

**Alexander Camacho
Montgomery College Alum
Montgomery County Council
FY24 Capital Budget Hearing
Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 7 p.m.**

Good evening, Council President Glass and members of the County Council.

My name is Alex Camacho. I am a Montgomery County resident, a Systems Engineer at Leidos, and, most importantly, a Montgomery College graduate.

MC turned my life around. As a student at Watkins Mill High School, I struggled a lot. I had a .56 GPA. I did not pass algebra, among other problems. After high school, I worked many jobs that I did not like and that didn't offer me a future. I turned to Montgomery College to find my way. I had a newborn son when I got to MC. My counselors and professors helped me a lot. They prepared me so well. I became a tutor in multivariable calculus and other math classes. I also founded the engineering club. We volunteered to encourage children in local schools in science.

After earning my degree from MC, I transferred to the University of Maryland at College Park. I hit the ground running—I was so well prepared by MC that I was competitive academically. While at Maryland, I was offered an independent study, worked with one of my professors to publish an academic journal article together, and met the CTO of Lockheed Martin. These activities positioned me for my career. By my junior year in college, I had five job offers and could negotiate a great salary before I even graduated from UMD in 2020. Today, I know that my time at MC prepared me for all this success, including my career as an engineer at Leidos.

Tonight, I am proud to be here to ask for your continued support of Montgomery College. I know for a fact that quality facilities help students succeed. Please support the College's capital budget—which includes a student services center for the Germantown campus, modern libraries for all three campuses, and a new campus for the East County.

MC prepared me for success. I not only learned Algebra there, I became the person I am today. MC made an impact on my life and on the lives of so many students—thank you for supporting Montgomery College.