



**Testimony of Dr. Michael Brintnall,
Chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees
Testimony
FY24 Capital Budget
Montgomery County Council February 7, 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon.

My name is Dr. Michael Brintnall. I serve as the chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees. I am joined by our president, Dr. Jermaine F. Williams.

On behalf of the College, we are grateful for the Council's longstanding support of its community college.

With respect to this year's capital budget, we appreciate Mr. Elrich's recommendation to fully fund the College's FY24 to FY26 capital requests. These requests include crucial library renovations and deferred maintenance and technology projects.

Most importantly, this budget contains funds in FY24 to move forward two important projects—the Germantown Student Services Center and a fourth campus in the East County.

The funds for East County will enable the College to begin the initial planning for an actual campus. Such an effort will include the first steps towards siting and setting the vision of the campus.

Our immediate plans for East County are moving forward. Having secured the lease for the building on Broadbirch Drive, the renovation process continues apace. The East County Education Center is expected to be operational later this year. It will provide for the College's needed presence as we develop the fourth campus.

Turning our attention to the upcounty, the Germantown Campus needs a student services center. In fact, such a project has held residence in the capital budget for 16 years. Now is the time to finally invest in this important project. A student services center will co-locate important services like registration, advising, and financial aid under one roof. A center will enhance service delivery and smooth the path through our doors and into a classroom. This facility will also deliver a modern library to aid in student success providing access to books, technology and, yes, study spaces. Too many of our students do not have a quiet place to engage in learning off-campus.

In summary, we ask you to help us deliver the modern facilities needed to serve students like Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes who was highlighted in the Governor's recent State of the State address. Doing so will create the homegrown talent our employers need and open doors to real opportunity for the residents of this county.

Thank you!