

**From:** [Dodge, Gail](#)  
**To:** [Dodge, Gail](#)  
**Cc:** [Stephen, Andrea R.](#); [Wallach, Josh](#); [Whitfield, Tiffany L.](#)  
**Subject:** Monday Matters: Student Success  
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Dear Colleagues:

You may already be aware of several activities underway at ODU to work on issues related to student success. One is the series of Monday conversations that have been organized by Academic Affairs to discuss ideas from the book by Tia McNair, et al., *Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success*. The author gave a talk to our campus on March 10 and now there are a series of “Monday Meet Ups” from 12-1 pm every Monday from March 15 to May 17 to discuss these ideas. To register for those discussions, please [click here](#).

ODU has also embarked on a project funded by Lumina titled, *Designing a Student-Ready College for African American and LatinX Learners*. There are 10 teams of faculty and students working to identify challenges that our students face and propose solutions. Since ODU has traditional and non-traditional students, one goal of the Lumina project is to be more accommodating to students and to shift the blame away from their deficiencies while changing the culture to be more nurturing. I suspect some of you are on one of the Lumina teams. The math success team, which includes Melva Grant, Tiffany Whitfield, and Alvin Holder, has found, among other things, that students don’t know what resources are available to them when things are not going well. That implies that, even if you announced tutoring, office hours, and other sources of help early in the semester, they may not know where to turn when they are struggling. They also learned that students often are not aware of the Math Science Resource Center (MSRC) and its locations, including the availability of online tutoring.

Next year the MSRC will undergo some changes. For one thing, all Chemistry tutoring will be moving to the new building. In addition, the location of MSRC tutoring in OCNPS will move to OCNPS 214 and be combined with the Physics Learning Center. Andrea Stephen, Manager of the MSRC and Josh Wallach, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies, will be working on a plan for other changes to the MSRC in the next few months. They welcome your input and suggestions.

In the meantime, Tiffany Whitfield, Strategic Communications and Marketing Coordinator for the College of Sciences, is working with Andrea to better publicize the MSRC to our students through all forms of communication from videos, to social media and on-line. You can assist that effort by reiterating to your students that help is available at the MSRC, both in person and online, as described [here](#).

I hope you will engage with the effort to improve student success at ODU. I welcome your suggestions and feedback.

Best Regards,

Gail

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