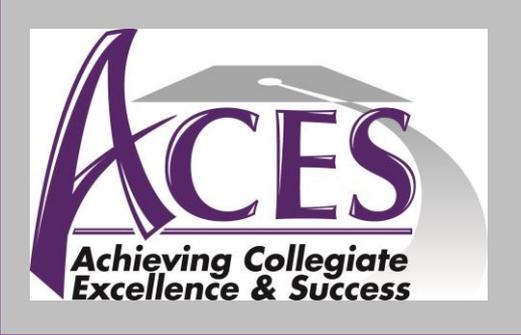# Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success — A Pathway Program For College Completion

A High School to Community College to Four-Year Institution Partnership in Montgomery County, MD

ACES
Achieving Collegiate
Excellence & Success

PARTNERSHIP PRESENTERS

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President, Montgomery College

Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools System

Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director, Universities at Shady Grove

Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, President Mott Community College

Mr. Reginald Felton, Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees

Mr. Michael Knapp, Second Vice Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees

Ms. Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, Member, Montgomery College Board of Trustees

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FOCUS OF SESSION

- Share how Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools and the Universities at Shady Grove established a partnership to increase college completion and bachelor degree attainment

- Discuss how Montgomery College views the importance of providing college preparation support for underrepresented students and their families

- Discuss how these partners and the Board of Trustees have developed, nurtured and maintained key leadership relationships that drive the partnership

HOW AND WHY PARTNERSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED

M.O.U. Signing Ceremony September 13, 2013

- Montgomery College has strong ties to the local community

- Montgomery College is ideally positioned to provide accessible, affordable education to a diverse student population

- Montgomery College has a role in helping to support local economic development

- Montgomery College commitment with co-partners to never leave a student behind
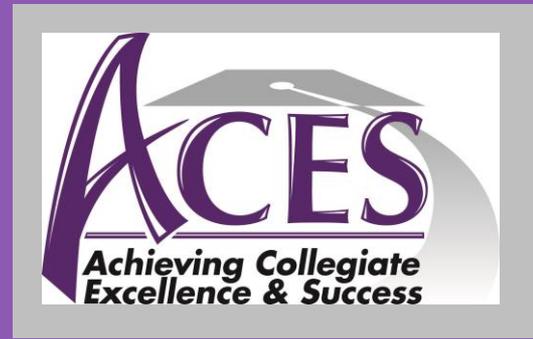
HOW AND WHY PARTNERSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED

M.O.U. Signing Ceremony September 13, 2013

- Changing county demographics

- Valuing county families access and success

- Co-partnering to erase academic and economic inequalities

- Co-partnering to intentionally create clear pathways to success

PROGRAM PARTNERS

BOARD ROLE – LEADERSHIP

1. Relationship and partnership with CEO (i.e., relationship between the board and CEO and its impact on the organization and institutional sustainability; boards partnership with the CEO to achieve institutional priorities; support and empowerment of CEO to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors, partnerships and alternative sources of revenue; governance v management and administration)
2. Encourage and support entrepreneurial CEO leadership
3. Encourage and support innovation and entrepreneurialism
4. Asking important questions
5. Establish policy and engage in strategic planning that enables the CEO to achieve institutional priorities that are mission critical, promote innovation, and entrepreneurialism

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BOARD ROLE – PUBLIC SUPPORT

1. Building support starting with Board of Education

2. Support of County Council

3. Relationship and advocacy with elected officials

4. Examples of support

   - County council, extra budget support

   - State legislature

   - USM Chancellor, and USM Presidents

BOARD ROLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. Build and maintain relationship and connections with business leaders and other community constituents to promote institutional commitment for innovation and entrepreneurialism

2. Awareness and knowledge of demographic, workforce needs and market trends

3. Program has allowed our philanthropic foundation to raise $1.4 million in gifts, grants, and a bequest to be used for scholarships for ACES students to come to MC

WHAT IS ACES?

ACES is a program designed to create a seamless educational pathway and support structure from high school to college completion. There are three levels of support:

Level 1: Preparing for Success in College – Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)

Level 2: Supporting Success at Montgomery College (MC)

Level 3: Fostering Success Beyond MC – Universities at Shady Grove (USG)

TARGET AUDIENCE

ACES is aimed at those who are under-represented in higher education.

The ACES Program targets students who meet one or more of the following factors:

- Immigrant or child of immigrant parents
- Member of a minority group
- Low income or single parent household
- First generation college student
- Students with disabilities and/or in special education
- Homeless students and/or those living in unstable conditions

PROGRAM DESIGN

- Research other programs

- Work of Task Force and Co-Chairs

- Design and redesign

- Staffing

PROFILE

MCPS critical stake in the alliance, partnership and vision

- Institution/System Profile
- Mission
- Governance Structure
- Funding

PROGRAM DESIGN AND STRUCTURE
LEVEL 1: GRADES 9–10 READINESS

Preparing For Success In College

- Electronic portfolio

- Parent information sessions

- College readiness activities

- Summer programs at MCPS

PROGRAM DESIGN AND STRUCTURE
LEVEL 2: GRADES 11 - 12

Supporting Success at Montgomery College

- Application process
- Assigned an Academic Coach with a case management approach
- Preparation for college admissions or placement tests
- College applications, financial aid, scholarships
- College visits
- Summer programs at MC, USG

ACES

Achieving Collegiate
Excellence & Success

PROGRAM DESIGN AND STRUCTURE
LEVEL 2: GRADES 11 - 12

Supporting Success at Montgomery College

- Assigned an Academic Coach
- Continue case management approach
- Summer Orientation Program
- Career awareness activities
- Development of an educational plan
- Transfer planning
- Tracking
- Visits to USG, guest matriculation at USG, USG advising

PROFILE

USG critical stake in the alliance, partnership and vision

- Institution/System Profile

- Mission

- Governance Structure

- Funding

PROGRAM DESIGN AND STRUCTURE
LEVEL 3: FOSTERING SUCCESS BEYOND MC

- Early review for scholarships

- Orientation and advising

- Career and leadership development

- Cohort meetings, workshops

- Employment and post-graduate assistance

- Mentoring to future ACES students

LESSONS LEARNED: SUCCESSES

- County-wide and state support and interest

- Outstanding staff

- Desire to grow

- Powerful student stories after one semester! http://youtu.be/l2nSh5mdaMQ

- Of 566 students in ACES program who graduated from county school system spring 2014, **98 percent applied to colleges and universities**; and **286 enrolled at Montgomery College**.

- The 2014 **graduates earned about $2.5 million in scholarships**, including national, local, Montgomery College and private money

- We did it!

LESSONS LEARNED: CHALLENGES

- Institutional cultures

- Institutional policies

- Space and locations

- Clarification of roles

- Dueling databases

- It's happening so fast!

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS