



August 28, 2016

James D. Fielder, Jr., PhD  
Secretary of Higher Education  
Maryland Higher Education Commission  
6 North Liberty St.  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Dr. Fielder,

Montgomery College requests that MHEC review the information contained in this letter along with the enclosed data. This is a request to deny approval of Howard Community College's additional Diagnostic Medical Sonography's Vascular certificate. This additional certificate will have a strong negative impact on Montgomery College's twenty-year old program due to clinical site placements.

Howard Community College's website shows that the certificate is currently available (<http://www.howardcc.edu/programs-courses/programs/diagnostic-medical-sonography-cert>). It is our understanding that programs/certificates have to be approved by MHEC prior to offering them to the public on college websites.

Montgomery College has attached data from EMSI Analytics for Talent Acquisition which states there is no statistical data to support a new program throughout the region at this time. This tool compiles employment and economic data from over [90 data sources](#) into a web-based portal. EMSI Analytics delivers current workforce reports, charts, maps and graphs as well as forecasts data based on current and accurate labor market statistics and predictions (down to the ZIP code level).

At this time, using EMSI, there are no supportive statistics that would warrant an additional certificate to be introduced to the Diagnostic Medical Sonography discipline within the area adjacent to another college county that has the same program. The statistics support there will be more graduates than job opportunities. There is only midline growth showing to the entire sonography field, in the attached *Occupation Overview Health Care Practitioner and Support, 2016*.

Should Howard Community College's Vascular Certificate be approved, it would surely result in the closure of Montgomery College's twenty year Vascular Degree program. This summer semester, we had our first example of how limited we are with our clinical sites due to the addition of Howard Community College's Program. Howard Community College



engaged in a contract to place students into one of our strong long-standing clinical sites; this resulted in our holding back one of our students for two weeks before the student could be placed. The Howard Community College program has had an impact on our Fall semester as well. We have reached our maximum placement, due to Howard Community College's entering clinical sites that we have used during our tenure.

At this point in time, clinical placements for vascular and echo are extremely tight. The enclosed data demonstrates that an additional certificate program will impair the existing programs throughout the state. Each program requires supportive clinical seats for each student, and the availability of clinical seats throughout the state are at a maximum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S K Rai".

Sanjay Rai, PhD  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs