

**To:** Montgomery College Community

**From:** Dr. Kimberly Kelley, Vice President and Provost, Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences (ABEESS) and Rockville Campus

**Subject:** Appointment of the Collegewide Dean for English and Reading (ENRD)

**Date:** July 14, 2022

As we conclude a national search for the next dean for ENRD, I would like to thank Ms. Charmaine Weston for serving as the search committee chair, and the search committee members for leading the search process to successfully identify the next dean.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Elizabeth Benton has accepted the position of dean ENRD her tenure began on July 1, 2022. Dr. Benton was most recently the interim collegewide dean of ENRD at Montgomery College. In her role as interim dean, Dr. Benton mentored over 125 full-time faculty, led the alternative placement development and implementation process for English and reading, and oversaw the Writing and Reading Learning Center (WRLC) for the Rockville Campus. Prior to her role as interim dean, Dr. Benton was the program director for Montgomery College's Minority Faculty Internship and Academic Support Innovation. In her role as program director, Dr. Benton led the professional learning and teaching internship program for minority interns in ENRD and led the College Area Review process for the WRLC. In addition, Dr. Benton served as the department chair for English and reading on the Rockville Campus from July 2012 to June 2018.

Dr. Benton brings a wealth of experience, both academically and professionally, that will support her success leading the ENRD area. Her successful tenure as the interim dean, and her administrative experience as a program director and chair in ENRD have prepared her for success in her new, permanent role. In addition, Dr. Benton served as the Collegewide Co-chair of Chairs from 2014 to 2017. She also brings a deep understanding of Montgomery College's governance structure to her new role as dean.

Dr. Benton earned a bachelor of arts in English from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. She has a master's degree in English education from Teacher's College in New York, New York, and a doctor of education in curriculum and pedagogy from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

I look forward to welcoming Dr. Benton as the permanent dean, and supporting her in continuing to improve student success outcomes in ENRD, and supporting the goals

of MC's Strategic Plan 2025.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the search process and provided feedback to ensure the most qualified candidate was selected.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Benton to her permanent role as the instructional dean for the ENRD area.