

Testimony of Estefania Ellis  
Montgomery College Alumnus and Owner of West Signal, LLC  
Montgomery County Council  
April 16, 2020

Thank you to the Montgomery County Council for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Montgomery College.

My name is Estefania Ellis. I am a proud Montgomery College alumna, a Montgomery County resident, and a Montgomery County business owner.

I know that Montgomery College works for Montgomery County because I am an alum who is also the founder and owner of West Signal, LLC, a language translation and marketing firm here in the county. Even during these challenging times, I am working hard to continue growing my business. With that growth, I will be able to create new jobs and hire new employees—helping to strengthen our community and boost our county’s economy.

MC prepared me to create and lead my own business. While at MC, I was proud to be a part of the Montgomery Scholars and the Macklin Business Institute honors programs. I earned a degree in international business from MC, then transferred and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and romance languages from the University of Maryland, College Park – and in the fall, I will pursue an MBA as a student at Georgetown University.

Both of my sisters are also proud graduates of Montgomery College. Currently, my mother is a student in the Workforce Development and Continuing Education program. Many of my closest friends are also alumni of Montgomery College, and successfully transferred to four-year institutions.

My family and I turned to MC for our postsecondary education because it is a high quality and affordable option right here in our county. MC gave me the foundation I needed to be able to launch my own business in my home community. Clearly, many MC graduates feel the same way since over 70 percent of MC alumni stay in Montgomery County. I am proud of the way MC works our community with the thousands of MC alumni who work and live in our county. We—MC alumni—contribute \$1 billion to the county's economy!

As we all grapple with the current health crisis and employment sectors change, I am certain that many of my fellow county residents will turn to MC for the education, training, and re-training they will need to move forward. As it did for me, I know MC will give these residents a great new start. Businesses, like mine, count on the College to continue to create the talent we need—the employees we will need in a post-Coronavirus world.

Thank you for your support of Montgomery College. Please help the College to stay affordable and help MC keep its commitment not to raise tuition for next year. When residents, like me, can get the education they need, it is clear that Montgomery College works for Montgomery County.