



**Montgomery County Council
FY26 Operating Budget Hearing
Testimony
Gloria Aparicio Blackwell
Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.**

Good evening!

My name is Gloria Aparicio Blackwell. I am the chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees.

The Board is grateful that we can count on you to help the College.

With your support, MC will continue to unlock potential, transform lives, and fuel the workforce.

Together with you, the College's more than 45,000 students can seize opportunity—like I did many years ago. And, they can become the homegrown workforce our county needs.

With a 7% increase in enrollment over last year, we need your continued commitment.

And, we need your support to keep MC affordable. This budget will keep tuition flat.

And, this budget will enable the College to provide fair and reasonable compensation adjustments to the faculty and staff.

And, we will do this without new County funds.

Trustees are proud that the College remains a steadfast anchor in the community. This is clear with:

- The College's efforts to bring MC to the community. As a result, the enrollment of first-time college students has risen for the past three years;
- The success of the East County Education Center. The Center has served more than 1,500 residents in its first year. This is well beyond the projected 1,000;
- Efforts to immediately support displaced federal workers with an array of resources including:
 - job fairs,

- short-term training credentials,
- and credit for prior work experience,
- And, much more.

We know you are proud of Montgomery College as well and we are thankful for your support.

On behalf of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees, President Williams, faculty, staff, students, and alumni—like me—I ask you to please approve the College’s FY26 operating budget.

Thank you for all you do for our community and MC!