

**From:** [Academic Affairs](#)  
**To:** [Rockville Faculty{FT&PT}](#); [Germantown Faculty{FT&PT}](#); [Takoma Park Faculty{FT&PT}](#); [Academic Affairs Staff and Administrators](#)  
**Subject:** Welcome to Fall 2022  
**Date:** Monday, August 29, 2022 12:05:29 PM

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Dear Colleagues –

I welcome you to the beginning of a new academic year with profound gratitude for the work that you have done to bring us here today. I just visited the Germantown Campus and it was wonderful to see so many students, staff and faculty on campus. It was also a great pleasure to see so many of you at the academic affairs division meeting last Monday, and I look forward to seeing you all on your campuses throughout the year.

I hope you had the chance to participate in Professional Week events and activities. I want to thank our colleagues in ELITE who did a wonderful job of putting together an array of such highly relevant, timely and interesting programs, including *Trauma Aware Teaching and Critical Race Theory and its Connection to Pedagogy*, as well as ending with the first MC Advising Institute. Programs like this prepare us well to serve our students, and they are an inspiring kick-off to the new academic year.

I know that many of you share my anticipation about the start of a new year. You will welcome new and returning students, make connections, forge bonds that in many cases remain strong even after students move on from MC. That is the lifelong impact you have on the futures of our students. Today begins this process anew, setting the stage for engaging students, exciting them about the content of a class, opportunities outside of class and about their future. Your commitment to their academic success does not go unnoticed. I hear it from individual students and I see it reflected in student success data.

I remember the teachers I had who engaged the class, engaged me. I am seeing it through my daughter's eyes, now. When you make students feel valued and encouraged in their academic pursuits, they are empowered. Some of you are new to MC, new to teaching. Welcome! Some of you have been inspiring students for many years. What inspires me is how you bring a fresh sense of wonder and discovery to each year, to each class, to each student. Thank you – for doing this in your classrooms (physical and virtual), labs, learning centers, libraries, study spaces, corridors and parking lots. Engagement and learning know no boundaries.

Your remarkable efforts are reflected in the College's continuing successes. Since 2014: nearly doubling the graduation rate; narrowing the achievement gap for African American students; eliminating the achievement gap for Hispanic students; and decreasing the average time to degree by nearly a year. The data behind these claims (and appreciation) and many more successes can be found in the culmination report of the Academic Master Plan ([link](#)). These successes are not mirrored at the national level. I am incredibly proud of what you have achieved. You should be very proud of the results of your hard work - some of it done during a global pandemic. Those results will reverberate throughout the lives of students, their families, and the communities we – and they - serve.

I wish each of you a wonderful fall semester and hope to see you in person, or on screen, for conversations (including campus office hours and *Academic Enquiries*).

Sanjay

