The returning veteran transitioning back to civilian life.

A high school graduate who will become the first in her family to go to college.

The single parent struggling to hold down two jobs, raise children, and ensure a better life for the entire family.

A high school student who wants to earn college-level credits.

The worker let go during a company downsizing.

An honors student who is seeking a transfer to one of our region’s elite colleges.

These are the faces of opportunity.

Their lives will change forever with a degree from Montgomery County Community College. For many, change begins with a scholarship.

Yet too many faces are missing—students who could otherwise prepare for a career, retool for the marketplace, or find a springboard to advanced degrees. Their futures cannot change without the opportunities that scholarships enable.

The Futures Rising Campaign will help enable Montgomery County Community College to enroll any student who wants to be here.

Join us in creating opportunities that lead to many more futures rising.
You see faces of opportunity on our campuses every day. Among the more than 25,000 students we educate and train from all walks of life, at all points in life, we empower individuals to overcome obstacles and succeed. These are students with few, if any, other options. Here, options multiply once opportunity enters the picture. Students discover the best facilities and curricula laser-focused on in-demand fields and geared to tomorrow’s marketplace. They expand their horizons through humanities and the arts, and learn from a faculty deeply passionate about their profession and the impact of an excellent education.

None of this is possible until that education becomes accessible. Many students lack the resources to take advantage of Montgomery County Community College. Public funding is not enough, and private philanthropy is essential to opening these doors.

Futures Rising, our campaign for opportunity and excellence, will above all expand access. Adding scholarships will connect hundreds of students who could not otherwise attend to an outstanding education. Additional funding opportunities will support student success, deepen academic excellence, enhance facilities, and engage the entire County through our vibrant arts program.

We turn to you to help us make good on our promise. Help us connect students to the opportunities they need—and keep them connected until success is within reach.

At Montgomery County Community College, our mission—to serve all students with a high-quality, high-value education—is also our promise.

“Ensuring students can attend is the first step to changing a life. Once they’re here, anything is possible. But what about the students who want to be here and are not? What can we do to connect them to opportunity, a career-focused curriculum, and our highly trained faculty? Generous donors to the Futures Rising Campaign will make Montgomery County Community College an even more vital gateway to access and opportunity. All of us will benefit. Across dozens of in-demand fields, our graduates will become contributors, innovators, and leaders of their professions. We want to see everyone’s future rise.”

Dr. Karen A. Stout
President
Montgomery County Community College

The scholarships created through this campaign can open our doors to 500 more students each year. Without this support, they must put their dreams on hold.
Janet Graden will never forget the first time philanthropy touched her life.

Decades ago, a couple wanted to support a local community-college student with a $200 gift. The college chose Janet, who was beginning a lifelong love affair with science.

“That was the first time someone outside my family said, ‘I believe in you.’ It meant the world to me. I wish I could reconnect with them. I’d like them to know I went on to become a teacher,” says Janet, whose West Campus chemistry courses are a pathway to careers in nursing and health sciences.

When Janet and her husband, Randall Newnham, a professor at the Penn State Berks campus, came into an inheritance, they decided it was their turn to be the philanthropic couple. They endowed a nursing scholarship at the college in memory of Janet’s mother-in-law, who had been a nurse. It also pays tribute to both families’ passion for education, which will now endure as a lasting legacy.

“Randy’s father was a professor for 40 years. He really loved his job. My husband and I say the same thing about our jobs. Plus, I’m the product of a community college education.”

A scholarship creates opportunity that wouldn’t otherwise be there and helps write new success stories. Many students are uncertain that they will succeed in college but once they experience success, they’re unstoppable. Seeing them graduate and step into the world, their futures wide open—that’s the greatest reward a teacher can have.”

Dr. Janet Graden
scholarship donor and
Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Janet Graden

Why this College?

An estimated 1.5 million job openings nationally require more than a high school diploma but less than a bachelor’s degree. We offer more than 100 associate’s degree/certificate programs that prepare students for these spots.

Access and opportunity transform lives most profoundly when a college creates clear pathways to careers, and educators can support students in realizing their full potential. That is exactly what students find at Montgomery County Community College.

Excellence and innovation distinguish our first-rate education, which crosses a rich array of professions, disciplines, and skill sets. An accomplished faculty, many of whom could teach anywhere, and forward-thinking administrators constantly refine and improve curricula to keep pace with the changing world. They organize degrees around emerging disciplines, and align courses with marketplace trends. Since establishing one of the first high-tech majors in the early 1970s, the College has focused on in-demand fields and the newest teaching and technology.

