

WHERE

WE COMMUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

100+ LIVE

INSPIRING IDEAS FROM AMERICA'S
COMMUNITY LEADERS

BY **Nancy LeaMond** AARP EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS • EDITED BY MELISSA STANTON

2017
EDITION
FEATURING
EXAMPLES
FROM ALL
50 STATES!



AARP[®]
Real Possibilities



Montgomery College’s Lifelong Learning Institute enables older students (like Roger Karr, pictured in an archaeology class) to enroll in courses for discounted prices.

FREE TUITION FOR COLLEGE SENIORS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Montgomery College

It’s back to school for Beth and Sam Steel. He’s studying Introduction to Music Technology. She’s taking Water Exercise in the six-lane indoor swimming pool. Both are several decades older than most or all of their classmates.

As part of its **Senior Tuition Waiver Program**, Montgomery College, the county’s highly ranked community college, enables Marylanders age 60 and older to enroll in credit classes but pay only the fees—no tuition. (The caveats: The applicants must register online in the final three days of a registration period and can join a class only if there is room.)

Fees for classes are typically \$7 to \$10 per noncredit teaching hour, usually less for credit courses. For example, after a one-time application fee, in-county tuition for Beth’s water exercise class is normally \$122, and fees are \$67. So Beth’s bill for the class is \$67.

The tuition waivers can also be used for certain noncredit workforce-development and continuing education classes, and classes in the college’s Lifelong Learning Institute, which is aimed at students age 50 and older. The college’s three campuses and satellites have served almost 60,000 students. In fiscal year 2016, nearly 3,400 older residents received a tuition waiver.

The classes most popular among older students include art, archaeology, literature, languages, information technology, history, politics, music, personal finance and wellness. Many are taking courses in order to upgrade their skills to continue working.

The older students “serve as role models for younger students in their commitment to lifelong learning and in their study habits,” says Natasha Sacks, program director at the Lifelong Learning Institute. “They enrich classroom discussions with their experiences and serve as advocates and champions of the college in the community.”

Montgomery County is a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities ■