



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MONTCO FOR ALL

ANNUAL REPORT | 2020-2021

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR ALL

FOR MORE THAN A HALF CENTURY, Montgomery County Community College (Montco) has grown with the community to meet the evolving educational needs of Montgomery County at its campuses in Blue Bell and Pottstown, The Culinary Arts Institute in Lansdale and online. At Montco, we provide a comprehensive educational experience that enables students to succeed academically, professionally and personally.

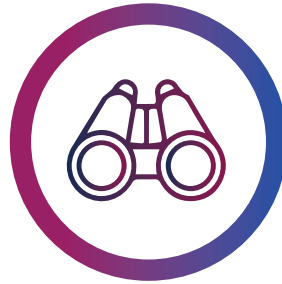
» **Learn more** about Montco's deep roots in the community.





OUR MISSION

Serve the educational, workforce and cultural needs of our students and County communities by creating innovative, sustainable, meaningful learning experiences and programs that afford access to and drive the success of our students both at the College and beyond their experiences here.



OUR VISION

Montgomery County Community College will be highly valued as a key community partner that further advances the growth of a vibrant, increasingly diverse Montgomery County. Montgomery County Community College will be viewed as the region's hub for serving students and our communities with meaningful educational experiences, workforce solutions and cultural opportunities.



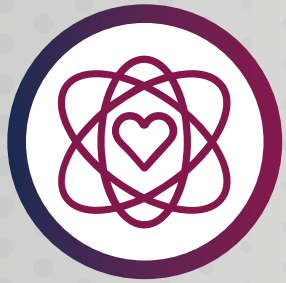
OUR EQUITY STATEMENT

Montgomery County Community College is committed to ensuring that all students receive what they need to be successful through the intentional design of the college experience.

OUR CORE GOALS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF MONTCO'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017-2022:

- ▶ Champion Student Success
- ▶ Foster Meaningful External Relationships
- ▶ Ensure a Sustainable Organization





STATEMENT OF VALUES

- ▶ **Educate** to advance equity, opportunity and social justice in the communities we serve.

- ▶ **Provide** quality, accessible and sustainable learning opportunities.

- ▶ **Innovate** to support student success and the needs of our communities.

- ▶ **Respect** our diverse contributions and lived experiences to cultivate inclusion.

- ▶ **Foster** a culture of empathy, trust, transparency, integrity and accountability.

A Workplace to Be Proud Of

RENAMING OUR CAMPUSES

Montco's campuses have been renamed to reflect their locations – Central Campus is now the Blue Bell Campus, West Campus is now the Pottstown Campus, and the Virtual Campus is now Online Learning.

A WINNING TEAM

For the sixth consecutive year, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development named Montco as one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges across the country for its commitment to diverse, inclusive and supportive workplace and learning environments.





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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Leading the Way

Dear Montco Family and Friends,

Just over a year ago you trusted me to lead this esteemed institution as its sixth president and propel our strong Montco Momentum forward toward a brighter future for all. Each day since, I have dedicated myself to earn that privilege and repay that debt of gratitude.

As we close the 2020-2021 school year, we reflect on the journey we've walked together so far. This year revealed the strength of our resolve. Amid a pandemic, our students confronted health concerns, economic strife and social injustices. Yet, we rose to the challenge, using our creative innovation and ideation to support the success of our students and our community. Unsurprisingly, I remain in awe and enormously proud of the work we've accomplished this year.

During this time of economic recovery, Montco continues to serve a vital role, preparing students for careers today and in the future.

Our flexible learning options fit the needs of all students. From in-person, traditional learning, to online options, including hybrid and flex, students will have the ability to learn in a way that works best for them.

This new year brings several bright opportunities I'd like to highlight. First, Montco continues to lead the way in innovative, educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), as we officially launch the **Challenger Learning Center** at our Pottstown Campus. The first of its kind in Pennsylvania, this state-of-the-art classroom will allow students to explore the far reaches of the cosmos, engage in hands-on learning and pursue careers in high-demand fields.

Additionally, in keeping with our pledge of building the bridge toward economic equity, we are proud to open **The Baker Center** of Excellence for Employee Ownership and Business Transformation. Located on our Blue Bell Campus, it will serve as a hub for

workforce development and a catalyst for economic growth across the region.

