

THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S SIXTH PRESIDENT

DR. VICTORIA L. BASTECKI-PEREZ



INSPIRE.
Lead.
TRANSFORM.

FRIDAY
04.16.2021



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROGRAM

Processional*

East Coast Live Drumline
MCCC Police Academy

National Anthem*

Mrs. Jeslin Mathew, Communication Studies Instructor

Welcome

Mr. Frank X. Custer, Chair, Board of Trustees

Introduction of Speakers

Ms. Varsovia Fernandez, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees

County Commissioner Greeting

*Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH
Chair, Montgomery County Board of Commissioners*

Greetings and Congratulatory Remarks

Investiture

Administration of the Oath
Mr. Frank X. Custer

Presentation of the Presidential Medallion

Ms. Varsovia Fernandez

Presidential Announcement

Mr. Frank X. Custer

Inaugural Address

*Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez
President*

Closing Remarks

Mr. Frank X. Custer

Recessional*

East Coast Live Drumline

For your convenience, livestreaming of the ceremony can be viewed at mc3.edu/inauguration.

*Audience members seated outside of their vehicles are requested to rise if able.

PROGRAM *(continued)*

Musical Interlude "Open Up Your Eyes"

Montco Students

Doug Michie–Songwriter and Singer

Gordon Michie–Engineer

Steven Niven–Assistant Engineer

Montco Faculty & Staff

David Ivory–Producer, Mixer and Guitar

Michael Kelly–Bass

Ron DiSilvestro–Drums

Louis Rieger–Acoustic Guitar

Howie Gordon–Keyboards

Sarah Kane–Background vocals

Matt Porter–Video Production

CONGRATULATORY VIDEOS (Alphabetical Order)

- Bob Casey Jr., United States Senator
- Dr. Ann Cudd, Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh
- Madeleine Dean, United States Congresswoman
- Joseph Gallagher, Chair, MCCC Foundation Board
- Dr. Steady Moono, President, Schenectady County Community College
- Noe Ortega, Acting Pennsylvania Secretary of Education
- Dr. Celeste Schwartz, Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Digital Officer, Montgomery County Community College
- Dr. Karen A. Stout, President and CEO, Achieving the Dream, Inc.
- Student Congratulations
- Montco Employee Congratulations
- Celebrating 25 Years with the Montco Family and Dr. Bastecki-Perez

Montgomery County Commissioners

Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH, Chair

Kenneth E. Lawrence Jr., Vice Chair

Joseph C. Gale, Commissioner

Board of Trustees

Chair: Frank X. Custer

Vice Chair: Lisa B. Binder

Treasurer: Marcel L. Groen

Secretary: Theresa Reilly

Assistant Secretary: Varsovia Fernandez

Margot Clark

Eleanor Dezzi

Dr. Raj Guttha

Anisha Robinson Keays

Sean P. Kilkenny

David W. Kraybill

Napoleon J. Nelson

Rick Taylor

The President's Cabinet

Therol Dix, J.D.

Rose Makofske, J.D.

Philip Needles, MBA

Diane O'Connor, PHR, CCP, CBP

Dr. Gloria Oikelome

Dr. Celeste Schwartz

Charles Somers, CPA, CGMA, MBA

Past Montgomery County Community College Presidents

Dr. Kevin Pollock (2016-2020)

Dr. Karen A. Stout, President Emerita (2001-2015)*

Dr. Edward Sweitzer (1988-2000)

Dr. Edmund Watters III (1981-1987)*

Dr. LeRoy Brendlinger (1964-1981)

*Processing

INAUGURAL ADDRESS



Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez became the sixth President of Montgomery County Community College on May 18, 2020.

For 25 years, Dr. Bastecki-Perez has dedicated herself to serving MCCC. Her priorities continue to be elevating the student experience, increasing access and retention initiatives, and providing students with the tools, guidance, and resources they need to thrive in pursuit of their academic goals. She has a clear strategic vision for how to lead the College, an uncanny ability to unify the campus community, and a keen eye for improving the financial stability and sustainability of the organization.

Dr. Bastecki-Perez is a first-generation college graduate. This experience has taught her the transformative impact a quality education can have on an individual's life. She has since committed herself to expanding academic equity and inclusiveness to provide others with a similar life-altering opportunity for economic growth and social mobility.

As Chief Academic Officer, she broadened the Faculty Diversity Fellows Program and enriched the community with the energy and creativity that comes with diverse perspectives. This work also led to MCCC's recognition as one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges for six consecutive years, a distinction that salutes community colleges that cultivate diverse, inclusive, and supportive workplaces and learning environments.

Under Dr. Bastecki-Perez's presidential leadership, MCCC has earned the prestigious Achieving the Dream's Leader College of Distinction designation for its collective efforts in improving student outcomes and narrowing equity gaps and was one of 10 schools selected for the Racial Equity Leadership Academy. Additionally, Dr. Bastecki-Perez launched the Challenger Learning Center in Pottstown and the College's first co-ed eSports team and secured the largest donation of \$3 million to create the Baker Center of Excellence. She continues to focus on student wellness by being the first community college in the nation to partner with TalkSpace and Benefits Data Trust.

Her close work with the Montco Family for 25 years includes serving as Interim President, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost (2010-2020), Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs (2006-2010), Dean of Health and Physical Education (2000-2006), and Director and Professor of Dental Hygiene (1996-2003). Before joining MCCC, she was an award-winning faculty member and Senior Clinical Supervisor at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine for nine years.

