

# MANY VOICES, ONE MISSION

UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER.



2025- 2026  
ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW



**MONTGOMERY**  
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2026 COMMENCEMENT  
STUDENT SPEAKER



“ Montco serves as the door to pursuing dreams, but for students, the journey begins with opening that door. For me, that door opened through research with my peers, an internship with the Challenger Learning Center in Pottstown, and the chance to operate the telescope that made me want to attend Montco. I even got to build my own telescope! However, I wasn’t walking through that door of opportunity alone. I was guided by my professors, mentors, the admissions team, and my classmates.”

—Loujain Ahmed, '26,  
Physical Sciences (AS) Graduate

2025-2026 ANNUAL YEAR IN REVIEW

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# MANY VOICES, ONE MISSION UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER.



**Dear Mustang Community,**

The 2025–26 academic year at Montgomery County Community College was defined by the **courage, innovation, and determination** of our Montco community. Together, we strengthened our commitment to student achievement, creating new opportunities, and investing in our region's future.

With affordability as a top priority, we secured **resources to reduce financial barriers and help limit student debt**. Through advocacy that resulted in a Montgomery County millage increase, the acquisition of critical grant funding, and the decision to freeze tuition and fees for the 2026-27 academic year, we continued to make a high-quality education more accessible to all residents for supporting long-term economic prosperity.

This year also marked the launch of the **Montgomery County Community College (PA) Legacy Fund**, the College's official philanthropic arm. The Legacy Fund will help expand scholarships, support innovative programs, and create transformative opportunities for our students. We are especially grateful to the TriCounty Community Network for serving as a fiscal sponsor while the Legacy Fund's IRS determination was pending. To learn more or make a gift, visit [mc3.edu/LegacyFund](https://mc3.edu/LegacyFund).

Further advancing student success, Montco was selected as one of only 55 community colleges nationwide to participate in Cohort 2 of the prestigious **Aspen Institute's Unlocking Opportunity program**. With a keen focus on post-completion success including human

development, the College is creating clearer, more intentional pathways to high-value careers and bachelor's degree attainment that align with regional workforce needs, helping to strengthen the talent pipeline and fuel economic growth across Montgomery County and the surrounding region. Read more about the program on Montco's webpage, [mc3.edu/UnlockingOpportunity](https://mc3.edu/UnlockingOpportunity).

Our commitment to workforce development and community partnership also reached new heights through our collaboration with **Variety – the Children's Charity of the Delaware Valley**. Together, we launched two workforce training cafés on our Blue Bell Campus, creating inclusive, hands-on learning environments where individuals of all abilities can develop valuable skills and gain meaningful employment experience.

In April, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of Challenger Center at the **Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown**. Since opening in 2022, Montco's Center has inspired nearly 16,000 youth through more than 600 immersive STEM missions that spark curiosity, build confidence, and encourage exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A \$500,000 federal investment will enable us to expand missions including related programs and engage even more middle school youth to discover their potential and pursue their dreams.

We concluded the academic year by celebrating the achievements of our graduates during the 2026 Commencement ceremonies. This year, **1,423 graduates earned 1,435 degrees and credentials**,

*Continued >*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Continued*

reflecting extraordinary perseverance, ambition, and accomplishment. Their success is a testament to the dedication and strength of the entire Montco community, underscoring the importance of our collective work.

Moving forward, we are developing through inclusive, transparent dialog our 2028–2033 Strategic Plan: **Powered by Montco**, a bold vision that builds on our current Strategic Plan's pillars, focusing on students, employees, and the communities we serve. We also continue to enhance the employee experience, by collaboratively defining the **Employee Value Proposition and employer brand** that will help us attract, retain, and empower exceptional talent.

As we look ahead, **we remain committed to elevating every voice**, creating clear and seamless pathways to opportunity, and transforming lives through the power of education. Together, we will continue building a more resilient College, thriving region, and brighter future for generations to come.

Together, we are unstoppable.

*Vicki*

Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez  
MCCC President



*University of Pittsburgh School of Education – Panelist*

- [Read & subscribe to the monthly President's Reports!](#)
- [Listen to the Montco on the Move podcast!](#)



*Montgomery County Advisory Council for Equity Community Courage and Service Award –Higher Education Leader*



*President's Council for  
the National Junior  
College Athletic  
Association Esports  
Founding Member*



# MUSTANG WALL OF EXCELLENCE

STUDENT FOCUSED. AWARD WINNING. LIFE TRANSFORMING.



MILITARY TIMES  
BEST FOR VETS



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

2026 REACH CHAPTER



PARAGONS 2025 BRONZE AWARD



2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD



# MUSTANG WALL OF EXCELLENCE

## STUDENT FOCUSED. AWARD WINNING. LIFE TRANSFORMING.

### MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION REACCREDITATION

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) confirmed Montco continues to fully meet all Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation, with no reporting requirements and no recommendations. This milestone reaffirms Montco's mission-driven progress and dedication to continuous improvement and educational opportunity for all. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### SELECTED FOR NATIONAL ASPEN INSTITUTE UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Montco was one of only 55 colleges across the country selected to participate in the national Unlocking Opportunity program led by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program in partnership with the Community College Research Center to advance student degree completion, workforce success, and transfer pathways.

### 10-TIME NATIONAL AWARD WINNER

Montco has been nationally recognized for the 10th year as one of the Most Promising Places to Work

in Community Colleges. This honor from the National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and The Edu Ledger demonstrates Montco's continuous commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive environment for all students and employees. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### SECOND-TIME EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL- BEING AWARD

For the second consecutive year, Montco received the 2026 Excellence in Mental Health and Well-Being Award from *Insight Into Academia* magazine. This national honor recognizes institutions that advance student and employee well-being through impactful programs, initiatives and campus priorities. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### MULTI-YEAR RECIPIENT OF ACHIEVING THE DREAM AWARDS

The national Achieving the Dream (ATD) organization has recognized Montco for its sustained commitment to access and student achievement. An ATD Network College since 2006, Montco has been named an ATD Leader College of Distinction since 2019 for improving

outcomes and narrowing equity gaps. Montco's Gateway to College Program has earned the ATD Program Excellence Award for eight years.

