



Dennis Barnes, Jr.

Montgomery County Career Advising Program (MoCo CAP) Career Coach

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My name is Dennis Barnes, Jr. and I am your Career Coach for this school year. I was a college admissions professional for several years prior to this new opportunity. I also worked in youth services during my professional career and volunteered as an athletic coach. I have a strong passion for community outreach and helping others focus on their development and personal growth. I am excited to be a mentor and have a role in assisting students toward the next steps of their journey. Outside of work, I love spending time with my family. I also enjoy watching sports, especially attending both of my sons' college football games in the fall.



INTRODUCING MOCO**CAP**

Montgomery County Career Advising Program (MoCo CAP) is an innovative new collaborative effort headed by WorkSource Montgomery, along with partners Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove. The goal is to address one of the requirements from the College and Career Readiness pillar laid out by the state's new initiative: Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

This multi-phase program will ultimately work with the nearly 90,000 MCPS students in grades 6 through 12 to explore their interests, values, and strengths to become more prepared to enter college or the workforce after graduation.

This includes getting students up to meet the state's new College and Career Readiness standard by the end of their 10th grade year, developing clear career pathways, and creating a Career and Technical Education (CTE) system in line with industry needs, among other things.

To achieve these goals, MoCo CAP Career Coaches are placed in every MCPS middle, high, and special school throughout the county. Working closely with MCPS educators' ongoing work in the classroom, these Career Coaches aid students with personalized career advising as they learn to advocate for themselves, explore areas of interest to them, and navigate various college and career pathways.



HOW DOES MOCO CAP WORK?

MoCo CAP Career Coaches use John Holland's refined RIASEC themes (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising, and Conventional) to help students self-identify personal interests and preferences, along with jobs and tasks that require compatible styles of work. These themes provide a vocabulary for how someone sees themselves now and are growing their skills, viable post-secondary options, and where they want to end up. Using RIASEC, Career Coaches and students have a common language for discussions and dialogue about ever-shifting job opportunities and career decisions. Teachers can make connections between content areas and RIASEC themes when appropriate to make natural connections to career options related to classroom experiences. WSM also works closely with the employer community to give students continual hands-on and virtual opportunities to explore occupations consistent with their RIASEC themes.



WorkSource Montgomery (WSM)

WSM is the county-appointed workforce development agency for Montgomery County. The organization operates the American Job Centers in Wheaton and Germantown and provides employment services to Montgomery County residents who are unemployed or underemployed.

Maryland's Largest School District

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

Montgomery County Public Schools

MCPS is the largest school system in Maryland and the 14th largest in the United States, serving over 162,000 students. MCPS is committed to providing a high-quality education to all students, preparing them for success in college, career, and community.



The Universities at Shady Grove

Established in 2000, The Universities at Shady Grove is a regional higher education center of the University System of Maryland that offers students access to undergraduate and graduate degree programs from nine universities on one campus in Rockville, Maryland.



Montgomery College

Montgomery College is a public, fully accredited institution which serves more than 55,000 students from around 160 countries from around the world. Montgomery College is dedicated to student success and widely recognized for the quality and scope of its academic programs.