In the last decade, with a nationally respected president, Dr. Karen A. Stout, at the helm, the College has taken a leap forward. We have created exciting spaces throughout our Central Campus in Blue Bell and West Campus in Pottstown. We have established leading-edge models like the Center for Entrepreneurship Studies and the University Center, where students can earn bachelor’s, master’s, and even doctorates in select fields. We have added dozens of articulation agreements with other higher-education institutions, including Bryn Mawr, Bucknell, Dickinson, Drexel, Saint Joseph’s, Temple, and Dongseo University in South Korea—some of which carry their own scholarships for transferring students. And we have nurtured collaborations with the region’s business leaders and education pace-setters.

Futures Rising raises this institution’s sights, and it comes at the perfect moment, with impressive facilities, strong programs and faculty, and the right leadership in place.
Michael D’Aniello almost walked into the world unprepared. It was his last day before graduating from Abington High School. He had done pretty well on standardized tests but a track scholarship to Temple had fallen through. No big deal, he thought. No one from his family had graduated from college. Just then, he heard “Hey, Michael” called out from the parking lot.

Michael’s guidance counselor told him he should give college a shot. He got a same-day appointment with a counselor at Montgomery County Community College, who helped him apply for a Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency grant. Three months later, Michael was taking classes.

“Of my 10 closest friends from high school, five are dead and three have been incarcerated. I would have been facing significant risks had I not come here. After I finished my education, I stayed in this county; that’s what Montco graduates do—they stay here because they are rooted here. That’s another reason why the College is the best place to invest public and private dollars.”

Michael J. D’Aniello, Esq.
Board Chair

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Michael’s guidance counselor told him he should still give college a shot. He got a same-day appointment with a counselor at Montgomery County Community College, who helped him apply for a Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency grant. Three months later, Michael was taking classes.

“For the first time, I felt challenged and motivated in a classroom. I transferred 61 credits to Villanova and went on to graduate and attend law school. My story doesn’t happen if this option isn’t here—and isn’t affordable,” says Michael.

In 2001, the County Commissioners appointed Michael to the Board of Trustees. The arrival soon after of an energetic, visionary leader, President Karen A. Stout, marked a renaissance. Now Board Chair, Michael credits Stout as the architect.

“There isn’t room to list the physical plant and curricular improvements under Karen Stout. And the student enrollment has doubled. That’s remarkable leadership. That’s how you grow opportunity.”

Your community college makes Montgomery County stronger.

Take the College away and the difference would be startling. For one thing, we would lack a qualified workforce in professions that are the glue of society—police officers, nurses, dental hygienists, biotechnicians, information technologists, medical lab technicians, and educators. Businesses would be less likely to invest in Montgomery County, from main street retailers to medical offices to Fortune 500 companies like Dow Chemical, PNC Financial Services Group, and Merck. Our communities would miss out on cultural opportunities—or have to travel to Philadelphia and beyond to find them.

The starkest difference would be seen in the opportunities lost. Thousands of residents—potential first-generation college students, parents trying to improve life for their families, combat veterans seeking a place in the private sector—could not pursue a college degree.

Your community college has become the most reliable, needed pathway to success, and through the Futures Rising Campaign, you can make this pathway more accessible and meaningful for the region and transform not just two years of a life but an entire lifetime. Your support will have a ripple effect beyond our campuses, from safe streets and accessible health care to neighborhood schools and high-tech investment.
Expanding excellence is something John Caperilla loves to see.

The 2001 alumnus, who launched his career as a highway engineer at Montgomery County Community College, has seen his discipline’s enrollment recently double in size. A devoted volunteer, he has helped revitalize the now-thriving Alumni Association Board.

“In two years, the College has gained tremendous ground in alumni engagement,” says John, who also served as president of the Young Alumni Association at his other alma mater, Temple University. “I’m really loving it here. This Alumni Association operates at a high level, and there are more leadership opportunities for giving.”

John wants to give back. Like many alumni, he credits Montgomery County Community College for his success, and shines a spotlight on one of the Foundation’s largest funds, the Allan C. Myers Memorial Scholarship, for providing opportunity—and a job. “Financially, my education wasn’t going to be possible without the scholarship. Mr. Myers’ son even gave me my first internship and hired me at the family business, right out of Temple.”

Future engineers can soon follow a trail John will blaze with his own scholarship. “It’s an investment in the future. What you get in return is amazing. A donor has a major impact at the College that wouldn’t be possible with a similar gift at a four-year institution. And it’s a lifelong impact. Whether students get their associate’s degree here, or continue their education elsewhere, they always come back and say, ‘This is where I got my start.’”

A single mother of singular purpose, Trudy Jefferson has overcome countless challenges for her family.