### TOP COLLEGE FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS

Montco earned multiple honors for its support of veterans and military-connected students, including Military Times' Best for Vets recognition, Military Friendly® Top School and Spouse School, and U.S. Veterans Magazine Top Yellow Ribbon School. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### PHI THETA KAPPA 2025 REACH CHAPTER

Montco's Alpha Kappa Zeta Chapter (Blue Bell Campus) of the Phi Theta Kappa international honor society for two-year colleges earned the 2025 REACH (Recognizing Excellence in Acceptance and Completion with Honors) Award for outstanding membership development. Both Alpha Kappa Zeta and Beta Tau Lambda (Pottstown Campus) have earned this award previously, along with Five-Star and Gold status. Montco has maintained a PTK chapter since 1984. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### 2025 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS – 2025 BRONZE AWARD

Montco earned the national 2025 Bronze Award for e-publications for its online 2024-2025 Annual Year in Review, recognizing excellence in digital storytelling and design.

### CHAMBER HONORS COLLEGE FOR REGIONAL IMPACT

Montco was honored with the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Community Impact Award for its ongoing commitment and work in expanding access to high-quality education and workforce development programs for Montgomery County and the region.

### FOUR-TIME BEST OF MONTCO

Montco was voted the best college/university by The Times Herald and *Lansdale Reporter* readers for 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2017.

### SEVEN-TIME READERS' CHOICE

Montco also was voted the best college/university by *The Pottstown Mercury* readers for 2019 through 2025.



# MONTCO: A PROVEN INVESTMENT

ECONOMIC VALUE OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024\*



## COUNTYWIDE: FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED:



Students gain **\$5.10** in  
lifetime earnings, a **16.9%**  
**average rate of return**



For every dollar of public  
money invested in MCCC,  
taxpayers will receive **\$2.10**  
**in return** over the course  
of students' working lives,  
a **5.0% average annual rate**  
**of return.**



Society gains **\$9.30** in  
added income and social  
savings

## REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT:

**\$71.4 million**  
operations spending

**\$8.3 million**  
construction spending

**\$17.7**  
student spending

**\$820**  
alumni impact

**TOTAL IMPACT:**  
\$917.5 million; 9,594 jobs  
supported

\*Fiscal Year 2023-24 Economic Impact Study by Lightcast



MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA

## TUITION REMAINS LEVEL FOR 2026-2027

Montco will maintain level tuition and fee rates for County residents in the 2026–2027 academic year, a milestone made possible through the continued support of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and residents. As part of the 2026 budget, the County approved its first increase since 2017 to the College's dedicated Real Estate Tax millage (reinforcing its longstanding role as the College's local sponsor). Montco's Board of Trustees approved level tuition for 2026-2027 for in-county, out-of-county, and out-of-state students with modest capital fee increases for non-county residents who do not contribute to the tax millage.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (PA) LEGACY FUND

INVESTING IN STUDENTS. STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY.

With today's rapidly changing higher education landscape presenting new challenges that call for innovative solutions, Montco's Board of Trustees, in partnership with College leadership, established the Montgomery County Community College (PA) Legacy Fund—the College's sole philanthropic arm designed to support the College's mission and future growth.

The MCCC (PA) Legacy Fund allows MCCC to expand its impact by strengthening how it connects with donors, partners, and the community, ensuring that every contribution makes a meaningful difference.

## THE MCCC (PA) LEGACY FUND:

- **Empowers Students**  
Providing scholarships and financial assistance to help students achieve their educational goals.
- **Enhances Academic Excellence**  
Supporting innovative programs, faculty development, and initiatives that improve the quality and accessibility of education.
- **Builds Stronger Communities**  
Fostering partnerships and engagement that advance the College's mission and enrich our region.
- **Invests in the Future**  
Funding capital projects that create enhanced learning environments.
- **Ensures Long-Term Sustainability**  
Encouraging philanthropic giving through endowments and planned giving opportunities.

## A COMMITMENT TO LASTING IMPACT

By creating the MCCC (PA) Legacy Fund, the Board of Trustees is making a powerful commitment to the College, its employees, and most importantly, its students. Together, we are building a strong framework for continued success, opportunity, and community growth.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The MCCC (PA) Legacy Fund is a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization and a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity (EIN: 39-3245315). Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



## A SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR INAUGURAL SUPPORTERS!

### CONSTELLATION ENERGY

\$20,000 for Workforce Development

### GREATER POTTSTOWN FOUNDATION

\$26,000 for scholarships

### IBX FOUNDATION HEALTHCARE

\$35,610 for Workforce Program grant

### JUSTAMERE FOUNDATION

\$100,000 for Workforce Development

### POTTSTOWN REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

\$80,000 for Workforce Development

### WSFS BANK

\$32,000 for approved programs under PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

### WW SMITH FOUNDATION

\$52,000 scholarship grant

### WEEK OF GIVING

\$57,614 (surpassing goal of \$15,000)



### A WARM WELCOME BACK FOR MONTCO RETIREES

On May 1, the MCCC (PA) Legacy Fund Board and Montco's Institutional Advancement team welcomed retirees back to campus for a luncheon at the Hospitality Institute. The event offered opportunities to reconnect with colleagues, hear College updates from President Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez, and learn how scholarships provided through the Legacy Fund are helping students like Business Administration major Susie Delp achieve their educational goals.



### ROTARY CLUB OF BLUE BELL CONTINUES TO INVEST IN MCCC STUDENT SUCCESS



The Rotary Club of Blue Bell has supported Montco and its mission since 1992. Over the decades, the Club has collaborated with Montco on numerous initiatives and donated more than \$145,600 to support students and programs. In the last 10 years, the Rotary Club has awarded more than \$12,000 in scholarships to 12 student recipients. The Club has also provided support for the College's veterans programs and contributed to Montco's Stock Up for Success food pantries. This year's scholarship recipient was Susie Delp, '26, a Business Administration (AS) major.

“It's an honor to help students, like Susie [Delp], pursue their educational goals,” said Mary Vila, Rotary Club of Blue Bell President. “Investing in students is an investment in the future of our community.”



### EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER A 'SOUPER' SUCCESS

More than 145 bowls of soup were purchased in support of the Empty Bowls fundraiser, hosted by students and employees from the Fine Arts, Culinary Arts, and Bakery & Pastry Arts programs, to combat food insecurity on campus, raising more than \$3,625 for Montco's Stock Up for Success food pantries and Fine Arts and Hospitality programs. Students prepared and served 25 gallons of soup in five delicious varieties, while faculty and staff distributed the bowls, and visitors enjoyed mingling and dining in the Hospitality Institute's Bistro 1964 restaurant.

# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## STRENGTHENING OUR MUSTANG FRAMEWORK

Montco is building on its strong structure by focusing on student achievement, affordability, advocacy, and support.

### UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY



#### ASPEN INSTITUTE UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITY

Unlocking Opportunity is a national program led by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program in partnership with the Community College Research Center. Launched in 2023, the program expanded to 55 colleges in 2025, and Montco is proud to be among the institutions selected to participate.

Working with Aspen, Montco's project team has engaged employees from across the College in working groups to analyze opportunities and develop strategies to further advance degree completion, workforce success, and transfer pathways. Progress updates have been shared with the Board of Trustees, at the President's Coffee & Conversations, in the monthly President's Report e-newsletters, and on a [dedicated web page](#).

The working groups met over several months to develop goals and reform strategies. The quantitative enrollment goals focus on increasing the number of students in high-value programs while reducing enrollment in low-value pathways. The reform strategies include:

- **Strengthening and expanding pre-health programs.** With earlier and clearer pathway communication, students will be better equipped to make informed decisions about pre-health options from the start of their academic journey.
- **Accelerating bachelor's degree attainment.** Through earlier transfer planning, stronger onboarding, and clearer academic pathway design, students will be better informed and able to connect their coursework to bachelor's degree completion.
- **Connecting Dual Enrollment to high-value pathways.** With earlier pathway mapping, stronger onboarding, and integrated advising, Dual Enrollment students will enroll with a clearer academic purpose and a stronger understanding of how their coursework aligns with a future degree, transfer pathway, pre-health progression, or workforce credential.

To learn more about the goals, strategies, and timeline, visit [mc3.edu/UnlockingOpportunity](https://mc3.edu/UnlockingOpportunity).



# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## STRENGTHENING OUR MUSTANG FRAMEWORK



### LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SHOWCASES MONTCO'S WORKFORCE INNOVATION

Montco welcomed local, state, and federal elected officials to a legislative breakfast at its state of the art Hospitality Institute, offering a firsthand look at some of the College's innovative learning environments and high demand career pathways. Guests engaged with President Dr. Bastecki-Perez, trustees, the senior leadership team, faculty, and students, learning more about Montco's programs designed to meet regional and statewide workforce needs. The event highlighted the College's vital role in preparing skilled talent and strengthening economic growth across Montgomery County and the Commonwealth.

### NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH BARNES & NOBLE COLLEGE, CAMPUS STORE AND LAUNCH OF MONTCO MATERIALS PROGRAM ENHANCE STUDENT SAVINGS AND PREPAREDNESS



In partnership with Barnes & Noble College, Montco opened a new Campus Store on its Blue Bell Campus in September 2025 and launched the opt-out Montco Materials Program, which offers significant cost savings while helping students start the semester fully prepared.

### CHAMPIONING COMMUNITY COLLEGE IMPACT



Montco leaders elevated the importance of community colleges through strategic insights and advocacy at the state and regional levels. In an op-ed for the *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, Board of Trustees Chair

Donald Lyons emphasized the critical role of affordable, accessible higher education in strengthening Pennsylvania's workforce and expanding opportunity.



In *The Philadelphia Citizen*, President Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez reinforced this message, highlighting community colleges as transformative pathways that empower students, uplift communities, and drive

economic mobility. Together, these perspectives advanced the conversation around the value and impact of community colleges.

### MONTCO MATERIALS 2025-26 STUDENT SAVINGS

Total student savings **\$2,140,704**  
Average savings of **46%** on course materials.

*\*Barnes & Noble FDC Student Success Survey April 2026*





# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## STRENGTHENING OUR MUSTANG FRAMEWORK

### MAPPING THE ROAD AHEAD

During a Coffee & Conversation with President Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez on March 18, she proudly unveiled the bold theme for the 2028-2033 Strategic Plan, “Powered by Montco,” setting a **purposeful** tone for the future. Dr. Bridget Haines-Frank, Executive Director of Institutional Research, Effectiveness & Planning, and Co-Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee with Dr. Stephanie R. Allen-Savage, Director of Equity, Diversity & Belonging, described how the 2028-2033 Strategic Planning will continue to build on the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan’s three-pillar focus on students, employees, and community engagement. Four online forums for all stakeholders were held March 31-April 7 to gather feedback on the College’s mission, vision, equity statement, and values. This feedback will inform ongoing work to refine and further develop the strategic plan in the months ahead.



### WHO WE ARE:

#### Mission

Montgomery County Community College will transform generations through educational, workforce, and cultural experiences that drive achievement at the College and beyond.

#### Vision

Montgomery County Community College will serve as a highly valued partner at all stages of life to empower social mobility, economic opportunity, and social justice.

#### Values

Montgomery County Community College students, employees, and its Board of Trustees will:

**Foster** a culture of integrity, transparency, trust, empathy, and accountability.

**Innovate** for the goals and achievements of our students, employees, and communities.

**Respect** contributions and lived experiences to cultivate belonging and sustainability.

**Educate** to advance equitable access and opportunity in pursuit of our vision.

#### Equity

Montgomery County Community College affirms that equity is essential to realize the educational, economic, and social benefits of higher education. We are committed to celebrating and supporting the diverse and intersectional identities of our students, employees, trustees, and communities. Guided by our values, we act through inquiry, dialogue, policies, and practices to promote equity and belonging.

# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

CLASS OF 2026 BY THE NUMBERS\*

**1,423**

GRADUATES

**1,435**

DEGREES/CERTIFICATES

## Division

**464** BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

**344** HEALTH SCIENCES

**295** LIBERAL ARTS

**228** STEM

**100** WORKFORCE

## Programs with the largest number of graduates:

**202** LIBERAL STUDIES (A.A.)

**201** BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (A.S.)

**114** NURSING (A.A.S.)

**498**

FIRST-GENERATION  
GRADUATES

**511**

BLACK, INDIGENOUS,  
PEOPLE OF COLOR

**16–76 YEARS**

AGE RANGE OF GRADUATES

**670**

GRADUATES WITH HONORS  
OF DISTINCTION (3.25 GPA OR  
HIGHER)/35 WITH 4.0 GPA

**52**

MUNICIPAL POLICE  
ACADEMY GRADUATES

**51**

EDUCATION  
GRADUATES

**35**

VETERANS/MILITARY-  
CONNECTED GRADUATES

**10**

DUAL ENROLLMENT  
GRADUATES

**19**

ATHLETES

*\*The statistics for the Class of 2026 are accurate as of May 12, 2026, when they were compiled.*



“Becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa has been one of the most meaningful recognitions of my academic journey so far,” said Gia Huy Nguyen, '26, Engineering Science (Mechanical, AS) and All-Pennsylvania Academic Team transfer scholar. “Being invited to PTK showed me that my hard work and persistence were paying off. It gave me confidence that even while balancing work and full-time study, I could still achieve at a high academic level.”

