germantown Bioscience Center --- need the 2nd installment of construction funding

Operating Fund Requests:
• Keep the Cade funding formula in statute
• For next year, $1.4 million in new operating support required for MC to keep pace with enrollment growth (provide operating funding at the same dollar level per full-time equivalent student that was appropriated in FY 2010)

Key Decision Makers:
• Governor Martin O’Malley
• Lt. Governor Anthony Brown
• Senators Nancy King, Rona Kramer and Rich Madaleno (members of Senate’s Budget & Tax Committee)
• Delegates Hank Heller, Bill Bronrott, Heather Mizeur and Ana Sol Gutierrez (members of the House’s Appropriations Committee)

Montgomery County

Capital Fund Requests:
• Complete the Rockville Science Center --- provide funding for the furniture and equipment
• Renovate Science East and West on time (Fiscal Year 2012). A funding delay will result in a vacant building for at least a year
• Add new projects to the capital budget, including student services centers on the Rockville and Germantown Campuses, and modernization of the math and science buildings on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Operating Fund Requests:
• The specific funding request to the County is still under consideration
• Need resources to open the new Rockville Science Center --- utilities, facilities staff, lab techs, etc.
• Need to keep pace with enrollment growth including both full time and part time faculty

Key Decision Makers:
• County Executive Ike Leggett
• County Council’s Education Committee: Councilmembers Valerie Ervin, Phil Andrews, Mike Knapp