Lastly, I am pleased to report that the **Montco Recovery Tuition Assistance Program** is being extended through summer 2022. It provides tuition assistance to Montgomery County residents who have become unemployed due to the pandemic. The well-being of all students is paramount, and this program ensures their continued success.

I look forward to sharing more with you soon. For now, I simply wish you all continued good health and safety.

With Mustang Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez".

Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, President
Montgomery County Community College

LEADERSHIP & ENGAGEMENT

President

Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez

President's Cabinet

Therol Dix, J.D.

*Vice President of Pottstown Campus
and Educational Partnerships*

Rose Makofske, J.D.

*Director of Equity, Diversity and
Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator*

Philip Needles, MBA

*Vice President of Engagement
and Student Experience*

Diane O'Connor, M.S., PHR,
SHRM-CP, CBP, CCP,

Vice President of Administrative Services

Dr. Gloria Oikelome

Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Celeste Schwartz

*Vice President of Information Technology
and Institutional Effectiveness*

Charles Somers, MBA, CPA, CGMA

Vice President of Finance

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President

Frank X. Custer
Chair, Board of Trustees

Anisha Robinson Keays
Board of Trustees

Jay Browning
*Executive Director
of the Foundation*

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Helen Webster
Jacquie Ramos
Alana Mauger
Megan Daly
Cindy Whitley



INSPIRE.
Lead.
TRANSFORM.

WELCOMING **OUR SIXTH PRESIDENT**

Montco celebrated the inauguration of its sixth president, Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, during a historic drive-in ceremony at its Blue Bell Campus on April 16.

The installation ceremony was the capstone of a two-week series of events involving the Montco Family and community members.

“We eagerly look forward to this new chapter with Dr. Bastecki-Perez as our president, and the growth of Montco as an institution,” said Frank X. Custer, Chair of the Montgomery County Community College Board of Trustees. “Her leadership and decisive actions have kept Montco at the forefront of higher education during a time when many institutions are struggling. She continues to build upon and strengthen relationships at all levels, while expanding awareness of Montco’s programs and services, but at the heart of everything she does, every decision she makes, is our students. And, after all, isn’t that why we are all here?”

Dr. Bastecki-Perez plans to expand upon Montco’s vision, mission and strategic plan together with the Montco Family.



On stage at President Bastecki-Perez's inauguration ceremony

“

As president, I hope to make a difference by fostering an inclusive recovery for Montgomery County, promoting economic and social mobility, and improving generational wealth. My hope is to leave a legacy at Montco that is forever green so that it will impact not only today's county residents, but also the residents of the future for many generations to come.

– Dr. Bastecki-Perez

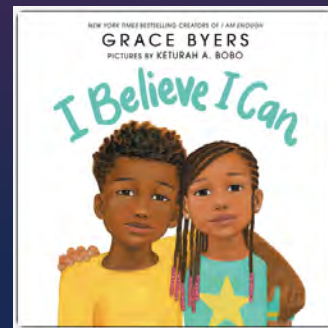
“Traveling on this journey together, I truly am humbled, privileged and grateful to serve as the sixth president of this remarkable institution where together we will inspire, lead and transform.”

For the ceremony, students Doug Michie, Gordon Michie and Steven Nivan, with faculty and staff members David Ivory, Michael Kelly, Ron DiSilvestro, Louis Rieger, Howie Gordon, Sarah Kane and Matt Porter, created an original musical interlude, “Open up Your Eyes.”

In addition, student-athletes Blaise Blomstrom, Mary Grace MacDonald, Grace Nicodemus and Jake Schalki presented a framed national championship basketball shirt and game net to the new president. Before the pandemic, the men's basketball team earned the title of 2020 Region 19 champions and advanced to the NJCAA National Tournament for the first time in Montco's history, and Nyere Miller was named basketball coach of the year.

The celebration events included two community drive-in movie nights and fireworks. Galleries Director Patrick Rodgers presented a painting, “Twilight Landscape,” created by alumnus Jackson Moyer, for the President's office. Montco Radio students held an “Inauguration Marathon” of radio shows, including a **podcast interview** with Dr. Bastecki-Perez.

To commemorate the inauguration, Dr. Bastecki-Perez started an annual outreach initiative called “Monty's Book Club.” Each year, Montco will donate books to the libraries of Montgomery County public and private elementary schools. This year's selection is *I Believe I Can*, which has a powerful message of courage and resiliency, and is written by Grace Byers and illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo.



