

**Viviana Bentley
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.

I am honored to speak with you.

My name is Viviana Bentley and I am a Montgomery College alum.

Montgomery College changed my life. I moved to Montgomery County as an au pair from Colombia, and shortly after enrolled at MC. I earned a bioengineering associate's degree, then transferred to earn a bioengineering bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland in College Park. Today, I work as a process engineer for CRB, an engineering consulting and construction firm here in Rockville. At CRB, we design and build state-of-the-art facilities for the life sciences and biotech industries. One of our most important projects right now is the Novavax headquarters facility in Gaithersburg. When this building opens in 2023, Novavax will have the capacity to create hundreds of jobs for Maryland residents—and, importantly, for other Montgomery College alumni!

In my job, I know how buildings affect lives. MC's quality facilities played an integral role in my education. I spent many hours learning in the state-of-the-art classrooms and labs in the Science Center on the Rockville Campus. And the

Bioscience Education Center on the Germantown Campus helped shape me as a biotech engineer—it gave me access to highly specialized pieces of equipment that I still use today. Quality buildings change the lives of MC students who, like me, become prepared to step into professions like bioprocess engineering.

I am here tonight to ask for your continued support of the College. Please support the College's capital budget—including a student services center at the Germantown Campus, modern libraries at all three campuses, and finally, a new MC campus in the East County.

I am proud to be an MC alum. And I'm honored to thank you and ask for your continued support for quality facilities that help MC to be one of the most outstanding colleges in the world—for the past, present, and future.

Thank you.