

Janna Sircus
Charles River Laboratories, Rockville, Maryland
Montgomery County Council
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Good afternoon, Council Members,

Thank you for the work that you do for our county and for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of Montgomery College (MC) and its programs.

My name is Janna Sircus, and I am a Senior Human Resources Representative at Charles River Laboratories' Rockville site. With over 20,000 employees within 110 facilities in over 20 countries around the globe, Charles River provides essential products and services to help pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, government agencies, and leading academic institutions around the globe accelerate their research and drug development efforts. In 2021, Charles River established its position in Montgomery County with the acquisition of Rockville's Vigene Biosciences.

Charles River Laboratories and Montgomery College Biotechnology have worked closely with one another to help build and train a biotech workforce beneficial to the growth of Charles River Laboratories in Montgomery County. This partnership has facilitated curriculum alignment with industry needs, the recent establishment of an Apprenticeship Sponsor Program, and the successful employment of graduates from both the credit program and BioTrain Boot Camp. Furthermore, it offers continuous professional development opportunities—encompassing both technical and soft skills—through BioTrain training/workshops and advanced-level courses via BioTrac for Charles River employees.

I have personally benefited from Montgomery College's programs. When my Rockville high school was not able to provide the math courses that I needed, I was able to enroll at Montgomery College and complete the courses. I have fond memories of a fellow classmate and I driving up the Pike several times a week to attend our classes at MC. I am a long-term Montgomery County resident. Two of my children graduated from Wootton High School in the Montgomery County Public School system, and my youngest is currently a senior. They were able to take advantage of the opportunity to earn college credit at Montgomery College through the Dual Enrollment Program. Montgomery College's programs are well regarded throughout the community, and I feel fortunate to have access to them both personally and professionally.

I am very appreciative for the mutually beneficial partnership between Charles River and Montgomery College. At Charles River, we are motivated by a common purpose: *Together, We Create Healthier Lives*, and we are thankful for Montgomery College's support.

As you finalize the budget, I ask for your continued funding for Montgomery College's programs, including the biotechnology program. Thank you.