

# The Prince George's Post



A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER FOR PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY *SINCE 1932*

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On Sept. 16, officials from the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, and local advocacy groups celebrated the completion of the WB&A Trail Patuxent River Bridge with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Horsepen Park in Bowie.

## State, County Officials Cut Ribbon on WB&A Trail Patuxent River Bridge, Closing Major Trail Gap

*Bridge Strengthens Regional and National Trail Networks While Expanding Safe Recreation and Transportation Options*

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (Sept. 16, 2025)—Officials from the State of Maryland, Anne Arundel County, Prince George's County, and local advocacy groups today celebrated the completion of the WB&A Trail Patuxent River Bridge with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Open to the public since May 2025, the bridge closes a long-standing gap in the WB&A Trail, linking nearly 13 miles of continuous paths across Anne Arundel and Prince George's counties. It also strength-

ens three major national trail systems: the East Coast Greenway, the American Discovery Trail, and the 9/11 National Memorial Trail.

This project was the result of close collaboration among Anne Arundel County's Department of Recreation and Parks, M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George's County, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the State Highway Administration. It received significant support and funding from federal, state, and local partners, along with the tireless advocacy of regional bike and trail organizations.

"This bridge is proof of what happens when we work together across county lines," said Anne Arundel County Executive Stuart Pittman. "By connecting the WB&A Trail, we've given our residents and visitors a safer, healthier way to get where they're going while becoming part of a national network of trails. It's a win for our environment, for regional connectivity, and for the people who will enjoy this bridge for generations to come."

"The completion of the WB&A Trail

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## Governor Moore Announces Microsoft to Open Quantum Research Center at the University of Maryland Discovery District

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 17, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced that Microsoft will open a new quantum research center in the heart of the University of Maryland's Discovery District to serve as a development hub for next-generation quantum technologies. The partnership between the State of Maryland, the University of Maryland Enterprise Corporation, and Microsoft marks a critical milestone in Maryland's momentum to become a global leader for quantum information science and technology innovation.

"Maryland is making big bets on the future to grow our economy and drive innovation. Quantum is at the center of that strategy," said Gov. Moore. "We are honored to partner with Microsoft in this effort, as we work together to create jobs, spark discovery, and stimulate growth. And together, we will continue to make Maryland the best place in the world to change the world."

The center will provide early access to Microsoft's quantum technology to support collaborative hardware and software development between government agencies, academic institutions and quantum companies. The center will also attract skilled quantum

experts to the state, providing a space for Microsoft engineers to interact and collaborate with the Maryland quantum ecosystem, including University of Maryland students and researchers. The University of Maryland Discovery District's proximity to key quantum institutions and the Moore-Miller Administration's demonstrated commitment to quantum industry investment through the Capital of Quantum Initiative were key factors that led to the new partnership.

"We are excited to be part of Governor Moore's vision for the Capital of Quantum through the opening of this unique, partner-focused quantum center in Maryland's Discovery District," said Microsoft Executive Vice President Jason Zander. "Together, we can advance quantum technology and accelerate U.S. leadership in science and innovation. This partnership exemplifies what is possible when state and federal leaders, academia, and industry unite for a common purpose."

Launched by Governor Moore at IonQ's College Park headquarters in January, the Capital of Quantum Initiative is a public-private partnership with the state, the University of Maryland, College Park and private partners to catalyze more than \$1 billion in investments in Maryland's quan-

tum industry. With an initial \$52.5 million investment from Governor Moore's Fiscal Year 2026 budget, the University of Maryland and its partners have pledged more than \$70 million to strengthen the state's quantum ecosystem through academics, workforce development, and technical support.

Since launching the Capital of Quantum Initiative this year, Maryland has welcomed nearly a dozen quantum startups to the Discovery District's diverse network of quantum innovators, and IonQ has announced three significant mergers with quantum and aerospace firms.

