

From: [MC Communications](#)
To: [All Employees Dynamic Grp](#); [All Registered Students](#)
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March 25, 2024

Why Inclusion Matters

As the College continues to cultivate a sense of belonging for everyone, a conversation with one of our students reminded me how much language matters. Amharic is a language spoken by many of our students from Ethiopia. I am thankful that MC student, Fenet Degemu Shertaga, was willing to have a conversation with me in Amharic. I am grateful to Fenet for sharing her story, and to the Amharic-speaking staff members who helped me prepare. I continue to appreciate everyone's tireless efforts to build belonging across languages and other important characteristics that shape us as individuals and communities.



Alternative Spring Break 2024

I want to give a shout out to the 10 service-oriented Montgomery College students and two MC faculty and staff who participated in Alternative Spring Break 2024. Organized by the Office of Student Life, the group spent its time volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Berkley County in South Carolina. The group spent one day at Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery, two days on home construction, and one day at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore, which sells donated items at a fraction of the retail price, while diverting reusable household items from area landfills. Although some financial assistance was provided, the MC group even created its own [crowd sourcing fundraiser](#), which topped the goal of \$2,500 towards the costs of the trip. In an inspiring gesture, a student who participated in an earlier Alternative Spring Break donated to support this year's group.

East County Education Center Opening

The College's new [East County Education Center](#) (ECEC) opens next Monday! The building, located at 2221 Broadbirch Drive, Silver Spring, has been renovated with classrooms, labs, and offices and is ready for holding classes and serving students. Noncredit courses will be offered initially with credit classes beginning in the summer. The official ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 20. I appreciate all of the College team members who have worked to make the ECEC a reality—from conducting the feasibility study, to finding the location, designing and implementing renovations, planning the class schedule, and much more. Opening the center is an exciting step in expanding College access in the East County.

With Raptor Regards,

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams
President

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