



**Montgomery County Council
FY27 Operating Budget Hearing
Testimony of Devyn Dees
Montgomery College Student,
Germantown Campus
Montgomery County Council
April 7, 2026**

Good evening, Members of the Montgomery County Council. Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

My name is Devyn Dees. I am a proud Montgomery College Germantown Campus student studying biotechnology.

I am here tonight to thank you for your support of MC—the best community college in the nation and the place that has changed my life!

And, I am here to ask you to fully fund MC’s operating budget so the College can continue to offer students affordable tuition. Affordability is so important for students like me to be able to persevere and achieve our dreams.

Montgomery College took me from a life of instability to one of stability, hope, and success. Today, I am on track to graduate with a degree in biotechnology in June. But the best part is, because of MC’s reputation, I am already employed while I finish my degree! My first job as a lab technician was with Millipore Sigma. Today, I work as a lab technician for Pharmaron. These opportunities are thanks to the education I am receiving from Montgomery College.

When I was a student at Quince Orchard High School, I was not sure of my future path. I was a first-generation college student and uncertain if attending college was for me. My high school teacher encouraged me to explore opportunities at Montgomery College. I enrolled at MC and I was hesitant but decided to try biotechnology. I quickly became very engaged with MC’s hands-on, up-to-date biotech training.

It was clear that MC was offering a great education. MC’s professors don’t just read the textbook to students—they share their real-world, professional experience. They give students the skills that are being used in the industry right now. My professors have exposed us to the local biotech industry through field trips and other opportunities, so we have a better understanding of what our careers might look like.

MC support goes beyond academics so students can succeed. I know professors care about me beyond the classroom. They see me not just as a student, but as a whole person who is balancing school, work, and caregiving responsibilities. They care about

my personal challenges. When my mom passed away, my professor made me a loaf of bread and offered genuine sympathy. When I had housing instability, the College helped me find resources. The people and programs at MC supported me so I could stay on track during these times of hardship and continue to pursue my degree.

Thank you for supporting Montgomery College and helping to keep tuition affordable. Without MC, I would not have been able to afford to earn my degree. I know I would not have found biotechnology. And I would not be well on my way to a long and fulfilling career in the biotech industry.

Please continue to support MC by fully funding the College's operating budget so more students can benefit from all that MC offers.

Thank you.