

Archived Information

Charlene Nunley

Dr. Charlene R. Nunley became the sixth Chief Executive Officer of Montgomery College on January 4, 1999, following a national search conducted by the Board of Trustees.

As president, she led Montgomery College into the top five community colleges nationally in private fundraising for three consecutive years. She has successfully positioned the college for much-needed expansion of the college's oldest and smallest campus, by securing unprecedented levels of state and local capital funding for the ongoing expansion of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Also under her leadership, the College is planning to develop on its Germantown Campus a bioscience education center and adjacent science and technology business-park. Dr. Nunley played a key role in the creation of the Universities at Shady Grove, a popular transfer option for Montgomery College students who wish to stay in the county to complete a four-year degree. She also helped to forge a model partnership between a community college and the local school district, Montgomery County Public Schools – one of the nation's largest and most outstanding school systems. Its primary purpose is to ensure improved levels of college readiness for all students graduating from high school.

Dr. Nunley has been a staunch advocate for preserving the open access mission of community colleges and headed a statewide task force that examined capacity challenges facing Maryland's public colleges and universities. Her efforts and views on this topic have been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Community College Times* and the *Gazette Newspaper*, among others.

Dr. Nunley has been a voice for community colleges on a number of local and regional groups, including the Technology Council of Maryland (past Chair of the Montgomery County Network), the Montgomery County Executive's Economic Advisory Council, the Board of Advisors of the Universities at Shady Grove (a regional higher education center favored by many MC transfer students), the Board of Directors of Mercantile Potomac Bank, the Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Community College Transfer Initiative Advisory Board and Leadership Montgomery.

Dr. Nunley is an involved leader in the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, serving on both the Board of Directors and as a member and Vice Chair of the Maryland Community College Chief Executives Officers. She is one of two community college members on the Board of Directors of the American Council on Education, and served on the Advisory Committee of Presidents of the Association of Community College Trustees from 2003-2005.

Montgomery College President Charlene R. Nunley was named as the Association of Community College Trustees' 2005 Northeast Region Chief Executive Officer of the Year. Dr. Nunley has earned several other awards and recognitions, as president of Montgomery College. She has twice been named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by the Daily Record Newspaper, was honored as one of Montgomery County's 30 greatest women in history by the Montgomery County Commission for Women, and was named "Woman of the Year" by Montgomery County Business and Professional Women (BPW).

Prior to serving as President of Montgomery College, Dr. Nunley served as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer. Her distinguished career in educational administration includes academic administration, planning, finance, budgeting, and resource development. She has served as a professor of Business Administration and Economics and as Vice President of Planning and Advancement where she directed the college's first multi-million dollar capital campaign and secured matching funding from the Montgomery County government. Dr. Nunley first joined Montgomery College in 1979 as the Director of Institutional Research and Planning.

Dr. Nunley's professional educational preparation includes a Ph.D. from George Washington University in Educational Policy Studies, a M.Ed. degree in Higher Education from Pennsylvania State University, and a B.A. from Penn State in the Psychology Honors Program. She began her career in education as Coordinator of Institutional Research and instructor at Potomac State College of West Virginia University and served as Director of Institutional Research at Howard Community College in Columbia, Maryland before coming to Montgomery College.