ONE MONTCO



► PRESIDENT’S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Montgomery County Community College established the President’s Advisory Council on Equity and Social Justice. Composed of three active subcommittees for programming, policy review and assessment, the council contributes to and provides oversight and coordination for diversity programming, and reviews Montco policies for equity-minded, inclusive and culturally responsive practices while ensuring accountability.

The council’s three co-chairs are Trustee and Assistant Secretary for the Board of Trustees Varsovia Fernandez, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gloria Oikelome, and History Associate Professor Dr. Theresa Napson-Williams.

► NATIONAL RACIAL EQUITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Montco was one of 10 colleges selected to participate in the Achieving the Dream and the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center Racial Equity Leadership Academy, which ran July 26-29, 2021. The intensive program was designed to support teams of five individuals from each college in the development of a bold, strategic racial equity plan to implement actionable solutions at their institutions.

Montco’s work is lead by Trustee and Assistant Secretary for the Board of Trustees Varsovia Fernandez, President of Montco Dr. Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator Rose Makofske, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gloria Oikelome, and History Associate Professor Dr. Theresa Napson-Williams.

► TACKLING THE HISTORY OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE

Montco and the Lively Arts Series hosted the seven-part lecture series “Racism in America: Understanding the History of Slavery and Its Impact on America Culture,” presented by the Richard K. Bennett Lectureship Series during the spring semester. The online series, facilitated by Dr. Fran L. Lassiter, English Associate Professor, delved deeply into why slavery came into existence and how it was constructed.

Recaps of each of the lectures can be found here: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#), [Part 4](#), [Parts 5+6](#), [Part 7](#)



“Programs like these exemplify Montco’s longstanding commitment to fostering an inclusive community for all,” said Rose Makofske, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Title IX Coordinator. “We continue to work to find new ways to advance that effort and make everyone feel welcomed and valued on our campuses.”

ONE MONTCO



PROPELLING DISCUSSION ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Poet, public speaker, educator and memoirist Richard Blanco served as the keynote speaker for Montco's 2020 online **Presidential Symposium** on Diversity. Blanco captured the attention of more than 325 students, employees and community members through his poems and thoughtful discussion about our nation's current and past injustices, our individual stories, and how the U.S. is a place where all narratives could come together. He also shared poetry from his new book, *How to Love a Country*.



REIMAGINING COMMUNITY SERVICE: MLK DAY TOWN HALL

As the pandemic persisted throughout much of the spring semester, the 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service activities took on a different format. Montco, collaborating with Movement for Black and Brown Lives in Montgomery County, held a **virtual Town Hall** discussion called "Reimagining Community Service," to discuss ways to serve Montgomery County communities on an ongoing basis.



CONNECT AND INNOVATE

The League for Innovation in the Community College recognized Montco Connect among its 2020-2021 **Innovation of the Year** awards, which honors "significant community college innovations that improve the ability of institutions to serve their students and communities." Montco Connect is an internal communications tool accessible by students and employees when they log in to Montco's web portal. The platform allows users to share announcements and activities. The team members who created and implemented this tool are Mary Beaver, Angela Cavaliere, Holly Ann Clayton, Amelia Fox, Kasey Golding, Molly Hafner, Amanda Hall, Michael Harcum, Sean Hutchison, Joe Mancini, Natalie Palmer, Andrew Rosner, Sarah Schenk, Tyler Steffy, Robert Vogel and Tiffany Webber.

OUR COMMUNITY'S COLLEGE



RESOURCE HUB FOR ALL

As an innovative leader in higher education, workforce development and economic revitalization, Montco serves as a vital resource hub for the community, helping people of all ages, at all stages of their lives. Throughout the pandemic and now as the economy begins to recover, Montco is here, focused on doing what is best for students and the community.

HELPING UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTS

To help residents who are unemployed due to the pandemic, Montco started the **Montco Recovery Tuition Assistance Program** to provide last-dollar tuition waivers, beginning in the spring 2021 semester and continuing through summer 2022. As of June 2021, more than 100 students received tuition waivers.

