



# NEWS

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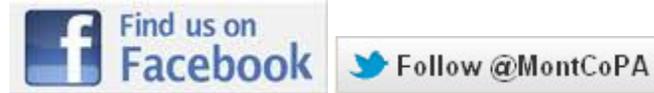
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## **Montgomery County Reaches Out to Colleges and Universities for New Comprehensive Plan**

**Norristown, PA (June 9, 2014)** – The Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) Board is hosting a roundtable discussion with presidents of colleges and universities in Montgomery County to talk about the new county comprehensive plan, *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, gain their perspective on the plan and other important issues, and collaborate on partnership opportunities.

“Our county’s economy relies upon a well-educated workforce, which local colleges play a fundamental role in supplying. Montgomery County’s colleges and universities contribute jobs and skilled labor to the county’s economy and are essential to its health,” said Leslie Richards, vice chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners. “We organized this event to listen to their concerns and perspectives on the future of higher education, so that we can put these ideas into the county’s comprehensive plan, Montco 2040.”

The discussion is part of the June 11, 2014 MCPC Board meeting and will take place from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Wismer Hall at Ursinus College in Collegeville. The meeting is part of the extensive outreach effort for the comprehensive plan, which has resulted in valuable feedback from over 2,500 citizens. This feedback was used in developing the plan’s themes and objectives; one theme involves gaining the perspectives of educators.

Marc D. Jonas, Esq., chair of the Montgomery County Planning Commission Board, commented on the educational theme of the upcoming board meeting: “We are gratified by the acceptance of our invitation by leaders of educational institutions in our county to discuss the integral role of those impressive institutions in formulating goals of the county comprehensive plan. This will provide a meaningful shared experience and the exploration of continuing and exciting partnership opportunities.”

The discussion will focus on the planning concerns of colleges and universities, which might include expansion, sustainability, housing, transportation, quality of life, and recreation issues, and will explore the potential partnerships for education, outreach, and demonstration projects. MCPC will give a presentation on the county and the goals of the comprehensive plan. Each president will then have an opportunity to comment on the comprehensive plan goals, community interaction, and planning issues. There will be a facilitated discussion on the role of colleges with county comprehensive plans as well as next steps and opportunities for partnerships.

Following the roundtable discussion, the MCPC Board meeting will continue with its regular agenda, which will include the draft Collegeville Borough Sustainability Plan developed by MCPC with Collegeville Borough and staff from Ursinus College. For more on *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, please visit [www.montcopa.org/Montco2040](http://www.montcopa.org/Montco2040). Contact Jody Holton, MCPC executive director, at 610-278-3756 for additional information.