

**Montgomery County Council
FY26 Capital Budget Hearing
February 6, 2025, at 7pm
Testimony of Montgomery College Student
Montgomery County
Council FY 26 Capital
Budget Hearing
February 6, 2025 at 7
p.m.**

Good evening, members of the Montgomery County Council. It is an honor to speak with you.

My name is Peninnah Victor. I am a proud Montgomery College student studying Biological Sciences. I plan to graduate in May and transfer to the University of Maryland. My goal is to work in biomedical research for the National Institutes of Health. I want to live, work, and give back to my community: Montgomery County.

I am here to thank you for your ongoing support of Montgomery College. And to ask for your continued support to help keep MC affordable for students like me. I also ask you to continue your support for the much-needed renovation of the Rockville Campus library.

I grew up in India where I lived with my father and grandmother while my mother moved to Silver Spring to work and help support our family. My dad passed away when I was 15, leaving my sister and me with no one to take care of us. Our only hope was to move to the United States to live with our mother. Moving to the US opened many opportunities for me to pursue my dreams which I would not be able to in India.

After graduating from Gaithersburg High School, I worked two jobs to save up to pay for college as I did not want to burden my mother financially since she had lost her job. I enrolled at MC, where I excelled in my education while also being able to afford tuition. My mother and stepfather moved to North Carolina for work, and I made the hard decision to stay in Silver Spring alone while supporting myself just so i could pursue my educational goals at MC.

Today, I attend MC with pride while pushing through financial and mental struggles with the support of the faculty and the administration. MC has opened my eyes to things I had never dreamed of before like pursuing biomedical research. I have also gained powerful skills while working two part-time jobs on campus.

MC has blessed me with many resources, but the library is one of the most important to me. I worked at the library for a few semesters. I saw how many students benefit from it including me. It has provided a safe space for students who cannot study at home, like single mothers or students who live in a noisy environment. Also, I have taken advantage of the study rooms in the library that allow me to give presentations for my virtual classes or study in a group.

Although these resources are helpful, the library needs to be renovated. We need up-to-date spaces like quiet areas to focus, collaborative rooms for group projects and computer access to work on assignments in between going to jobs and classes.

With a modern library, students will thrive. Thank you for your investment in the future of students like me and for the support you show our college. MC has given me hope, opportunity, and the chance to pursue my dreams. Because of your support, Montgomery College can help countless more students as they pursue their dreams, too.

Thank you.