From: The President
To: MC Communications List
Subject: Decision Regarding Tuition Lawsuit
Date: Thursday, August 18, 2011 2:31:29 PM

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE
Office of the President

August 18, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Montgomery College Colleagues

FROM: Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President

SUBJECT: Decision Regarding Tuition Lawsuit

I am pleased to share the news that a judge with the Circuit Court for Montgomery County has granted the College's motion to dismiss the lawsuit against our Board of Trustees. This decision rejects the challenge to the College's policy of granting the lowest tuition rate to all recent Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) graduates within three years of their graduation date.

The court dismissed the case on the grounds that the plaintiffs did not have the legal right to sue under the statutes they asserted.

The lawsuit—filed by Judicial Watch on behalf of three county plaintiffs—alleged that our tuition policy cost taxpayers money. However, the College believes that the lawsuit made misstatements about College operations and misapplications of law. Indeed, the analysis of an expert, David W. Breneman, Ph.D., found that, far from imposing additional taxes on Maryland and Montgomery County taxpayers, the policy actually saves the taxpayers a great deal of money each year.

With our tuition policy, Montgomery College is leveraging the county's investment in K–12 public education by making the first two years of higher education accessible and affordable. We recognize that higher education advances both the individual and the broader community. Nearly 60,000 students are enrolled in our credit and noncredit courses annually, and as many as 90 percent remain in the state after attending Montgomery College to help support our community's shared economic growth.

Throughout this experience, I have been heartened by your kind notes and words of support. The board and I have appreciated what you have done to reassure our students and to continue to serve their needs. As our new mission statement says so eloquently, we empower students to change their lives. Our tuition policy ensures our mission is more than words; our policy brings our mission to life.