The program is available to any Montgomery County resident who experienced full- or part-time employment loss on or after March 6, 2020, the date of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf's Emergency Disaster Declaration. Applicants need to enroll in and attend a degree, certificate or financial-aid eligible non-credit program and follow the application guidelines.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

As the community's college, Montco is flexible and responsive to the educational and resource needs of the communities it serves. During 2020-21, Montco helped students and residents by:

- ▶ Serving as Montgomery County's first mass COVID-19 vaccination center
- ▶ Continuing to host vaccine clinics at both campuses through 2021
- ▶ Hosting American Red Cross blood drives
- ▶ Serving as secured ballot drop-box locations, satellite election offices and polling places on Election Day
- ▶ Holding the annual Presidential Symposium on Diversity featuring poet, public speaker, educator and memoirist Richard Blanco
- ▶ Hosting the Lively Arts Series' seven-part free online "Racism in America" lecture series
- ▶ Hosting free online art exhibitions, drive-in movies and other events for the public



COVID-19 Pandemic
American Red Cross Blood Program Partner



CHAMPIONING PUBLIC HEALTH



Montco is proud to participate in the White House and U.S. Department of Education's COVID College Challenge. As a **Vaccine Champion College**, Montco is committed to:

- 01** **ENGAGING** students, faculty and staff members to ensure that they know they are eligible for the vaccine and have the resources to get vaccinated.
- 02** **ORGANIZING** the college community by implementing a plan to encourage everyone to get vaccinated.
- 03** **DELIVERING** vaccine access for all by bringing vaccine clinics to its campuses.

To support this effort, Montco partnered with Montgomery County Immunization Coalition, JBS Foods of Souderton and Giant Pharmacy to host COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the Montco Family and greater community. The clinics were held in August 2021 at each campus and promoted through multiple media channels to reach as many people as possible.

In addition, Montco's 2021 Presidential Symposium on Diversity will feature Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Ph.D., the lead research scientist on the development of the Moderna vaccine. For her visit on Oct. 21, 2021, Montco is holding a contest for students to create public service announcements encouraging vaccinations.



EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP



Dr. Gloria Oikelome
Appointed Vice President
of Academic Affairs

Montco was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Gloria Oikelome as the next Vice President of Academic Affairs. Over her 18-year career in higher education, she has focused on building innovative STEM and health science programming and curriculum, while helping students discover their passions and advance their careers in the sciences.

Dr. Oikelome is a committed educator with experience in academic leadership roles at Reading Area Community College, Lincoln University and University of York (Hull York Medical School) in the United Kingdom. She also has extensive experience in the classroom, teaching biology, microbiology, nutrition and biomedicine. She credits committed faculty who helped her see potential in herself during her college experience as a driving force in her decision to pursue a career in higher education.

During 2020-21, Montco also welcomed **four new deans:** Dr. Timothy Brown, Dean of the Liberal Arts Division; Cheryl DiLanzo, Dean of the Health Sciences Division; Kyle Longacre, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development Division; and Terence Lynn, Dean of the Business & Professional Studies Division.



Diane O'Connor
Appointed Vice President
of Administrative Services

Montco was pleased to announce that Diane E. O'Connor, M.S., PHR, SHRM-CP, CBP, CCP, was appointed as the Vice President of Administrative Services. Ms. O'Connor brings 29 years of experience in education as well as a strong focus in strategic management to her vice presidency, where she will lead the development of the College's plans and protocols for a campus environment focused on safety, efficiency, stewardship, and sustainability.

Joining Montco in 1996, Ms. O'Connor previously served as Montco's Executive Director of Human Resources; acting as a strategic visionary responsible for management of the College's recruitment strategy, benefits programs, compensation programs, trainings, policies, and employee relations. She also has held prior positions as the Benefits Specialist, Benefits Manager, and Assistant Director of Human Resources, and served as a major driving force behind the cultivation of a supportive and close-knit culture for all employees at the College.

As Vice President, Ms. O'Connor will continue her service to the College leading the custodial services, facilities, grounds, human resources, postal services, and public safety teams. She graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Business Administration and magna cum laude with a B.S. in Secondary Education from Gwynedd Mercy College, as well as summa cum laude with an M.S. in Organizational Leadership from Cabrini College.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING



KERBAL MATH AND PHYSICS LAB TAKES FLIGHT

Learning complex math concepts shouldn't have to feel like rocket science. By applying them to real-life scenarios, like space flight, students better understand how they work and inspire further exploration. That's why Montco and Math Assistant Professor Christopher Scott Vaughn used the **Kerbal Space Program** – a space flight simulation video game – to launch a pilot program called the Kerbal Math and Physics Lab during 2020-21.