In April, the governor signed a memorandum of agreement between the State of Maryland and DARPA to establish the "Capital Quantum Benchmarking Hub" at the University of Maryland. The agreement marked a formalization of state and federal government partnership to test and evaluate quantum information science in the state, unlocking up to \$100 million in federal funds to match the state's quantum computing investments—some of which will be used to invest in Microsoft's new quantum center. The partnership with DARPA solid-

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## Celebrate the 5th Annual Festival of Cultures With the Prince George's County Memorial Library System!

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George's County Memorial Library System

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 22, 2025)—On **Saturday, September 27**, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) will be hosting its 5th annual Festival of Cultures, an all-day, all-ages, free event that celebrates the County's vibrant and diverse community.

The PGCMLS Festival of Cultures honors the rich diversity woven throughout Prince George's County, and fosters deeper bonds of understanding among neighbors. The Library invites community members to come together at the festival to build connections with each other through music, dance, art, and a sharing of traditions.

"The Festival of Cultures theme—Many Cultures, One Heartbeat—encourages people to remember the threads that connect us, while also celebrating our differences," says Maribel Rodriguez, PGCMLS Bilingual Program and Outreach Associate. "This festival is where the Library's diverse community can come together to recognize our common humanity and to celebrate all of our different traditions, languages, dances, food, and stories."

This year's Festival of Cultures will be held at the South Bowie Branch Library from 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 27. In addition to local community resource partners, the anticipated performer line-up includes Semilla Cultural, the Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFE), and Filipino folk dance troupe MABUHAY Inc. The Library's own Kofi Bart-Martin, a native Fante speaker, will also be giving a presentation about the history and culture of the Akan people and language.

PGCMLS customers of all ages are invited to join their neighbors for a day of having fun and building connections with neighbors of all backgrounds!

**Festival of Cultures: Many Cultures, One Heartbeat**  
Free | Saturday, September 27, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. | All Ages | South Bowie Branch Library

Community members are invited to join PGCMLS at the 5th Annual Festival of Cultures: Many Cultures, One Heartbeat!

**Featured programs include:**  
**Bomba Storytime: Presented by Semilla Cultural**  
10:45 a.m. | Ages 5–12

This special storytime will feature the author of "Sofia and her Bomba Drum," Isha M. Renta López, a Puerto Rico–born meteorologist, award-winning community leader, and practitioner of the Afro-Puerto Rican tradition of bomba since 2007. This program will feature live music!

**Filipino Folk Dance: Presented by MABUHAY, INC.**  
11:45 a.m. | All Ages

You are invited to enjoy an engaging and colorful dance performance by MABUHAY, INC., a local Filipino-American community group. Their dance performances will include carinosa, a romantic couple's dance using handkerchiefs and fans; pagapir, a graceful royal court fan dance from the Maranao Tribe; and tinikling, a traditional Philippine Folk dance with bamboo poles.

**Akan of the West Coast: The Fante People and Language**  
12:45 p.m. | Adults

In this special program, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of the Akan people, as well as the Fante language and culture. Presented by native Fante speaker Kofi Bart-Martin, Library Associate II for the Sojourner Truth Room at the Oxon Hill Branch Library, this program is a unique opportunity to connect with and understand the essence of Akan culture through its language and customs.

**Drumming: Presented by Cultural Academy for Excellence**  
1:45 p.m. | All Ages

This drumming performance will be presented by the Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFE), a Mount Rainier-based youth program that uses the visual and performing arts as the catalyst to develop passion and discipline for learning, leadership, and academic achievement.

*The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is a beacon within its diverse and dynamic community. The Library serves Prince George's County, Maryland's 966,000+ residents through 19 public branches, a law library in the County Correctional Center; various pop-up services and events, and 24/7 access to free online resources. As a trusted and responsive community leader, PGCMLS democratizes knowledge and opportunity by providing safe, accessible spaces where customers of all backgrounds can freely engage with the resources needed to build knowledge, literacy, skills, and creativity at every phase of life. Learn more at [pgcmls.info/about-us](http://pgcmls.info/about-us).*

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# TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

## Brandywine-Aquasco by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

### ANNIVERSARY HOMECOMING

St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Baden Parish will be celebrating their 149th Anniversary Homecoming on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 10 a.m. Guest Speaker, Minister Faye A. Johnson from Genesis Covenant Church in Clinton, Maryland. Message for the day is “We Are Trusting and Seeing What God Can Do.” St. Philips Church, Baden Parish is located at 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. There will be a lite lunch after the service. Come out and bring a friend.