Returning to college, Trudy found a new challenge that hard work and determination alone could not overcome. How could she receive financial assistance to support her education without jeopardizing the government benefits that help her raise four young children? Enter the Montgomery County Community College Foundation.

To protect students’ dreams and dignity equally well, the Foundation has created innovative scholarships that help students manage the various costs of attending college.

In her first year, Trudy received the KEYS Scholarship—named for Pennsylvania’s assistance program; her second year, the Sharon Danella Scholarship has supported her education. Both are designed to cover specific educational expenses so a family’s benefits do not decrease. The College has also established a support system to match: the KEYS Club, of which Trudy is president. “Working part-time, parenting, and going to school, I know what other mothers and fathers go through. I help them master skills like time management. I’m becoming a student mentor.”

Being a leader is paving the way to the future. An AmeriCorps veteran, Trudy wants to turn her human services degree into a job in the nonprofit sector helping people. She cannot wait to return to independence, and she will soon be joined by another family member using the College as a springboard to success. Once he receives his barber’s license, Trudy’s eldest, James, plans to earn a Montgomery County Community College Entrepreneurship Certificate—gaining skills that will lead to a business of his own.

“I am pursuing the destiny I wanted for me and my family: going back to school. None of this would be possible without the College, the Foundation, mentors like Wendell Griffith, and generous donors like Sharon Danella. I am looking forward to meeting and thanking her and, some years down the road, following her example by giving back.”
“Nobody ever embraced me like Montgomery County Community College,” says Manny Rivera. Here, the 37-year-old has finally found the direction he needs in life, in generous portions.

Before he could unlock the door to his future, Manny had to re-locate from a neighboring county and work with the College to identify the financial aid that first enabled his education. But after ending up on academic probation in his first semester, Manny opened another door, the most important one yet—to the Student Success Center.

“They took me in, showed me how to use a computer, how to do essays, and talk and act professionally. They connected me to the Minority Mentoring Program. That was a godsend.”

Manny worked with his mentor to get better grades and overcome challenges, including the most personal ones: the 10 years he served in prison and the fact that Manny was homeless at the time, living at the Norristown Transportation Center.

“I was told I’d never amount to anything, but I am leaving my past behind.” Now in his own apartment and working part-time, Manny is happy to share his story so everyone knows just how deep an impact the College can make on a life. A Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inductee and the recipient of several scholarships through the College’s Foundation, he is majoring in psychology with the goal of helping veterans readjust. “I’m going all the way—to a Ph.D.!”

Scholarships and financial aid are the most dynamic levers in higher education. Added to inspired teaching and learning, they unlock personal potential.

The first priority of the Futures Rising Campaign is to make the College the most accessible pathway to success. We offer Montgomery County residents the best value in higher education, but it’s not enough to overcome the economic barriers many of our students and potential students face.

Imagine a single parent trying to raise two children on $13,000 a year, while pursuing an education that will ensure them the opportunities she never had. Or a high school valedictorian whose middle-income family has not saved enough for four years of tuition. Or a laid-off worker now scrambling for extra dollars to keep a roof over his family’s head, while studying to transition to a new career. These are our students. Working students with families to support.

Scholarships make a huge difference, yet they only begin to close the gap. Last year, our students’ unmet needs added up to $24 million and often resulted in burdensome loans for individuals and families pursuing their dreams—while others never even took the first step toward realizing a dream.

Together, we must dramatically increase the number of scholarships available. And we must create scholarships that consider the entire cost of an education—tuition, fees, books, and transportation—because the goal is to change an entire life.

Why scholarships?

“Donors open important doors with scholarships. Initiatives like the Minority Mentoring Program keep the doors open for the students who need us the most.”
—Dr. Steady Moono, Vice President of West Campus and the donor who created one of the scholarships that benefits Manny Rivera
The lack of affordable options keeps a college education out of the reach of even the most motivated students. Community colleges like ours are optimally positioned to change this picture. Some experts say these colleges will revolutionize higher education during the 21st century. But for that to happen, private funding clearly must play a larger role. Some 50 years ago, Pennsylvania set up a system for funding community colleges: one-third of budgets would come from the Commonwealth, one-third from each county, and one-third from tuition. Today, more than half of Montgomery County Community College’s budget depends on tuition and fees—an untenable situation as the cost of providing an excellent education continues to rise.

Private dollars that enable an education—including gifts from donors establishing scholarships—more than quadruple our graduates’ lifetime earnings potential.

Why invest now?