## DURING THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR:

**16,713** unduplicated student headcount

**990** students made the Dean's List

**2,692** part-time students made the Dean's Commendation List

**300+** veterans/military-connected students were enrolled

**249** Phi Theta Kappa international honor society inductees (both campuses)

**94** inductees into the Beta Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Alpha Alpha National Honor Society for first-generation college students. Since 2022, a total of 448 members have been inducted.



## DUAL ENROLLMENT 2025-2026

**3,018** unduplicated headcount

**99** high schools with one homeschool

**10** associate degrees earned



# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## MUSTANG ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOLADES

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- 52 Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) All-Academic honorees

### COACHING ACHIEVEMENT

- Koran Prince: National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 19 & North Atlantic A District Coach of the Year

### ESPORTS EXCELLENCE

- 3 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships (fall 2025) and one national runner up
- 7 National Titles since 2020

### SERVICE AWARD

- Kelly Dunbar, Athletics Director: NJCAA 5-Year Service Award (serving on national committees)

### STUDENT-ATHLETE RECOGNITION

- 8 NJCAA All-Region honorees
- 2 EPAC All-Conference selections

### TEAM SUCCESS

- 2025 Champions of Character Award NJCAA Region 19
- Men's Soccer: 2025 EPAC Champions
- Men's Basketball: #1 NJCAA Region 19, #8 National Ranking



### MUSTANGS ESPORTS TEAMS WIN THREE ECAC NATIONAL TITLES



The Mustangs eSports program began at MCCC in the spring of 2020 and has grown from 13 student-athletes to more than 180 during the fall 2025 semester. The program is the Athletics program's eighth collegiate sport and the first of two all-gender teams.



“It's so awesome to be able to play this game [Rainbow Six Siege] and win for your school [for the Mustangs eSports team]. It's so rewarding,” said Nursing major Kaitlyn Hilburt, 22, of Perkiomenville. “It feels so unreal to finally win. We did it.”

### MUSTANGS MEN'S SOCCER TEAM



**MUSTANGS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM #1 REGION & #8 IN THE NATION**



# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## MUSTANGS LEADING THE WAY

Mustang students lead the way with a spirit defined by initiative, determination, courage, and compassion. Their leadership is visible on our campuses and beyond in countless ways and demonstrates *How do you Montco?*



**Psychology (AS) students** took their work to a regional stage, presenting research on belonging at the Middle States Commission on Higher Education conference, demonstrating their intellectual curiosity and a commitment to improving the student experience.



**Mia Fanelli '26**, Sound Recording and Music Technology (AAS) major, transformed her unique sensory perspective into a patent-pending technology that could change how audio engineers interact with sound, embodying creativity, initiative, and ingenuity.

Three students (from left)—**Jesse Arce '26**, Accounting (AAS); **Gia Huy Nguyen '26**, Engineering Science, Mechanical (AS); **Angela Ventura '26**, Liberal Studies (AA)—were named to the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and community service. As part of the award, eligible students can receive up to two years of tuition at PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities.



**Joshua Jang '26**, a Navy veteran and Mathematics (AA) major, leveraged his Montco experience into acceptance in a competitive summer research program, demonstrating the resilience and drive that define so many of Montco's learners. Leadership and character shine through in every discipline.

*Continued >*



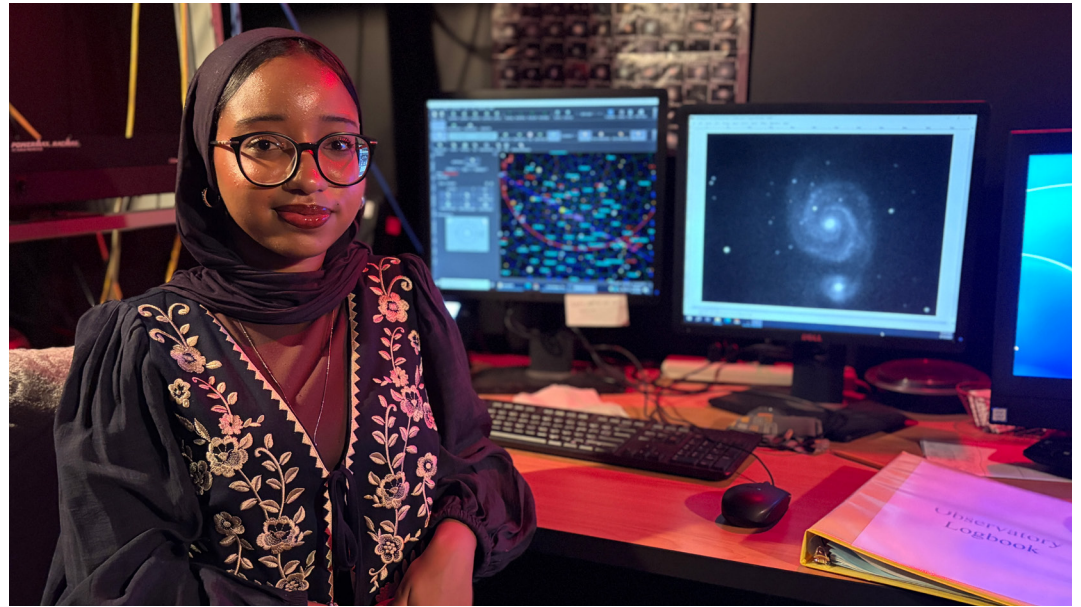
# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## MUSTANGS LEADING THE WAY



National Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar, **Kimberly Madera**, Human Services (AAS) major, exemplifies service and academic achievement through her work with Phi Theta Kappa international honor society. She served as the secretary and then the co-president for Alpha Kappa Zeta, the Blue Bell Campus chapter for PTK.

On and off the court, student-athlete **Despina Kourtidis**, '26, Liberal Studies (AA) major, led with excellence and teamwork, and was recognized as a standout member of the Mustangs Women's Volleyball team and captain for 2025.



Commencement student speaker **Loujain Ahmed**, '26, Physical Sciences (AS) major, reflects the power of Mustang determination, balancing leadership roles, academic success, and hands-on experiences to make the most of every opportunity.

Together, these stories share one powerful message: Through service, scholarship, innovation, and leadership, Mustang students are shaping their futures and making a lasting impact on their communities.

Visit the ["Meet the Montco Family"](#) section on our website to learn more about Montco's amazing students, employees, and alumni.



# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## INNOVATIVE LEARNING

Innovative learning at Montco is redefining how students prepare for today's evolving workforce by blending hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology and real-world partnerships.



