



**Anita Powell  
Montgomery College Alumni Board  
Montgomery County Council  
FY25 Capital Budget Hearing  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 7 p.m.**

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

I am Anita Neal Powell, lifelong Montgomery County resident and the Founding President and CEO of the Lincoln Park Historical Foundation and the Leroy E. Neal African American Research Center.

But tonight, I sit before you as a proud alum of Montgomery College and the second vice president of the Montgomery College Alumni Association's Board of Governors. I am here to ask for your support of MC's FY25 capital budget.

Montgomery College has changed the lives of thousands of Montgomery County residents—including mine. MC helped shape me professionally and helped me grow into the actively engaged Montgomery County resident I am today.

Quality facilities are an important part of providing equitable access to the high-quality education all residents need. *Every* student needs to learn in modern,

up-to-date buildings to help them thrive. That's why I ask for you to keep the Theatre Arts building on the Rockville Campus on track for renovation—so our County's future actors, stage technicians, directors, and arts teachers for Montgomery County Public Schools have the facilities they need to learn and succeed.

Tonight, I also want to celebrate the County Executive's support for the future MC East County Campus. And I encourage *your* continued support of this important addition to our County. I know the value of having an institution of higher education in your own backyard. Easy access to MC helped me right here in Rockville. The residents of East County need and deserve the same access. What a difference this addition will make in the lives of our fellow residents.

Please continue to support the future Germantown Student Services Center to serve the students on that campus. And please support the renovation of the library on the Rockville Campus – all students need access to a modern library.

I am pleased to thank you for your continued investment in my alma mater, Montgomery College. Please support MC's capital budget request, which will bring the new MC East County Campus to life, renovate the Theatre Arts building on the Rockville Campus, build a student services center on the Germantown Campus, renovate the Rockville campus library, and continue to modernize

existing facilities across the three campuses. Your support ensures that all MC students have access to the education they need to succeed.

Thank you.