The Futures Rising Campaign will not only address this crisis, it will also contribute to the economic vitality of the region. Five out of six of our 31,000 students are Montgomery County residents, and more than two-thirds of alumni stay to live, work, and raise families. By staying, they grow the tax base, paying back taxpayer dollars by 220 percent. Combined with college operations, more than $300 million is added to the County’s economy every year.

The College’s role as an economic driver extends beyond numbers. The West Campus has become a cornerstone of new growth in Pottstown. With twice as many low-income families as state and national averages, the community needs partners in its redevelopment, a role we have embraced since establishing the campus in 1996.

Even in the face of life-shattering events, the College can help rebuild a future.

Specialist Maggie Beckerman and her husband, Sergeant Michael Beckerman, were dedicated to the U.S. Army. On the last day of 2010, assigned to the 101st Airborne Division and in his third tour of duty, Michael was tragically killed in Afghanistan. After seven years of service, Maggie, also posted in Afghanistan, couldn’t continue her career. She needed time to grieve.

Rudderless, Maggie returned home. Her mother, who had just finished a degree at Montgomery County Community College, encouraged Maggie to go back to school. After researching her options, she made the same choice as her mother: the only local college designated as a “Military Friendly School,” with a support system in place for all veterans.

“Maggie, the Veterans Resource Center staff told me, ‘You’re not alone.’ I knew they weren’t going to let me fail.” Only one piece was missing: financial resources. The Foundation completed the picture with a scholarship that allows her to carry the course load required by the GI Bill.

A human services major, Maggie’s future is now in sharp focus. “I am determined to create an organization combining everything I care about,” she says. “It will help veterans and children with special needs through animal therapy.” Not only does she have a new mission, Maggie has a name for it: Michael’s Way.

Maggie Beckerman
student, U.S. Army veteran, and scholarship recipient

“I came here when I needed compassion and patience and opportunity. I found those at Montgomery County Community College—and more. Money was the only thing holding me back. The scholarship made my education possible. Now I have direction and support. The College built a bridge and I am crossing it.”
Supporting Student Success

The Campaign will support College initiatives helping students overcome barriers to success, such as the Veterans Resource Center, the KEYS and POWER Programs, Gateway to College, and the Minority Mentoring Program, which connects 150 students each year.

Creating New Career Pathways

Futures Rising will invest in a growing roster of more than 100 degree and certificate programs, which lead to careers in healthcare, business, the arts, STEM, and many more disciplines. It will also support unique educational models, such as our Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and our Culinary Arts Institute.

Maintaining and Improving Spaces

The Campaign offers a wide array of named giving opportunities for spaces throughout our two campuses, serving more than 25,000 students annually. These begin with clinics, laboratories, and classrooms in the new Health Sciences Building, athletic fields, studios and the gallery in the Fine Arts Center; and the Advanced Technology Center’s digital-age facilities.

Leading in Health Sciences

Inside the coming Health Sciences Center, Futures Rising will invest in laboratory and clinical equipment, as well as essential programs serving students and the community. This building will be the launching pad for careers across dozens of in-demand fields—nurse, dental hygienist, radiology technician, sonographer, medical assistant, physician assistant, clinical laboratory technician, and many more.

Our Campaign Reaches Farther—for Our Students

While scholarships are this campaign’s primary focus, there remain many funding opportunities that enhance our capacity to connect students to success and careers; engage our entire community; and support, sustain, and advance the quality of a Montgomery County Community College education.

Ensuring the Best Faculty

Futures Rising will enhance the College’s teaching excellence. Through professional development and training, we will support our entire faculty, who are supremely dedicated to their craft, while new endowed professorships and endowed chairs will enable us to recruit and retain only the best faculty members.

Engaging the Community

As a nexus of all performing arts and fine arts, the College attracts more than 20,000 visitors each year. Points of community outreach, from Young Arts Explorers Program to public stargazing at the Observatory, touch thousands more Montgomery County residents. Futures Rising will build on these capabilities.
A gift to this campaign turns opportunity into a future on the rise.

Such a gift invests first in the individual. It is the surest way to connect opportunity to every Montgomery County resident who seeks an affordable education and a good career.

A *Futures Rising* gift invests next in an institution that is as innovative as it is inclusive, a place where students come with goals as unique as their identities and with the determination to succeed.

Finally, this gift invests in our community’s fabric and our shared hopes for the future—one we can proudly pass on to our children and grandchildren. All of this begins with the generosity of our donors.

Please join us today and see how far a dream can go with a Montgomery County Community College education.
Montgomery County Community College serves the County’s 808,000 residents by offering degree and certificate programs for more than 25,000 students and community engagement opportunities for everyone. Each year, more than 1,400 new graduates begin career paths or transfer to four-year institutions, prepared to advance their goals and fulfill their aspirations.