'MONTCO@HOME' OFFERS VIRTUAL TICKET TO ELECTRONIC MUSICIANS

Coinciding with the launch of The **Language of Digital Media** course, two faculty members launched a **web series** called "Montco@Home" featuring interviews with musical performers from around the globe. From as far away as London and Paris, to those with ties closer to our area, Computer Science Professor Kendall Martin and Sound Recording and Music Technology Instructor Jen Mitlas sat down with electronic music producers from around the world as part of their interview series. Their hard work paid off, as Martin and Mitlas were awarded a 2020-2021 Year of Learning Innovation grant for their efforts.



'LIFT EVERY VOICE' EVENTS CELEBRATE AFRICAN AMERICAN POETRY

Montco joined libraries nationwide in celebrating African American poetry, thanks to a national grant obtained by two faculty members. Montco was selected as one of 49 libraries in 24 states to receive the Library of America's **"Lift Every Voice: Why African American Poetry Matters"** grant. The program grant, won by Dr. Fran Lassiter, English Associate Professor, and Amanda M. Leftwich, Student Success Librarian, was part of a national public humanities initiative dedicated to enhancing appreciation of the extraordinary range and richness of the 250-year African American poetic tradition.



New Transfer Partner: Western Governors University

Montco is pleased to partner with **Western Governors University (WGU)** to offer online pathways for Montco graduates and employees to seamlessly continue their education and earn their bachelor's and graduate degrees. WGU also provides Community College Partner Scholarships to help students complete their educational goals.

WGU offers more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degrees in many high-demand fields, such as business, information technology, education and healthcare, among others. WGU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

POTTSTOWN

A REDESIGN FOR THE FUTURE



In fall 1996, Montco opened its doors in Pottstown to welcome approximately 300 students who were starting their first semester at the new West Campus (now called the Pottstown Campus). Since then, Montco has grown, adding new programs and expanding its campus footprint.

Throughout the years, Montco has become a valuable resource and trusted partner of the Pottstown community, always ready to work closely with school districts, area businesses, organizations and agencies.

As Montco celebrates its 25th anniversary, its leaders are looking ahead to prepare for the future needs of students and community members. Exciting changes for the Pottstown Campus are on the horizon – starting with the **Challenger Learning Center**, the first of its kind to open in Pennsylvania.

We are thrilled about this innovative opportunity. The Challenger Learning Center will not only introduce youth to science, technology, engineering and math, but it also will inspire them to pursue higher education and lead them to rewarding careers in high-demand fields with life-sustaining wage jobs,” said Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, President. “In the long term, this strategic pathway will help to strengthen the workforce for Montgomery County and the region.”

In spring 2021, Montco received a \$500,000 **PAsmart Advancing Grant** for the Challenger Learning Center. PAsmart grants help to support broad, cross-sector partnerships that expand access to computer science, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Montco will use the funds to expand technology and software, supplement the curriculum and provide training for faculty and transportation scholarships for area school districts.

» Other innovative projects also are underway at the Pottstown Campus:



“During the past year, we’ve met with business and community members, students, faculty and others to explore possibilities for the Pottstown Campus,” said Therol Dix, J.D., Vice President of Pottstown Campus and Educational Partnerships. “We listened to their ideas and are using that feedback as we make improvements.”



Rendering by Spillman
Farmer Architects

At North Hall, 16 W. High Street, Montco will convert the existing macadam parking lot into a grass-covered area with tiered rain gardens. The new design will provide both live learning laboratories for students and a public green space for the community.

At South Hall, 101 College Drive, Montco is renovating the student support spaces to improve the overall educational experience, providing greater access to basic needs services.

Along with construction, Montco is offering new programs at Pottstown, including **Tourism and Hospitality Management** and **Sound Recording and Music Technology** with a new state-of-the-art recording laboratory. In addition, the Pottstown Campus offers an immersive College **Connections Experience Program**, a holistic, academic pathways program for first-time college students.



