

# Bringing the Community into your Classroom with Real Opportunities and Resources

## Sharing Session Summary and Resource Links

Today, three of the presentations talked about relating to the community outside our classes. Maybe you went to one? Feel free to bring in points from their presentations during this sharing session.

- the library (Katie Skipper)
- the UN (Jeanie Moon)
- Authentic Materials (Michelle Kleinhaus)

During the ongoing covid pandemic, I have thought that the community and our classes have been more connected than ever—our classes have been our students' connection (and our connection) to people and to the community. Without my classes, I would have been really lonely...and our students would have been isolated too.

When I think of the community resources that we were able to tell our students about, that really made our classes essential. Food banks and hygiene pickups, etc. Those were real/authentic needs. Getting students vaccinated/tested/etc. Were also real needs. We regularly connect our students to community resources like the library, other classes, medical facilities, job fairs, etc.

*Let's talk not just about creating a classroom community—but how we get our students to connect with the community at large.*

### **First breakout discussion:**

1. How do you bring the community into your class?
2. What community resources do you provide to your students?

### **Second breakout discussion:**

1. What parts/activities/lessons from your textbook lend themselves to using authentic/real life experience?
2. How do you (or could you) teach authentic digital literacy in your classes, for example, doing internet searches, teaching how to evaluate websites and check facts?
3. Does the level you teach make a difference in how your lessons can be connected to the community?
4. What are the differences if you're in person or online, if any?

**Thanks to Ahri Lee for the idea of sharing our links and to Elizabeth (Betsy) Ljubic for creating this Google Doc where participants shared the community resources that we mentioned in our session today.**

Thank you to the attendees who shared these valuable resources:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist/>

(Immigration information, English classes)

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/>

(Wifi hotspots available for 2 week checkout)

There is a gap of availability to technology and wifi for adult learners.

What MC resources are available to AELG students?

Casa de Maryland

<https://wearecasa.org/>

Free clothes for job interviews

A Wider Circle (Women & Men) - Silver Spring

<http://awidercircle.org/workforcedevelopmentprogram/>

Free Suit Rental (Men) - National wide

<https://jailstojobs.org/hm-offers-free-interview-suit-rental-for-men-across-the-u-s-through-one-second-suit/>

Suited for Change (Women) - Washington, DC

<https://www.suitedforchange.org/client-resources>

LinkedIn Learning is an on-demand learning solution designed to help you build new skills and advance your career.

[https://info.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/information-technology/training/linkedin\\_learning.html](https://info.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/information-technology/training/linkedin_learning.html)

The Educational Opportunity Center program is sponsored by a TRIO grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Post-secondary Education and Montgomery College to serve participants in seven sections of Montgomery County-- Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Wheaton, Kensington, Aspen Hill, Rockville and Gaithersburg.

The purpose of EOC is to provide assistance to individuals that have a desire to enter or re-enter college or a vocational program. Education Specialists provide information, guidance/advising and application assistance with regard to career decision-making, college or vocational admissions and applying for financial aid.

The goal is to help individuals enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) programs, GED programs, technical programs, or two or four-year colleges and universities and to assist in the process of obtaining the necessary financial aid to meet tuition costs.

<https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/special-programs/trio-programs-at-mc/educational-opportunity-center.html>

**Here is the info to set up your Big Interview account:**

**STEP 1: Go to <https://montgomerycollege.biginterview.com/> and click "Register".**

STEP 2: Complete registration process (MUST use your montgomerycollege.edu email)

STEP 3: You'll then receive a confirmation email at your SCHOOL email address. Click "Verify" in the email, and you'll be able to start using Big Interview.

Enjoy,

Student Employment Services

240-567-4449

Free tax preparation (individuals making \$58,000 or less)

[Montgomery County Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program VITA \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](http://montgomerycountymd.gov)

Speaker from DHHS- Rebecca Smith

Rental Assistance

Down payment assistance

POWERPOINT GAMES: <https://tekhnologic.wordpress.com/2016/12/27/10-powerpoint-games/>

Authentic English Resources:

<https://eslvideo.com/index.php>

<https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/>

Volunteer opportunities in the community:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/>

[We Speak NYC \(cityofnewyork.us\)](http://www.cityofnewyork.us)

[ESLVideo.com | ESL Video | Free English Lessons](http://www.eslvideo.com)