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## **Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Supports Scholarship Initiative**

ROCKVILLE, MD – The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce announced today support for the “Area of Needs” scholarship bill to be introduced by County Councilmember Mike Knapp. The bill would create a Workforce Investment Scholarship program to award scholarships to undergraduate students at Montgomery College or the Universities at Shady Grove who are in degree programs that prepare the student for one of the County's 10 most needed occupations; provide certification to teach math or science in the County public schools; or for degrees in engineering, mathematics, or a natural science.

“Increasing our investment in workforce development is a critical component of increasing our global economic competitiveness,” said Georgette “Gigi” Godwin, President and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. “These scholarships will help grow a highly-skilled, competitive workforce which in turn will help draw high tech and knowledge companies to Montgomery County.”

Students who receive a scholarship would be required to agree to work in the County in one of the County's 10 most needed occupations for the number of years the student receives the scholarship. Students who do not obtain a degree or who do not meet the other conditions of the scholarship must repay the scholarship.

“This is an important expansion of existing workforce efforts,” Godwin added. “This scholarship program will enhance economic development in the County by helping to meet our current and future labor needs.”

### **About the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce serves its business membership by providing members with the opportunity to connect with one another and by advocating for an improved local and Maryland-wide business climate through effective legislation and policy.

The Chamber has more than 500 business members, ranging from Fortune 500 multinationals to sole proprietorships. The current Chairman of the Board is Dr. James Whang, President and CEO of defense contractor AEPLOG For more information about the Chamber, visit <http://www.montgomerychamber.com>.