Dr. Bastecki-Perez's accomplishments extend beyond the College's campuses. She serves as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges Council of Presidents, as well as the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assessment Leaders council. Additionally, she serves on the boards of directors of MontcoWorks and the Collegiate Consortium for Workforce & Economic Development, and she served as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation Liaison Officer.

Dr. Bastecki-Perez holds a CDA (1985) and RDH (1986) from the University of Pittsburgh, Dental Assisting and Oral Hygiene, and a B.S. (1987) in Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She began her graduate coursework in 1988 at Exeter College, Oxford University through the Edinboro-Oxford Experience study abroad program, before earning an M.Ed. (1990) and an Ed.D. (1995) in Instructional Design and Technology from the University of Pittsburgh. She was recognized as a Distinguished Alumna by Edinboro University in 2000 and by the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine in 2010.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

Montgomery County Community College started its first semester on October 3, 1966 with 17 faculty members, a library of 500 books, and an enrollment of 428 students in the former Conshohocken High School. Today, the College enrolls more than 18,000 credit students annually, and students enjoy the flexibility of learning at the College's campuses in Blue Bell and Pottstown, at the Culinary Arts Institute in Lansdale, and online.

Founded in 1964, and accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the College has grown with the community to meet the lifelong learning needs of Montgomery County. The College boasts a nationally recognized faculty and a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum that includes more than 100 associate degree and certificate programs, as well as specialized workforce development training and certifications. The College is proud of the successes of its more than 78,000 alumni.

As an Achieving the Dream Leader College of Distinction, Montgomery County Community College is positioned at the vanguard of national efforts to increase completion, improve learning outcomes and remove barriers to access for all students. For the sixth consecutive year, the College was named one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges in the nation for its work to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion. The College also is recognized regionally and nationally for its innovative technology, sustainability leadership, work with military veterans, and community service and service learning opportunities.

MACE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The headpiece of the Montgomery County Community College Mace consists of a golden eternal flame of knowledge embossed with the College seal, which symbolizes lighting the path of success for our students and their academic goals. The flame sits upon the images depicting our College's past, present, and future through our first campus location in Conshohocken, to Blue Bell, and then growth into online learning and Pottstown. The staff is made of wood, which represents the collective strength of our community partnerships, employees, and trustees, bonded together to encompass our mission of serving the educational, workforce and cultural needs of students and County communities.

The Presidential Medallion, worn by Montgomery County Community College's president, is imprinted with the College seal on the front and the president's name on the back. Each side of the chain has three identical ornamental components: the Lamp of Learning, which represents higher education and the continuous search for wisdom and knowledge; the Tree of Life, which represents personal development and growth as an institution forged through our unique and diverse perspectives; and the Hands, which represents our continued commitment to partnerships and building community to drive success for students at the College and beyond. Between each symbol is a red gem, which represents one of the College's primary school colors and the importance of keeping the vision, mission, and values as a central focus of how we live and embody the values of the College in our daily lives.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Dating back to the Middle Ages, the wearing of caps, gowns, and hoods at college and university functions was a means for scholars and students to keep warm in the damp and drafty halls of 12th century castles. Over the years, robe styles and colors have taken on specific meanings. Gowns for those receiving associate, bachelor's and master's degrees, and doctorates vary in color and style, which are distinctive of the department and institution from which the wearer's degrees have been conferred.

The Hood

It is the hood that gives color and definitive meaning to the academic costume. The hood is lined with the color or colors of the institution conferring the degree and is bordered with velvet of the proper width and color to indicate the field of learning of the wearer. During Montgomery County Community College's ceremony, hoods are worn by faculty and staff.

MONTCO TRADITIONS

Rainbow Cord

The rainbow cord signifies diversity and is worn as a sign of solidarity by members of the College community. The rainbow colors reaffirm the College's continuing commitment to diversity and equal opportunity.

Red, White, and Blue Cord

The red, white, and blue tri-colored cords worn by some of the College's graduates indicate these students have or are currently serving in the armed forces. The tri-colored cord symbolizes our veteran students' dedication and service to our nation.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt

Bucks County Community College

Dr. Nicholas C. Neupauer

Butler County Community College

Dr. Quintin B. Bullock

Community College of Allegheny County

Dr. Roger W. Davis

Community College of Beaver County

Dr. Donald Guy Generals

Community College of Philadelphia

Dr. L. Joy Gates Black

Delaware County Community College

Dr. Judith Gay (Interim)

Erie County Community College

Dr. John J. Sygielski

Harrisburg Area Community College

Dr. Ann D. Bieber

Lehigh Carbon Community College

Mr. Thomas P. Leary

Luzerne County Community College

Dr. Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez

Montgomery County Community College

Dr. Mark H. Erickson

Northampton Community College

Dr. Steve Nunez

Pennsylvania Highlands Community College

Dr. Susan Looney

Reading Area Community College

Dr. Tuesday Stanley

Westmoreland County Community College

thank you

The Inauguration Committee would like to give a special thank you to the entire Montco Family for making this event possible.

INAUGURATION COMMITTEE

Frank X. Custer, Co-chair

Varsovia Fernandez

Jay Browning

Holly Ann Clayton

Joseph Gallagher

Dr. Jenna Meehan

Denise K. Prushan

Dr. Celeste Schwartz, Co-chair and Mace Bearer

Dr. Joshua S. Schwartz

In honor of the inauguration, please consider donating to support our students. Visit mc3.edu/inauguration to learn more.



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