### STEM STUDENTS TACKLE MERCK AUTOMATION AND INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Across STEM disciplines, students are putting theory into action through opportunities like the Merck Automation and Innovation Challenge. Engineering and computer science students collaborated to design a proof-of-concept automation system for a simulated chemical manufacturing plant, programming robotic arms to solve complex operational challenges. This type of experiential learning encourages creativity, teamwork, and technical problem-solving. [Read the press release on Montco's website.](#)

### MONTCO BECOMES PICPA SPONSOR COLLEGE - ONLY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Academic programs are also aligning closely with professional standards to ensure students are career ready. Montco's designation as a sponsoring institution of the Pennsylvania

Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) highlights this commitment. As the only community college among the sponsoring schools, Montco offers accounting programs tailored to meet CPA licensure requirements, giving students a clear and competitive pathway into the profession.



Sloane Harker

“It was in her class [Accounting Instructor Pamela Kuperstein] that she introduced me to the world of accounting and encouraged me to explore it as a professional path,” said Sloane Harker, '26, Business Administration (AS) graduate. “She also recommended me for many professional opportunities, including representing the College as a panelist at a Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants conference. That experience really highlights the doors that Montco has opened for me.”

# ENSURE STUDENT LEARNING

## A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTS

2025-2026



### ACADEMIC ADVISING

- 22,527 appointments
- 10,492 students
- 11,286 hours of one-on-one advising



### CAREER AND ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

*Connecting Mustangs to Career Success*

- 1,422 coaching appointments
- 3,825 Hire a Mustang logins
- 928 personalized resume/document reviews
- 115 applications submitted through Hire a Mustang
- 1,020 career fair attendees across 15 career fairs
- 58 presentations reaching students in the classroom
- 8 virtual lunchtime career discussions
- 3 professional headshot events
- 1 Career Closet Open House



### OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

- Served 573 students
- 786 letters for accommodation



### TUTORING BY THE NUMBERS

- 10,981 tutoring sessions
- 8,081 hours personalized academic support
- Highest demand subjects:
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - English
  - Mathematics
  - Physics
  - Writing



### WELLNESS SERVICES

- 3,750 food pantry visits
- 1,816 individuals engaged in wellness events
- 865 wellness center drop-in visits
- 743 virtual mental health care visits
- 322 mental health referrals
- 217 parenting student engagements
- 184 basic needs referrals
- 90 virtual medical visits
- 51 VNA service applications

Student support services play a vital role in helping learners achieve their academic, personal, and career goals. The following data highlights the impact and reach of key services across the College



### REPLACEMENT BRIDGE RECONNECTS CAMPUS

On the Blue Bell Campus, Montco replaced the original Founders Bridge (installed in March 2009) with a new 75-by-8-foot galvanized steel structure featuring a protective anti-corrosion coating for improved durability and weather resistance. The new bridge connects the Route 202 parking lot to Parkhouse Hall and the campus and was installed on March 26. This deferred maintenance project is part of the 2023-2033 Facilities Master Plan with 50% funding received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

### DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK

During Disability Awareness Week, both campuses hosted events, trainings, and presentations that celebrated people with disabilities while promoting inclusion and accessibility. Highlights included a screening of *Makayla's Voice: A Letter to the World* and Disability Inclusive Spaces Training for employees.



# ENHANCE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

## SHAPING OUR WORKPLACE TOGETHER

Investing in employee growth and development is essential for building a strong, unified team that can innovate, adapt, and thrive together. As part of Enhancing the Employee Experience, Montco has identified the Employee Value Proposition and a proposed employer brand. Throughout 2025-2026, a robust selection of engagement and professional opportunities reinforced our shared commitment to collaboration and continuous learning and improvement.



### EMPLOYEE VALUE PROPOSITION

Montco partnered with The Segal Group, Inc. to research and develop the College's Employee Value Proposition (EVP) as part of its commitment to the Montco for All vision and the strategic priority of enhancing the employee experience. The project identified what makes Montco a special place to work, highlighted the strengths and benefits offered to employees, and articulated a clear, compelling EVP to support recruitment, retention, and employee engagement.



### JOIN A COMMUNITY OF IMPACT

As a valued employee of Montco, you will be a part of a dynamic institution.

#### Fulfill an Important Mission

Transform lives and the surrounding community through accessible, high-quality education with lasting, generational impact.

#### Connect to a Community

Join a supportive community where lives are transformed.

#### Invest in Your Well-Being

Experience a caring culture that prioritizes your physical and mental health

#### Encourage Lifelong Learning

Receive growth and learning opportunities at every stage of your career.

### EMPLOYER BRAND

From the development of the Employee Value Proposition (EVP), Montco then worked with Segal Benz (of The Segal Group, Inc.) to create a proposed employer brand statement, employer identity guidelines, tone, and related branding creative. The Strategic Employee Workforce Planning team presented the proposed brand at an April 2026 Coffee & Conversation and is collecting feedback from the College community.

#### Proposed Brand Statement

At Montgomery County Community College, we believe growth is driven by collaboration, support, and shared purpose. Our employees thrive in a culture that prioritizes wellbeing, professional development, and belonging—empowering every individual to advance our mission and serve our community. Together, we grow as people and as an institution, transforming lives and expanding our impact every day.

# ENHANCE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

## SHARING OUR WORKPLACE TOGETHER

### LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION: COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS AND PRESIDENT'S REPORTS

#### Coffee & Conversations

Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year, President Dr. Bastecki-Perez hosted monthly online Coffee & Conversations sessions, creating a welcoming space to share information, engage in meaningful dialogue, and connect with employees. Monthly attendance averaged 200-250 employees, and the topics included budget planning, government relations, advocacy, Aspen Institute Unlocking Opportunities progress and updates, employee value statement, new employee brand, input and progress on the 2028-2033 Strategic Plan, among others.

#### Monthly President's Reports

In 2025-2026, President Dr. Bastecki-Perez shares news, information, and updates about the College through monthly President's Reports, which are distributed to all employees, as well as retirees, alumni, students, legislators, and community members (approximately 30,000 recipients with an average open rate of 22%). The monthly reports are also shared at the Board of Trustees meetings and on social media and the website.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENT 2025-26



441

PARTICIPANTS



85%

TURNOUT RATE OF REGISTRANTS



74

SESSIONS



**HOT TOPICS:**

ACCESSIBILITY,  
AI FUNDAMENTALS,  
TEACHING & LEARNING INNOVATION



AVERAGE ATTENDANCE:

22



300+

MINUTES INVESTED



**FORMATS:**

VIRTUAL, HYBRID & IN-PERSON



#### Opening Day 2025: Celebrating our Collective Impact

Opening Day 2025 marked the official launch of the new academic year with reflections on Montco's shared accomplishments and a look ahead to exciting opportunities, including Montco's reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and selection for Aspen Institute's Unlocking Opportunity program. Opening Day sessions also brought faculty together for discussions on student belonging, classroom management, support resources, inclusive course design, and assessment practices.

