



Testimony
Dr. Michael Brintnall
Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees
FY24 Operating Budget
Montgomery County Council
April 11, 2023

My name is Dr. Michael Brintnall. I am the chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees.

Thank you for your commitment to our mission—*to empower students to change their lives—and create the talent our county needs to thrive.*

For FY24 the College submitted a maintenance of effort budget.

The Board chose not to seek any new funds from the County for the upcoming year. However, approval of this budget will ensure additional state aid for MC next year.

Additionally, with your support, this fiscally conservative request funds three crucial priorities using existing resources:

- Affordable tuition,
- Fair pay raises for our faculty and staff, and;
- The renovation of 2221 Broadbirch Drive in Silver Spring—the home of the East County Education Center.

Making sure your community's college remains affordable is a high priority for the Board. Tuition will increase next year for the first time in three years by less than 2%.

Affordable tuition must be paired with excellence inside and outside of the classroom. To do that, we rely on faculty and staff who are deeply dedicated to empowering students to change their lives. This commitment must be met with commensurate compensation. The pay raises included in this budget are both fair and fiscally sensible, as has been our practice.

In addition to affordable tuition, access is determined by proximity to services. That is why the Board chose to advance the renovation of the Broadbirch Drive location with existing funds to deliver classrooms and labs in the East County by the end of the year.

The East County Education Center will provide education and training programs to deliver nurses, cyber techs, and entrepreneurs.

To enhance our efforts to unleash East County talent, our partners from WorkSource Montgomery will join us at the Center.

With the approval of this budget, we can deliver affordability, excellence, and access.

To do this, we also need quality facilities on our campuses. Therefore, we ask you to reject the additional \$2.9 million reduction to our capital budget. We have already agreed to a \$6 million reduction. This additional cut puts important projects like the Germantown Student Services Center at risk.

We know you face many difficult and challenging decisions.

Nonetheless, as you deliberate the requests of the College, we ask you to keep in mind that the Board delivered budgets that are fiscally prudent and, yet, advance key priorities.

We look forward to working with you to deliver on our mission to change lives and, in turn, deliver the talent needed to bolster the economy.

Thank you.