### CRAB FEAST

We will have a Crab Feast Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 2–5 p.m. All YOU CAN EAT; ALL YOU CAN LOVE! At St. Phillip’s Church Hall, 13801 Baden Westwood Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20613. All tickets in advance are \$60.00 Adults, \$25.00 12 & under. Land Lovers Food and Drinks included. Tickets: Vivian 804-301-9530, Shirley 302-690-4260, Michele 240-882-3369. Peter A. Gross, Sr. Scholarship/Memorial Fund “Proceeds Go to Future Scholarships.”

### PHSAA

Good News: We are trying to find other ways of communicating with you, we have 124 people on our Facebook page (Pommonkey High School Alumni Association) and 65 members on our email list. “Like us” on Facebook to stay informed of our most recent news! If you are not familiar with using Facebook or other forms of social media (and computers, or cell phones), your grandkids are excellent helpers. They use social media all the time and can teach you or help you find the answers. They can access the site for you on your device. Use this free expert service you have at your fingertips. Do not be embarrassed. You taught them and their parents how to use a spoon. Let them teach you.

### CUMC 2025 ANNUAL REVIVAL

Join us Saturday, September 27, 2025, 4 p.m. for our 2025 Annual Revival. Clinton United Methodist Church, 10700 Brandywine Road, Brandywine, Maryland 20735. Phone: 301-868-1281 Rev. Melaina Trice, Pastor. Revival Theme is “Think on These Things” (Noble, Lovely, Admirable, Right, Pure) Guest Speaker is Rev. LaTaska M. Nelson, Pastor of Community UMC and Douglas Memorial UMC, Washington, D.C.

### CALLING ALL BSU GRADUATES

Interested in being an Alumni Volunteer Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at the 14th Annual Bulldog Golf Classic Clinic? TEE OFF FOR TEAM BSU. Contact Mr. Altavon Clark at (301) 860-4300 or email ALUMNI@BOWIESTATE.EDU.

### INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY

You are invited to join Clinton United Methodist Church Sunday, September 28, 2025, 10:30 a.m. International Sunday. Guest

Speaker is Rev. Nacisse Philips, Retired UMC Pastor who served at Hempstead UMC, New York. Special Music by The Tags Steel Band. Clinton United Methodist Church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road, Clinton, Maryland 20735. Telephone: 301-868-1281. Rev. Melaina Trice, Pastor.

### YOUNG ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT ALEXIS SOLIS

Meet and Greet Aquatics with Alexis Solis class of 2015 proud Bowie State University Alumna. Free Pool Day for Seniors and Bowie State Alumni! Wednesday, October 1, 2025. Reporting Time 10 a.m. Enjoy a refreshing swim, light refreshments, and community connection all on us. Join Alexis Solis, fellow Bulldogs, and community members for a casual meet and greet to talk about her vision for Maryland 5th District focused on education, community wellness, and bold leadership. RSVP required—Email: info@votealexissolis.com.

Free admission for seniors and BSU alumni, light refreshments served, casual attire, and optional swimwear. Networking and fun in a relaxed, welcoming space Alumni Aquatics. Are you connected to take advantage of what your alma mater offers you? Take advantage of free open swim at Bowie State’s Aquatics Center every Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more about the Aquatics Center, contact: Mark Wascavage at mwascavage@bowiestate.edu. Bowie State University Aquatic Facility, Leonidas S. James Physical Education Complex. Let us make waves for a stronger Maryland BOLD LEADERSHIP • REAL CHANGE • BOWIE MADE.

### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University campus is buzzing with excitement as they have begun a new semester. From the classroom to the community, Bowie State’s programs empower students to move Boldly Forward as they create, innovate and lead.

Bowie State University, Maryland’s oldest HBCU, provides you with an exceptional and affordable education, including more than 65 Bachelor’s, master’s doctoral and certificate programs. Our proximity to major metropolitan areas gives students easy access to high-value internships and career opportunities, cultural experiences and recreation. Take the Next Steps. Visit, Apply, Request Information. Bowie State University (1865). A University System of Maryland Member Institution. Bowie State University is located at 14000 Jericho Park Road, Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465. Telephone: 301-860-4000 or 1-877-77-Bowie. Contact web-masterbowiestate.edu.

### FOODEES FEST

The Food Culture Festival will be held at Tanger National Harbor on October 17, 2025, at 1 p.m. Tanger Outlets National Harbor, 6800 Oxon Hill Road, National Harbor, Maryland 20745. Tickets and information: Visit Eventbrite, the Destination Magazine, AllEvents.

## Trail from A1

Patuxent River Bridge is a milestone achievement for Prince George’s County residents and trail users across the state,” said Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy. “This project exemplifies the power of strong partnerships. We are proud to have collaborated with our neighbors in Anne Arundel County to deliver a resource that promotes health and recreation while providing a crucial link for several major trail systems.”

“This new pedestrian and bicycle bridge safely brings communities in Anne Arundel and Prince George’s counties closer together, while also serving as a platform for connecting Marylanders to opportunities,” said Joe McAndrew, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Project Development with the Maryland Department of Transportation. “The Department is a proud supporter of this project, which shows the great collaboration between state and local governments. Thank you to County Executives Braveboy and Pittman and their teams for all their hard work in bringing this project to the finish line.”

“Closing this gap on the WB&A Trail has been a long-awaited project, and its completion is a huge success for our trail system,” said Anne Arundel County Director of Recreation and Parks Jessica Leys. “This bridge allows us to offer an uninterrupted 13-mile continuous trail for residents and visitors. It’s an investment in our community’s quality of life and a legacy for future generations who will enjoy this fantastic recreational amenity.” Darius Stanton, Director of M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County, added, “The completion of the Patuxent River Bridge is a powerful investment in our community’s future. It not only fills a critical gap in our trail network but also fulfills our mission to provide equitable access to nature, promote healthy lifestyles, and connect our residents with the natural and cultural resources that define our region. As someone extremely proud to be a native of Anne Arundel County and now a proud resident for 23 years in Prince George’s County, I believe this trail will be a greenway that will continue to build bridges for our communities to grow green together.”

*The WB&A Trail follows the abandoned right-of-way of the Washington, Baltimore, and Annapolis Electric Railroad. It provides a scenic, off-road path for hikers, cyclists, and runners, serving as a key transportation and recreation corridor in Central Maryland.*

*With over 29,000 acres of parkland, trails, athletic fields, playgrounds, and more, the M-NCPPC, Department of Parks and Recreation in Prince George’s County provides an award-winning park system through progressive, quality, innovative leadership and a commitment to its community and environment. The Department delivers first-class recreational activities and programs for people of all ages and ability levels. It strives to improve the quality of life for Prince George’s County residents and the communities in which they live, work, and raise families. The Department’s Formula 2040 Plan establishes a framework that will ensure the Department can meet future parks and recreation programmatic and facility needs, fulfilling its mission to determine the combination of land, facilities, and programs that will provide appropriate experiences for the future. Visit www.pg parks.com.*



“This project exemplifies the power of strong partnerships. We are proud to have collaborated with our neighbors in Anne Arundel County to deliver a resource that promotes health and recreation while providing a crucial link for several major trail systems,” said Prince George’s County Executive Aisha Braveboy.