Rendering by Spillman
Farmer Architects

BLUE BELL

MODERNIZING OUR LEARNING SPACES

Rendering by Spillman
Farmer Architects

TRANSFORMING STEM INTO STEAM

Renovations are underway inside the Science Center Theater to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art performance space.

“Modernizing our campus learning spaces gives us the flexibility to meet the needs of our students, allowing them to be successful now and in the future.”

said Dr. Celeste Schwartz, Vice President of Information Technology and Institutional Effectiveness. “Additionally, these enhancements provide new and innovative opportunities to engage our community.”



Renovations to the theater began in fall 2019 with an anticipated opening in October 2022. Highlights of the new theater will include:

- ▶ **A new balcony with a gathering room**
- ▶ **Larger stage to accommodate a wider variety of performances**
- ▶ **Increased seating capacity**
- ▶ **New theater technology that will enhance sound quality and the visual experience**
- ▶ **New and improved seating for audience members**
- ▶ **New lobby and bathrooms**
- ▶ **Increased wheelchair accessibility**

These improvements will elevate the arts as a means of teaching and learning, and will provide new and creative opportunities for our students and the community.

» HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE COMING TO BLUE BELL CAMPUS

Breaking ground this fall at the Blue Bell Campus comes the new Hospitality Institute at Montco. The 20,400-square-foot center will spotlight the Hospitality program, which includes: culinary arts, baking and pastry arts, tourism and beverage management. Fermentation science, nutrition science, workforce opportunities, community engagement and the Live Learning Lab restaurant also will be featured in the space, along with a pastry shop and chocolate lab. The Hospitality Institute will be housed in the former campus bookstore building adjacent to Parkhouse and College Halls.

» VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

To make the **Veterans Resource Center** feel more inviting and comfortable, renovations to the building were completed this past spring at Blue Bell Campus. Included in the updates are a conference area to add the Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations program. Crews also replaced the carpeting, floor tiles, painted and ordered new indoor and outdoor furniture. A conference room was created and requested security items also were put into place.



Hospitality Institute rendering by Digsau.

WELLNESS FOR ALL

Montco takes a holistic approach to ensure that all students receive what they need to be successful through the intentional design of the college experience, both in and out of the classroom. Because students' overall well-being is an integral part of their success, Montco offers **wellness programs** to help them succeed.



To assist with essential needs such as food, housing and child care, Montco and Benefits Data Trust collaborated to start the PA Benefits Center in January 2021. The **PA Benefits Center** is a contact center that provides personalized one-on-one assistance to Montco students and families, so they can learn about their eligibility and apply for multiple benefits during one easy application process.



Since the pandemic began, Montco has hosted **“Wellness Wednesdays”** – Facebook live sessions with Dr. Keima Sheriff, Ed.D., Assistant Dean of Student Programs, and Dr. David Kowalski, Associate Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Innovation. Together, they have discussed a variety of topics, including parenting, self-sabotage and depression, among others, and included guests Ryan Schweiger of the Penn Foundation, and Abby Grasso of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.



Throughout 2020-21, students had free access to online therapy when they needed it, thanks to Montco's unique partnership with **Talkspace**. In June 2021, Montco launched an enhanced Talkspace plan, to include access to two live therapy video sessions per month, per student and Talkspace Psychiatry for medication support. Students can use Talkspace through an easy, HIPAA-compliant app.

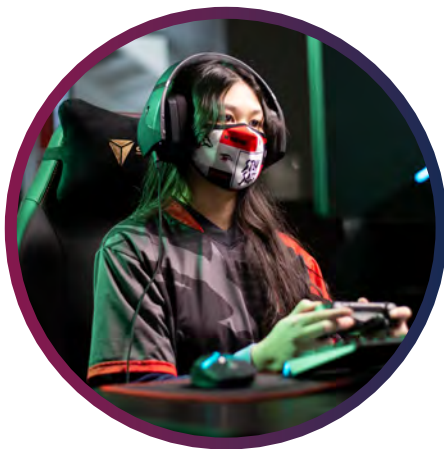


“Personal wellness is vital for a positive educational experience for all students,” said Philip Needles, Vice President of Engagement and Student Experience. “At Montco, we strive to provide the services and support needed for our students’ overall wellness so they can achieve their academic and individual goals, both here and beyond our campuses.”

