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## Welcome to the Fall Semester!

As we embark on a new Fall Semester, it's an exciting time to highlight the innovative changes and new initiatives we have in store for you. This year's Professional Development theme, **Forward Together: Innovative Opportunities to Support Your Learning**, encapsulates our commitment to fostering a collaborative and dynamic professional development environment.

One of the most significant enhancements this year is the redesigned ELITE Newsletter and Professional Development Catalog. We've streamlined the format to make it more accessible and engaging, providing you with a comprehensive guide to all the professional development opportunities available throughout the semester. The catalog now features a wider array of workshops, leadership cohorts, and special events tailored to meet your needs.

We're also thrilled to introduce two new monthly events designed to bring our college community together:

**First Faculty Fridays** - Kicking off in October, these sessions, held on the first Friday of each month, are dedicated to supporting faculty with innovative teaching strategies, technology integration, and collaborative discussions.

**Super Staff Tuesdays** - Starting in September, these sessions, held on the second Tuesday of each month, focus on professional development opportunities for staff, emphasizing growth, leadership, and skill-building.

These events are the result of a collaborative effort with eight other offices across the college, demonstrating our collective commitment to fostering a coordinated and supportive professional development culture.

Looking back at the success of our **Summer Staff Professional Development Days**, where we offered over 40 exceptional sessions, we're continuing that momentum

### Upcoming Events



**Super Staff Tuesdays** provide dedicated staff with ongoing professional development opportunities tailored to personal, leadership, and technical skills.

Explore all the workshops available this month [here](#).



**First Faculty Fridays** provide instructors with consistent, dedicated time to tackle the evolving educational challenges and opportunities. Explore all the upcoming workshops in October [here](#).

this fall. The semester began with over 40 high-impact workshops during **Professional Week**, engaging more than 650 faculty and staff members. The spirit of Teaching and Learning Together has never been stronger.

The fall calendar is packed with many different program types, including the Leadership Cohorts, Academy Series, and the ELITE Faculty Showcase. Check out your [Fall Professional Development Catalog](#) to explore all these opportunities and more.

The semester ahead is filled with innovative ways to learn, work, and grow Forward Together! We look forward to an exciting and impactful semester with you.

## Innovative Teaching and Engagement Strategies



### Energizing Your Classroom

Tips and instructional best practices for fostering engagement and developing a strong sense of community among students. Learn more [here](#).

### Blackboard Learn Ultra Tip of the Month

Tips and tricks for using Blackboard Learn Ultra to support our transition. Learn more [here](#).

## Professional and Personal Development



### Skill Boosters for all Employees

Practical strategies for enhancing skills and achieving professional growth. Learn more [here](#).

### Stay Balanced, Stay Brilliant

Insights on maintaining work-life balance and mental health. Learn more [here](#).

### Multicultural Moment

Cultural awareness and diversity are highlighted in alignment with the diversity calendar of events. Learn more [here](#).

## Leadership Development

### Lead like a Pro

Essential skills for effective leadership, including decision-making, and emotional intelligence.

Learn more [here](#).



### Small Actions, Big Results

Practical tips on small leadership actions that can lead to significant positive outcomes.

Learn more [here](#).

## MC Online

### Expanding Access and Enhancing Quality: Montgomery College's Commitment to Online Education



Montgomery College now offers a total of **39 fully online programs**: 22 degrees and 17 certificates. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) recently approved two fully online certificates: Database Systems Certificate and Information Technology Certificate. Recognizing the evolving needs of students and the College's diverse student population, the College has increasingly invested in online education as a strategic priority. One of the primary reasons for this is the desire to improve educational access. The increase in online programs demonstrates the College's commitment to providing options for students who may need or prefer online or remote modalities to achieve their academic goals.

In addition to the increase in the number of online programs, the College is equally invested in enhancing the robust support systems for faculty teaching online. Through the redesigned Online Teaching (OT) course, coupled with the newly launched Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) alternative, the College continues to be well-poised to deliver high quality online courses. The 7-week/7-module OT course integrates the Quality Matters 7th Edition Higher Education rubric and the L.E.C.T. Competencies Framework. Also, faculty who are within their first two semesters at the College with experience teaching online at another institution can apply for CPL as an alternative approach. For more information about the OT course and/or CPL, please visit the [website](#).

## Microcredentials

### Elevate Your Skills and Your Students' Success with Microcredentials!



Looking for ways to stand out, sharpen your skills, or offer students new opportunities?

Montgomery College's microcredentials might be just what you need. These digital badges recognize achievements and skills that go beyond traditional coursework, giving you and your students an edge in today's competitive world.

#### Featured this month:



**OER Advocate Badge:** Designed for faculty and staff, this badge validates your ability to leverage open educational resources (OER) and apply open pedagogy in your teaching. To earn this badge, enroll in the "OER Advocate" Blackboard Organization or complete all activities in the [OER Advocate Pressbook](#). It's self-paced, so you can learn and demonstrate your expertise when it suits you.

**Innovation Badge:** Available to all MC employees and students (with a sponsor), this badge recognizes your ability to set innovative goals, develop actionable solutions, and collaborate across disciplines. Complete the [Innovation Badge form](#) to begin this self-paced journey, where you'll gain insights into how innovation impacts student success.



**Gender Equity Badge:** Open to both students and employees, this badge highlights your ability to critically analyze gender equity issues. Through a series of activities and written artifacts, you'll demonstrate your understanding of gender equity topics and their relevance in today's world.

These are just a few of the 36 badges available for students and employees to earn. With over 675 badges issued already—80% of them earned by students—there's no better time to explore these opportunities.

Whether you're looking to earn your own badge, develop a new badge, or promote what's available, there's something for everyone.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the microcredentials available at MC.

If you would like more information, you can contact [Dr. Christine Crefton](#).

Elevate your potential today!

## Monthly H5P Challenge

[PLAY](#)

## Contact Us

Ask ELITE  
[Email](#) us with any questions or inquiries.



Who to Contact?  
If you're seeking more information, our [instructional designers](#) are here to assist you.

## Participant Reactions

I can apply what I've learned in the workshop to support student success by ...

"Using the programs with more ease this semester. Having a better understanding of how to have students participate more in class activities."