## Calendar of Events

### A Reception for “Kin: Rooted in Hope”

Date and time: Monday, October 6, 2025, 5–7 p.m. Doors open at 4:45 p.m.

Description: Join Maryland Humanities for their annual One Maryland One Book Author Reception featuring the poetry and art of a Maryland family by Carole Boston Weatherford & Jeffery Boston Weatherford. This year’s One Maryland One Book Reception will be a visual celebration of Kin: Rooted in Hope. Presented by Maryland Humanities and hosted by the Riversdale House Museum, this location is a National Historic Landmark. A restored, five-part, stucco-covered brick plantation, this home was built between 1801 and 1807. With up to 55 enslaved persons

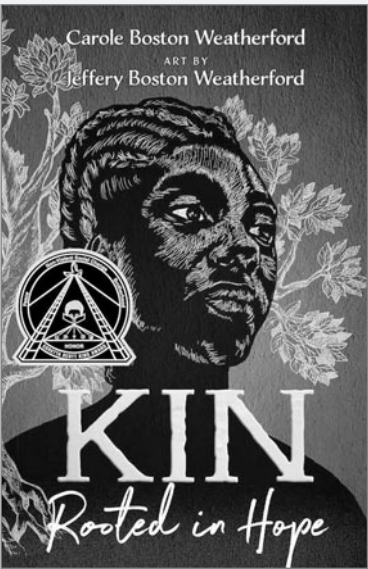


PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND HUMANITIES

working the grounds at its height, the Riversdale House Museum is the perfect venue to help tell the story of enslavement and one family’s resilience towards gaining freedom. Make sure you join us promptly at 5 p.m., as this year’s reception will include a tour of the Riversdale House Museum featuring Jeffery Boston Weatherford’s art skillfully placed throughout the home, along with a program featuring both Carole and Jeffery. Space is limited, so don’t miss this exhibit and conversation.

Cost: General Admission \$50; Student \$15, plus fees. Sales end October 2, see link on eventbrite.

Ages: All ages

Location: Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road Riverdale Park, MD 20737

### Columbia Air Center—Determined to Fly Exhibition Opening Week

Date and time: Friday, October 10, 2025

Description: Visit the museum to celebrate the opening of the museum’s newest exhibition, Columbia Air Center—Determined to Fly! Discover the untold story of Columbia Air Center, the nation’s first licensed Black-owned airport. Through vivid storytelling, holograms, and digital interactives, explore this overlooked chapter in Maryland’s aviation history. Included with museum admission.

Cost: FREE with museum admission; \$5 adult, \$4 senior, \$2 student, FREE children under 2 & active duty military

Ages: All

Location: College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD 20740

Contact: 301-864-6029 collegeparkaviation@pgparks.com

### Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department Open House

Date and time: Saturday, October 11, 2025, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Description: The PGFD invites you to join us and many of our local, state and federal partners in public safety at Station 855/Bunker Hill for our 2025 Open House! Food trucks, fun and games, Touch-A-Truck, Fire and Life Safety Education.

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Location: Bunker Hill Station 855, 3716 Rhode Island Ave, Brentwood, MD 20722

### Annual Green Festival

Date and time: Saturday, October 11, 2025, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Description: Join the Prince George’s County Department of the Environment, in partnership with the City of Hyattsville and Prince George’s County Park and Planning, for its annual Green Festival (formerly known as Green Summit). New this year: Our upgraded pet pavilion, named Pawchella, where you will find information on pet exhibitors and vendors, pet adoptions, licenses, and much more. Find more information, including exhibitor and vendor applications, at mypgc/greensummit.

Cost: Free

Ages: All

Location: David C. Driskell Community Park, 3911 Hamilton St, Hyattsville, MD 20781

Contact: mypgc/greensummit

### Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene

Date and time: Saturday, October 25, 2025, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.

Description: Grab your supplies and join friends, neighbors, community groups, and volunteers for Clean & Green: Elevate the Scene, the first community-wide beautification effort of County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy’s administration. Registration is due by October 17, 2025. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T) will provide supplies for volunteers, including garbage bags, gloves, safety vests, litter grabbers, and mulch. To register and obtain more information, visit http://mypgc.us/CleanandGreen.