MONTCO ATHLETICS

TRANSFORMING THE SPORTS EXPERIENCE

» There was a lot to celebrate this year for the Mustangs on and off the field. The baseball team returned to play, finishing with an undefeated 8-0 **record** this season, and the “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” esports team took home its very **first league title** in April. Our student-athlete experience is one of the best in the area, providing strong opportunities for those graduating from high school and beyond.



In May, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine announced its 2021 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars **Award** list of recipients, including Mustangs eSports student-athlete Kiratika Ariyamitr. In addition, Athletics released a **new video** featuring several student-athletes performing on the field and in the classroom.



Finally, during the pandemic, Athletics Assistant Director Nyere Miller organized an online leadership series for the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) to bring student-athletes together in a safe, healthy way to discuss positive topics throughout the year. Topics of discussion included **Race and Inequality**, **Personal Health** and Wellness, **Mentoring** and Networking, and a discussion with a panel of EPAC **alumni**.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

» The College engages in a wide range of partnerships to connect and enhance our communities.

Baker Center of Excellence for Employee Ownership and Business Transformation



Montco received its largest gift in its 56-year history of \$3 million from Kenneth D. Baker, a dedicated advocate of Montco and its mission, for the creation of the **Baker Center of Excellence** for Employee Ownership and Business Transformation.

The Baker Center, coming to Montco's Blue Bell Campus, will be a valuable component of Montco's approach to workforce development by supporting County and regional businesses and their growth and training for their employees. Employee Stock Ownership Plans and other profitable business concepts are

valuable mechanisms for upward mobility, equity and inclusion for employees, particularly as Montgomery County and the region emerge from the pandemic.

In addition, the Baker Center will establish an open-resource library, housing educational resources and materials that will be available to anyone — other colleges and universities, organizations, students, etc. — helping those near and far solve common business challenges.

Montco hired **Scott Moon** as the Executive Director of the Baker Center of Excellence.

Training the Workforce

As a certified WEDnetPA partner, Montco awards state funds to reimburse companies that do incumbent training for Pennsylvania resident employees. In fiscal year 2020-21, Montco received approximately \$226,000 that enabled 20 area companies to train their workforce, helping them to increase their competitive edge during the economic recovery from the pandemic.

WEDnetPA pays for many types of training, including safety, continuous improvement, professional development, ESL and technical skills, among others. Led by **Kyle Longacre**, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Montco's **Workforce Development Division** will coordinate on-site and virtual customized training for companies' specific needs.



THE BEST VERSIONS OF OURSELVES

HATS OFF TO THE CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021!

In a typical school year, Montco would only hold one Commencement ceremony to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduating class. This year, however, was no typical year. Due to the pandemic, Montco held multiple drive-in ceremonies at Blue Bell Campus—first in the fall and then again in the spring.

The 53rd annual Commencement **ceremony** celebrating the Class of 2020, was held Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, with two drive-in ceremonies. Each ceremony also was livestreamed online for those unable to congratulate the 1,669 graduates in person.

The 54th annual Commencement ceremony celebrating the Class of 2021 was held on Thursday, May 20, 2021, with three **drive-in ceremonies**, and each was livestreamed. Graduates and their friends and families filled the Morris Road parking lot in decorated cars for each ceremony. The Class of 2021 had 1,146 graduates.

CELEBRATING THE 2020-2021 ALL- PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC TEAM

In April, Montco commemorated Community College Month by celebrating the achievement of four students who received statewide honors for their work in the classroom. Montco students **Anuj Kamani**, of North Wales, **Shaneann Marshall**, of Philadelphia, **Josh Taban**, of Lower Merion, and **Lloyd Yoo**, of Souderton, were selected for the 2020-2021 All-Pennsylvania **Academic Team**, which is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

This recognition honors an exceptional group of community college students who have achieved academic excellence and demonstrated a commitment to their colleges and communities. To qualify, students must have completed at least 36 credits and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.



A HEAD START FOR ALL

High school students looking to get a head start on college should consider the **Dual Enrollment/Early College** program at Montco.

DUAL ENROLLMENT/EARLY COLLEGE SUCCESS

For students 15 years old and older (or younger with permission and when requirements are met), the program offers a low-cost opportunity to earn transferable college credits by taking classes taught at one of Montco's campuses, online and/or at their high school by certified teachers. In addition to an affordable price and opportunity to earn college credit, the Dual Enrollment/Early College program provides other opportunities for students.

