



**Dr. Brian S. Merritt, President**

August 14, 2023

Dear MTCC Students -

Welcome back to Fall Semester 2023. We are looking forward to the semester beginning on August 14, 2023.

In an effort to control the cost of textbooks and associated websites accessed by course codes, McDowell Tech has entered a partnership with textbook publisher Cengage. As a result, many programs and courses offered this fall will use eTextbooks and course websites produced by Cengage.

Students enrolled in one of these programs or taking these courses will pay a \$210.00 textbook fee this fall, which will replace a typical textbook cost for students per semester of \$600 - \$900. This purchase and activation of the associated first day access account will trigger a one year (12 month) subscription to Cengage Unlimited, a service that allows students access to any Cengage text or website at no additional cost. Subscriptions that begin this fall will allow access Cengage texts for courses offered in spring and summer 2024 as well.

This \$210.00 fee has been added to student accounts for those enrolled in a Cengage course this fall as of this afternoon, Friday, August 4, 2023. Dually enrolled high school students of McDowell High School, McDowell Virtual Academy, McDowell Early College or McDowell Academy for Innovation, will not see this fee on their account as it has already been paid through the McDowell Tech partnership with McDowell County Schools. All other students must pay this fee if it has been charged to their account.

Again, this is a one-year subscription (12 months - good for Fall 2023, Spring 2024 and Summer 2024) that will allow students first day access to any Cengage materials that are being used in MTCC courses that have switched to Cengage texts. While many students are not used to seeing additional charges added to student accounts, this partnership with Cengage prevents students from experiencing the 'sticker shock' of purchasing multiple course codes and textbooks as well as paying additional shipping costs. This first day access includes an [eTextbook, study tools, and additional learning resources](#) directly

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through your OpenLMS course. For students who prefer to rent an actual textbook, please watch this [instructional video](#) for more information.

The [MTCC Virtual Bookstore](#) will contain information regarding which classes will be utilizing Cengage materials. Students will have 1st day access to their Cengage course through the college's learning management system, OpenLMS.

If you have any questions, you can review [Cengage Resources](#), or contact one of the following:

[Bryan Horn - Cengage Account Executive](#)

MTCC Business Office - 828-652-0696

MTCC Bookstore - 828-652-0613

Dean of Students, Chuck Bowling - 828-659-0459

Vice President of Academics & Student Services, Chief Academic Officer, Valerie Dobson  
- 828-652-0699

We ask for your patience and understanding as we adjust student accounts to ensure accuracy over the next week as this is a *\*NEW\** process for all of us.

Thank you!



Valerie Dobson, EdS, RHIA, CCS  
Vice President of Academics & Student Services  
Chief Academic Officer