Accepting the College Completion Challenge
A Call to Action

In recognition of the central role that Montgomery County Community College has in meeting the educational and training needs in our community and, more broadly, in contributing to an educated U.S. citizenry and a competitive workforce, we pledge to do our part to increase in the number of Americans with high quality postsecondary degrees and certifications to fulfill critical local, state, and national goals.

WE BELIEVE

- We believe that fostering student success and completion is at the heart of our work at Montgomery County Community College.
- We believe that completion matters and that every student counts.
- We believe in every student's potential and responsibility to succeed—and that an engaged student is more likely to persist in college.
- We believe that community colleges are the gateways to the middle class and beyond for millions of Americans.
- We believe that community colleges are an invaluable economic engine driving the nation toward renewed and sustained economic prosperity.
- We believe that talented and committed people working “heart and soul” at Montgomery County Community College are ready to take on leadership roles to increase student success and college completion.

WE COMMIT

- We commit to a change in institutional culture, from emphasis on access only to emphasis on access and success.
- We are engaged in courageous conversations about diversity, equity, and evidence reflecting student success and institutional performance.
- We commit, while increasing success rates for all students, to eliminating the attainment gaps that separate student groups on the basis of race, ethnicity and family income.
- We commit to acting on facts to make positive changes in the interest of student success and achievement.
- We commit to promoting faculty and staff development focused on evidence based educational practice.
- We commit to providing development opportunities, for college administrators, trustees, faculty, staff, and students to build and sustain leadership for student success.

WE ASK

- We ask every trustee, administrator, faculty member, counselor, advisor, financial aid officer, staff member, and student organization to examine current practices, to identify ways to help students understand the added value of degrees and certifications, and to help them progress toward their goals.
- We ask every student to help one other student succeed.
- We ask community members to support and work with us to help more students succeed.
- We ask elected officials to create the policy conditions that enable, support, and to invest in and reward our work to strengthen student success.
- We ask all our key stakeholders - alumni, donors, and friends - to help share and advance this commitment and call to action.

Mike D’Ariello, Chair, Board of Trustees

Karen A. Stout, President

Date 1/18/11