» **FOR MORE STORIES** about Montco's students and their accomplishments, visit mc3.edu/family.



“It’s helped me to get integrated to what college will be like,” said **Summer Hanley**, a 2020 Pottsgrove High School graduate and Dual Enrollment student at Montco’s Pottstown Campus. Hanley earned enough credits to be declared a sophomore in her first year at Elizabethtown College. “Taking those classes allowed me to know what to expect with the classes I’m taking now. It’s nice to know what to expect. Some first-year students get a little overwhelmed. High school can be a lot different than college. Montco allowed it to feel like less of a jump.”

MONTCO CAMPUS

SAFETY AND SUCCESS

» Based on federal, state and local guidelines, Montco started preparing throughout the summer for the return of some employees starting Aug. 16 and students starting Sept. 1.

RETURNING TO OUR CAMPUSES

“The College continues to put the safety and wellness of our students, employees and the community we serve at the forefront of what we do,” said Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, President, in an email to the Montco Family. “As conditions change, we will continue to respond accordingly.”

While capital construction projects are underway at both campuses, Montco’s diligent facilities crew continues to keep the grounds looking beautiful and the buildings clean for everyone’s safety. The custodial employees received training in disinfecting and sanitizing.

They continually clean all high-contact areas, as well as common areas and designated eating areas. They also clean and sanitize classrooms and offices after each use.

With construction, College Hall in Blue Bell will be closed for fall 2021. Student services and other offices will be relocated to other marked areas of the campus. Many services will continue to be available online, including testing and library services.

At the Pottstown Campus, renovation projects are underway at North and South Halls and

in the Sustainability and Innovation Hub in preparation for the new Challenger Learning Center. Classes will be held on campus, and vending machines will be available for food selections. The Culinary Arts Institute in Lansdale also will be open for operation.

Montco is offering a variety of **class formats** to accommodate students. They have the flexibility to take classes online, on campus or a combination of both, based upon their schedules and preferences.

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY

Montco Value (FY2020)



90,000+
Montco Alumni**



\$552,500

in 447 Foundation scholarships were awarded in 2020-21



\$477.1 million
impact to
Montgomery County*

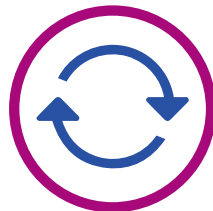


\$11,900

average increase in annual earnings for a Montco graduate with an associate's degree versus a high school diploma*



6,543 jobs
supported in
Montgomery County*



17.9% rate of return

Every dollar a student invests in Montco yields \$4.30 in higher future earnings*



\$97.3 million
additional tax revenue to
Montgomery County*



\$1.1 billion

net present value of the higher earnings, increased business output and social savings generated by Montco students*



For the fifth consecutive year, Montgomery County Community College is keeping tuition rates and fees unchanged to keep higher education affordable for all students,”

said Charles Somers, Vice President of Finance. “Montco and the Board of Trustees are focused on doing what is best for students and the community. The heart of the College’s mission is to provide access to quality educational opportunities that will drive the success of our students here at Montco and beyond.”

* Source: The Economic Value of Montgomery County Community College to Montgomery County report, May 2021, prepared by Economic Modeling Specialists Intl.

** Alumni status is awarded to those with 30 credits or more.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



An investment in Montco is an investment in the future of our students, the communities we serve and the growth of our regional economy.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

\$100,000

Student Emergency Campaign for emergency needs, including laptops and internet access

\$169,000+

New Philanthropic partnership, Circle of Partners

\$312,500

10 Presidential Scholarships for students (in commemoration of Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez's presidential inauguration)



STUDENT SUPPORT

\$699,261

(402 students) - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (CARES Act)

\$2,247,725

(2,943 students) - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II

\$693,250

(728 students) - Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III

\$51,989

(61 students) - COVID-19 Emergency Fund

\$74,954

(97 students) - Montco Recovery Tuition Assistance Program

PUBLIC GRANTS*

\$24.9 million

(state and federal grants)

**Does not include CARES Act Funds or Higher Education Relief Act Funds, which total more than \$17 million*

FOUNDATION GRANTS

\$279,000

(private funding proposals and grants)



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- ▶ Check out our new **Montco on the Move** podcast!
- ▶ Keep with with the latest **Montco news!**

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MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE