

**THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION
NEWS RELEASE**

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**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE, M-NCPPC WIN PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR
COLLEGE'S TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING CAMPUS EXPANSION PROJECT**

SILVER SPRING, MD -- Montgomery College and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) were honored by the American Planning Association for their joint campaign to revitalize south Silver Spring with the expansion of the College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus and the renovation of Jesup Blair Park. The Excellent Award for Implementation from the APA's National Capital Area Chapter recognizes a project that demonstrates a significant achievement in the Greater Washington Region in accomplishing positive change as a result of planning.

"We are proud that the Montgomery College expansion is contributing to the revitalization of south Silver Spring," said Montgomery College President Charlene Nunley. "This award is a testament to the work our College facilities team has done, in conjunction with Park and Planning, in bringing this project to fruition."

"We're extremely pleased with this prestigious professional recognition of our joint planning work with Montgomery College for its expansion into Silver Spring," said Derick P. Berlage, M-NCPPC chairman. "Along with our newly completed redesign and renovation of Jesup Blair, one of Montgomery County's oldest parks, this visionary long-range plan is kick-starting a dramatic revitalization in south Silver Spring."

Montgomery College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus expansion is well underway. In 2004, a new Health Sciences Center opened on Georgia Avenue in south Silver Spring. The state-of-the-art academic facility also houses a primary care medical center run by Holy Cross Hospital, serving both uninsured and underinsured adults. Also in 2004, a pedestrian bridge opened which spans the CSX railroad tracks, and links the main campus and surrounding community with the new campus and Jesup Blair Park.

A new Student Services Center is set to open in 2006 at the intersection of New York Avenue and Fenton Street. A former industrial bakery for Giant Food is being transformed into a major visual arts center. The arts center will also provide studio space for artists in the community. A cultural arts center for the performing arts is under design and is scheduled to open in 2008 at the corner of Georgia Avenue and East-West Highway.

Jesup Blair Park, one of Montgomery County's oldest parks, was recently rededicated after a \$4 million renovation that added an adult soccer field, lighted tennis and basketball courts, natural stone walls with grand stone pillar entryways, an extensive network of lighted walking paths and sidewalks, a tot lot, small stage and additional parking spaces along Blair Road.

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