



**Testimony of Sihon Duncan
Representative of Montgomery College Students
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
Montgomery County Council
April 21, 2022**

Good evening, members of the Montgomery County Council. It is an honor to speak to you tonight. My name is Sihon Duncan, and I attend Montgomery College at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. I am an international student from Trinidad and Tobago. I am here to ask you to support Montgomery College's operating budget request, which will keep tuition affordable for students like me.

At MC, I am a Student Senator, a member of the honors society, and a business major. After completing my associate's degree, I plan to transfer to earn a project management bachelor's degree. I am proud to be the second person in my family to attend college. My uncle, with whom I now reside in Silver Spring, was the first. He is a Montgomery College alum!

I chose to attend MC because it is affordable. Like many of my fellow students, without MC, I would not have been able to pursue a degree—college would have been out of reach for me. Now more than ever, MC students are in desperate need of keeping tuition affordable or many will have to cut their college aspirations short. Due to the pandemic, many of my peers are in great need as they have lost their jobs and are unable to pay their rent or even buy groceries. Because of your support throughout the pandemic, the College has not had to raise tuition. Students have come to count on affordability, especially now that costs are increasing for basic things like food and transportation. With your continued support, the College can keep tuition affordable.

I also want to thank you for the Leggett Math and Science Building on our campus—I speak for all when I say that we can't wait! We're also grateful you are supporting the TP/SS library renovation.

We appreciate your long-standing support for our college. You have ensured that countless students—like my uncle and me—can pursue their dreams. We need your continued help. Please support MC's operating budget request so that students, like me and those I represent, can afford the education they need.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your continuous support of my college and my home: Montgomery College.