



## Montgomery County Council Testimony

Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) Operating Budget Hearing

Good afternoon, Council President and members of the Council.

Thank you for the work that you do on behalf of Montgomery County and for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Bruce Spector, and I am Chairman of the Board of BCR Cyber. I am here today as an employer partner of Montgomery College to express strong support for the College's Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget.

At BCR Cyber, we work with a consortium of more than 40 employers across Maryland to help address one of the most pressing challenges facing our economy, the growing demand for skilled cybersecurity and IT professionals. From our perspective, workforce remains the single greatest constraint to growth across both the public and private sectors.

Our long-standing partnership with Montgomery College has been instrumental in addressing this challenge. This work builds on earlier efforts through Cyber Pathways Across Maryland, or CPAM, which helped lay the foundation for aligning cybersecurity education with employer needs across the state.

Montgomery College is a key partner in the Cyber Workforce Accelerator, where students gain hands-on experience through immersive cyber range training that mirrors real-world threats

and environments. This type of experiential learning is critical. Employers are not just looking for credentials, but for individuals who can perform on day one.

In addition, our collaboration through the TechMAP program has been equally impactful. TechMAP provides accessible, industry-aligned pathways into IT and cybersecurity careers, helping to both upskill incumbent workers and create new entry points for individuals seeking to transition into high-demand fields.

From an employer perspective, Montgomery College consistently delivers. Their willingness to align curriculum with industry needs, provide hands-on training, and engage directly with employers makes them an invaluable partner. When we see candidates coming from Montgomery College programs, we know they are well prepared.

As you consider the FY27 operating budget, I recognize that you are balancing many important priorities. I respectfully urge you to continue your strong support for Montgomery College.

Investments in the College are investments in Montgomery County's workforce, its economic competitiveness, and its ability to meet the evolving demands of a digital economy.

Thank you for your time and your leadership.