“You guys do a great job each year, and I always leave inspired, while learning new things to help perform better in my area.”

—Anonymous employee, feedback survey



# ENHANCE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE

## SHARING OUR WORKPLACE TOGETHER



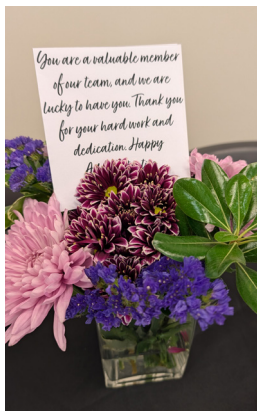
### Administrative Professionals Appreciation and Professional Development Breakfast

More than 40 administrative professionals from both campuses attended the annual Appreciation and Professional Development Breakfast, where they enjoyed networking over a catered meal and participated in a professional development session on stress and resilience led by Anita Foeman, PhD, Professor Emeritus at West Chester University.



### Administrator's Day: Many Mustangs, One Herd

Montco's Employee Development and Talent Management team and the Administrator's Day Committee hosted the annual professional development day with the theme, "Many Mustangs, One Herd." The event featured a student panel on culture, connection, and care; a keynote on teamwork and collaboration by Tania Irwin; and breakout sessions on topics ranging from mental health and enrollment to IT security and generational engagement.



## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

### Professor Earns Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for 2026



**Dr. Margaret Bryans**, Professor of Biology and Biotechnology Program Coordinator, received the 2026 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award at the 2026 Commencement. The award recognizes

outstanding faculty whose dedication to student success extends both inside and outside the classroom. [Read more about this award-winning professor on Montco's website.](#)

### English Instructor Earns Award for Compassionate Instruction



**Wendy Erhardt**, English Senior Lecturer, received the 2026 Barnes & Noble Part-Time Faculty Teaching Excellence Award for her commitment to student success and community building at

the 2026 Commencement. She believes students feel connected by introducing them to key resources, including the Wellness Center, tutoring services, the Help Desk, and the library, among others. [Read more about this caring instructor on Montco's website.](#)

### City & State PA Honors 40 in their Forties



City & State PA recognized Michael Bettinger, Chief of Staff, among the top "40 in their Forties" leaders across the Commonwealth.

With a background and experience in the state legislature, he brings valuable insight and leadership to Montco's external partnerships and initiatives.



### PROMOTIONS FOR 2025-2026

57 regular full-time and part-time administrators, support staff, and faculty advanced into new position levels.

# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

## MANY VOICES, EXTENDING OUR IMPACT

### Community Partnerships

Through strong and intentional partnerships with community organizations, employers, students, and K–12 schools, we continue to expand opportunity, deepen engagement, and strengthen pathways to success. These collaborations reflect our belief that many voices, united by one mission, create a more connected, responsive, and impactful College—one that moves forward together, unstoppable in serving our region and shaping the future.



### EMPOWERING OPPORTUNITY: NEW COLLABORATION SUPPORTS YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Montco and Variety – the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley celebrated the opening of two new cafés on the College’s Blue Bell Campus. The cafés not only provide convenient on-campus food options for Montco students, employees, and visitors, but they also serve as an expansion of Variety’s vocational training services. Through this initiative, young adults with disabilities have meaningful, inclusive opportunities to develop essential life and career skills, build confidence, and thrive with greater independence as they transition into adulthood.

During a special ribbon-cutting event on Nov. 10, 2025, Montco and Variety celebrated the official opening of the cafés located in Parkhouse Hall and the Health Sciences Center on the Blue Bell Campus. The cafés mark the first time Variety has established vocational centers on a college campus. [Read more about the training centers on Montco’s website.](#)

“As we partnered with Montco to operate these two new food site service stands, they double as vocational training sites for young adults with disabilities who have graduated from high school and are trying to figure out what’s next,” said Dominique Bernardo, CEO of Variety, the Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley. “And that’s something that Variety helps to do with all parents and young adults—help answer the question of what’s next.”



# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER AT MONTCO POTTSTOWN:  
BUILDING ON 40 YEARS OF CHALLENGER EXCELLENCE

In 2026, Montco honored Challenger Center's legacy of inspiring STEM education while highlighting new investments in the Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown that will expand opportunities for students across the region and beyond.



## MONTCO COMMEMORATES CHALLENGER CENTER 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH \$500K GRANT FOR ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER AT MONTCO POTTSTOWN

Montco commemorated the 40th anniversary of Challenger Center with a special event at the Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown on April 24, celebrating four decades of immersive STEM education and the continuation of the College's center through \$500,000 in federal funding to support program growth and innovation.

The event featured a Lunar Quest moon mission with students, followed by remarks recognizing the milestone anniversary and the federal investment that will help to advance STEM education for students across the region. Fifth-grade students from St. Teresa of Calcutta School in Schwenksville participated in the hands-on mission, working collaboratively in the simulated spacecraft, space station, and mission control settings to explore the moon.

Congresswoman Madeleine Dean joined President Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez, community leaders, educators, and guests for the event. Congresswoman Dean and U.S. Senator John Fetterman were recognized for securing the federal funding.

“As we look to the next 40 years, Montgomery County Community College remains committed to leading the charge, uniting partners, thought leaders and organizations around a shared vision to meet the evolving needs of students and help prepare them for the rapidly changing STEM landscape,” said Dr. Bastecki-Perez, Montco President. “I want to thank Congresswoman Madeleine Dean, as well as U.S. Senator John Fetterman, for their leadership and support in securing \$500,000 to continue the Challenger Center legacy through the Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown.”



# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

## CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER AT MONTCO POTTSTOWN: BUILDING ON 40 YEARS OF CHALLENGER EXCELLENCE



### 40 YEARS LATER: CHALLENGER CREW’S LEGACY CONTINUES THROUGH CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTERS

January 28 marked the 40th anniversary of the loss of the Challenger crew, but their legacy continues through Challenger Learning Centers across the country and beyond. This includes the Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown, which is featured in Challenger Headquarters’ videos commemorating the anniversary. Watch the videos to learn more about Challenger’s history, the dedicated astronauts, and the educational centers that continue their mission. [Watch the 40th anniversary video of Challenger Center and the video of the Challenger crew.](#)



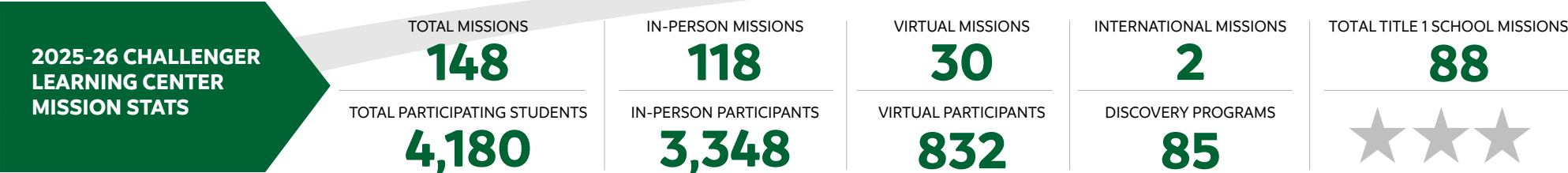
### CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER AT MONTCO POTTSTOWN LAUNCHES SECOND INTERNATIONAL MISSION

Twenty-four students from the National School of Applied Science in Agadir, Morocco, recently participated in a virtual moon mission hosted by the Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown. [Read about the mission on Montco’s website.](#)



### CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER: FIRST INTERNATIONAL VIRTUAL MISSION

The Challenger Learning Center at Montco Pottstown recently held its first international virtual mission with 24 middle school students from Adana Gundogdu College in Adana, Turkey. The students stepped into the roles of engineers and astronauts to land a lunar module on the moon and received certificates of completion recognizing their achievements. [Read about the mission on Montco’s website.](#)





# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE



## PARTNERSHIP PROVIDES ACCESS TO WELLNESS-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES



Officials from Whitpain Township and Montco celebrated the grand opening of the refurbished tennis courts in September 2025. The courts are located near the Health Sciences Center on the Blue Bell

Campus (Cathcart Road entrance). The partnership allows Whitpain Township's tennis programs to have priority use of four of the eight courts, while students, employees and the community can enjoy upgraded tennis and pickleball courts. The \$147,000 project was fully funded by the Township, reflecting a shared commitment to wellness and community engagement.



## CHDC CELEBRATES DENTAL ACCESS AT MONTCO'S POTTSTOWN CAMPUS

Officials from Community Health & Dental Care (CHDC), Montco and the TriCounty Area Chamber of Commerce along with Montco students and employees and community members celebrated the grand opening of the CHDC Mobile Dental Health Unit on the Pottstown Campus. [Read more>>](#)

## WHITPAIN COMMUNITY FESTIVAL



More than 6,000 visitors attended the annual Whitpain Community Festival on Montco's Blue Bell Campus, enjoying local vendors, family-friendly activities, food, live music, and a fireworks finale. The celebration also included the popular Big Rig Roundup, where children explored emergency and public works vehicles and equipment. Since 2014, Montco has partnered with Whitpain Township to host the festival.

## PARTNERSHIP OPENS DOORS TO CAREERS IN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Montco's partnership with Merck is creating meaningful ways for students to explore careers in the pharmaceutical industry through industry engagement and hands-on learning. Events like the third annual Merck Day, which welcomed more than 450 students, provide opportunities to network with professionals and learn about the wide range of roles in pharmaceutical companies.





# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE

## PEDAL FOR THE FUTURE EVENT BRINGS NEW BIKES TO AREA YOUTH



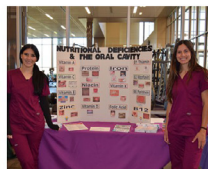
Montco's Pedal for the Future Community Festival created smiles for 22 Pottstown-area youth by providing new bicycles and a family friendly day focused on wellness, safety and community. The College, in collaboration with

sponsors, Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation and the Montgomery County District Attorney Wheels of Justice team, provided bike safety practices and maintenance care to the selected youth. The participants then went on a guided ride with Montco Municipal Police Academy cadets, Pottstown first responders, Families Behind the Badge volunteers, and Take It Outdoors Adventures employees. After the ride, the youth had the opportunity to decorate their new bikes, enjoy lunch and participate in activities at the Pottstown Campus.



## MONTCO PARTNERS WITH PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

Montco students took center stage at the 2026 Health Equity Summit on April 15 at the Montco Cultural Center Theater, an event presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Office of Health Equity. Designed to engage and empower future professionals, the summit gave Montco students the chance to learn directly from statewide leaders working to eliminate health disparities in Pennsylvania by 2030. Through networking, panel discussions, and presentations, students explored real-world health equity challenges and connected their academic work to statewide efforts.



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HOST THE INAUGURAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Montgomery County Commissioners hosted college and university leaders from across the region at Rosemont College on April 8 for a roundtable focused on collaboration, student success, and workforce development. President Dr. Bastecki-Perez and Mike Bettinger, Montco Chief of Staff, joined representatives from the region's leading colleges and universities to share perspectives and explore how local government and higher education can work more closely to support the next generation of learners. These conversations help strengthen the connection between education and opportunity across Montgomery County. [Read about the roundtable on Rosemont College's website.](#)

## WELLNESS FESTIVAL BRINGS FITNESS AND FUN FOR THE COMMUNITY

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Rotary Club of Blue Bell, Montco and Whitpain Township Parks & Recreation collaborated to hold the Stride and Thrive 5/10K and Wellness Fest for a day of fitness, health education and fun.



# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

BUILDING A STRONGER WORKFORCE TOGETHER



## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COLLABORATION CREATES PIPELINE FOR CNC CAREERS

Montco's Workforce Development team collaborates with Branch Medical Group Production Manager Brad Bouchard through the College's Machinist-CNC Operator certificate program to help train the next generation of skilled operators and prepare them for successful entry into the workforce. Branch Medical Group is a subsidiary of Globus Medical, a global musculoskeletal technology company, and manufactures implants for spinal and orthopedic applications at its Royersford manufacturing facility. [Read more about this workforce partnership on Montco's website.](#)

“Students will leave the Montco's CNC Operator program with the skills and training needed to begin work at Branch Medical Group [a subsidiary of Globus Medical, a global musculoskeletal technology company], said Brad Bouchard, Globus production manager. “They will build on those skills as they continue into their careers.”



## PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY'S ENGINEERING SUMMIT PANEL DISCUSSION

Dr. Jamie Bretz, Dean of STEM, presented at the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry's Engineering Summit at the Lockheed Martin campus in King of Prussia. He represented higher education in the panel discussion on “Classroom to Career for Engineers: Aligning Policy, Education, and Industry,” highlighting programs at the College, such as the Drone Academy, the INNOVA project, and the Sterile Processing Technician program, that provide students with relevant experiences and build connections to business and industry.



# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

## K-12 PARTNERSHIPS: FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREERS

Through hands-on camps, competitions, and career-connected learning experiences, Montco is partnering with K-12 schools to help students explore interests, build skills, and envision their future pathways. These programs connect classroom learning to real-world opportunities across high-demand fields.



### SUMMER PC CAMP TEACHES COMPUTER BUILDING SKILLS AND MORE

Twenty-one Pottstown area middle school students had the opportunity to learn how to build their own computer, thanks to a generous grant from the Justamere Foundation. At the end of the weeklong camp, the students not only received a new computer but left feeling confident and proud of their accomplishment. [Read more about the camp on Montco's website.](#)



### HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN MERCK-SPONSORED BIOMAN ACADEMY

Montco's Biotechnology Department hosted a weeklong biomanufacturing workshop for 16 high school students. Participants engaged in hands-on experiments simulating real-world biomanufacturing processes and attended daily career talks delivered by Merck professionals, gaining exposure to careers in the life sciences industry.



### CAMPS FOSTER CULINARY CREATIVITY

The new Hospitality Institute at Montco's Blue Bell Campus held its inaugural Culinary and Baking Camps for youth and teens. Campers sharpened their kitchen skills, explored new flavors, and expanded their culinary confidence, introducing them to potential pathways in hospitality and culinary arts.



### MONTCO HOSTS 'HACKATHON' FOR WISSAHICKON HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER CLUB

High school students from six area schools competed in a "Capture the Flag" style competition. Participants were tasked with writing computer code to solve seven mythological puzzles and earn flags. This event strengthened problem-solving, teamwork, and coding skills in a real-world challenge environment.



# EXPAND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

## K-12 PARTNERSHIPS: FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREERS



### MONTCO 360 STUDENTS EXHIBIT ENGINEERING TALENTS IN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMPETITION

Eighteen eighth-grade students in the Montco 360 program at Pottstown Middle School presented alternative energy machine prototypes to a panel of judges at Montco's Pottstown Campus, demonstrating innovative solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. Montco 360 is a partnership between the Pottstown School District and the College that builds STEM knowledge and essential career-readiness skills.

[Read the press release to learn more about the program and recent competition.](#)

### BOTBALL CHALLENGES STUDENTS' STEM SKILLS

In partnership with DANA-Pottstown and Montgomery County, DANA's African American Resource Group sponsored a BotBall Competition at Montco's Pottstown Campus on March 28. Students from five local schools built and programmed autonomous robots, with Pottstown High School's Engineering Team winning the high school division and Montco 360's Blues Clues taking first in the middle school division. Both teams advanced to the national DANA-AARG BotBall Competition in Ohio on April 14-15, where Blues Clues earned second place.



Together, these K-12 partnerships highlight Montco's commitment to starting career exploration early, building future-ready skills, and creating clear pathways from middle and high school to college and careers. By engaging students through immersive, hands-on experiences, the College is helping shape a confident, skilled, and inspired future workforce.



# "A MORE PERFECT UNION"

## MONTCO COMMEMORATES AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup>

In 2025–2026, Montco launched a yearlong commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, titled "A More Perfect Union," connecting America's founding ideals to today's voices and future aspirations. Through this initiative, Montco engaged students, employees, and the community in exploring the evolving meaning of freedom, democracy, and civic participation.



The commemoration began with the panel discussion, "Give Us Liberty and the Right to Vote: The Journey to the 19th Amendment," which brought together distinguished legal leaders to engage students and community members in conversations about civic engagement and women's suffrage. The Justice Bell replica, symbolizing Pennsylvania's 1915 campaign for women's voting rights, was on display for the event and is currently displayed at the entrance to the Brendlinger Library in Blue Bell.

Building on this momentum, nationally recognized historian Dr. Emily Sneff delivered a keynote lecture examining the motivations and significance behind the Declaration of Independence.

Students and employees also participated in a workshop on civic dialogue hosted by the Committee of 70's *Can We Talk?* group. The workshop focused on some of the core tenets of the Declaration of Independence and invited participants to consider them in light of current contexts and controversies. Participants learned ground rules and guidelines for civic dialogue and then engaged in group discussions.



Montco's celebration featured a diverse series of events, including writing, mural, and song contests and a podcast series, *The American Mosaic*.

**Montco's celebration featured a diverse series of events, including three contests designed to inspire creativity and civic reflection:**

- Declarations of Independence Writing & Reels Contest
- E Pluribus Unum Mural Design Contest
- Justice Bell Song Contest

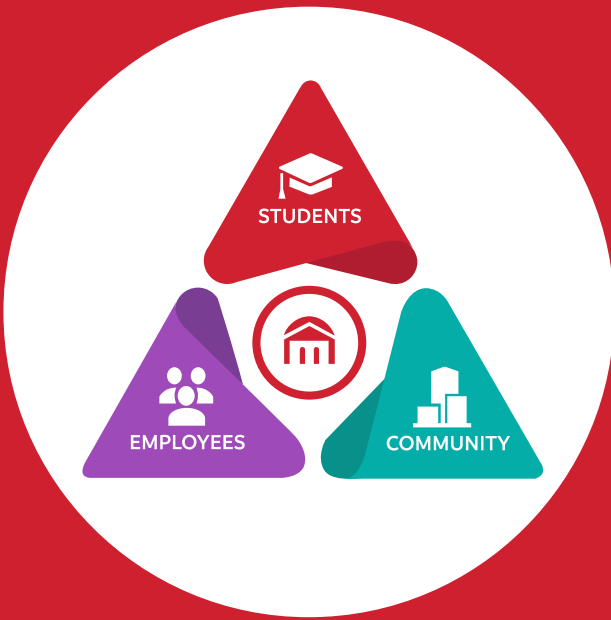


NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES

Montco's "A More Perfect Union: Voices of the American Past, Present, and Future," a 250th U.S. Anniversary project, has been made possible in part by a grant from the

National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this event do not necessarily represent those of the NEH. The events are also sponsored by Montco's Division of Liberal Arts in partnership with the Erb Charitable Fund and Montco's Student Government Association. [For more information, visit Montco's 250th Anniversary webpage. >>](#)





# Montco For All

Building our future together



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Montco on  
the Move



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