### Waterfront Art Festival

Date and time: Saturday, October 25, 2025, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Description: Join us at Bladensburg Waterfront Park for a day filled with creativity and inspiration. Explore a variety of artworks from talented local artists, ranging from paintings to jewelry, photography and sculpture, and everything in between. Immerse yourself in the vibrant art market while enjoying live music and the scenic views of the Anacostia River. Grab tasty food and treats, create some art of your own, or take a relaxing boat tour! Whether you’re an art enthusiast or just looking for a fun day out, this festival has something for everyone. Don’t miss out on this exciting event!

Cost: FREE

Location: Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710

Contact: (301) 779-0371; Maryland Relay 7-1-1 BladensburgWP@pgparks.com



# COMMUNITY

## One Heart, Many Lives— New Carrollton Community Day Hispanic Heritage Month & African Heritage Month Celebration

By YVETTE WATSON  
City of New Carrollton

NEW CARROLLTON, Md. (Sept. 23, 2025)—The City of New Carrollton is excited to host its upcoming Community Day: International Festival – Hispanic Heritage Month and African Heritage Month Celebration. This free, family-friendly event will take place on **Saturday, September 27, 2025**, from 12–6 p.m. at Beckett Field.



This year’s festival theme, “One Heart, Many Lives,” highlights the City’s dedication to inclusivity, diversity, and togetherness. Over the years, Community Day has grown into New Carrollton’s signature event, uniting neighbors and showcasing the spirit that makes the City unique.

The celebration will feature a vibrant mix of cultural traditions through live music, international cuisine, games, and activities for all ages. Guests can enjoy more than 60 food and craft vendors, community resources, colleges and trade schools, and interactive entertainment. Attendees are encouraged to wear traditional cultural attire for a chance to win raffle prizes.

Mayor Phelicia E. Nembhard stated, “Community Day is more than just a celebration; it’s a reflection of the rich cultures and traditions that make New Carrollton special. As we honor Hispanic and African Heritage Month, and bring together residents of all backgrounds, we are reminded that our strength lies in our UNITY. I invite everyone to join us for a day of culture, fellowship, and fun.”

Mayor Nembhard will also present official proclamations for Hispanic Heritage and African Heritage Month, underscoring the City’s commitment to celebrating its diverse cultural community. These proclamations honor the rich traditions, contributions, and history that continue to shape New Carrollton. The proclamation reading will stand as a unifying moment, reaffirming the City’s commitment to inclusivity and cultural pride.

With 36.2% of New Carrollton’s population identifying as Hispanic or Latino according to the 2020 Census, this year’s festival holds special significance as it falls within Hispanic Heritage Month, offering a meaningful opportunity to honor the traditions, contributions, and culture of the Hispanic community while celebrating African heritage as well.

*The City of New Carrollton celebrates 72 years of service to the community. Known for its rich history, diverse community and thriving economy, New Carrollton is an award-winning sustainable City situated outside of Washington, DC, offering residents and visitors alike a blend of urban convenience and suburban charm. To learn more about New Carrollton, visit [www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov](http://www.NewCarrolltonMD.gov). Stay updated with the latest news, events, and updates by following us on our social media platforms: Facebook: @NewCarrolltonCity; Twitter: @NewCarrolltonMD; and Instagram: @CityNewCarrollton.*

## Marietta House Museum Presents Mindfulness Walk: Connecting History and Nature

By STACEY HAWKINS  
Marietta House Museum

Please join us on **Saturday, October 11**, 2–3:30 p.m. for a Mindfulness Walk: Connecting History and Nature. Enjoy a meditative walk in nature imbued with history led by Susan West Montgomery on Marietta House Museum grounds.

This is a family friendly program that allows visitors to enjoy the spaces in a quiet and reflective way. Please wear comfortable shoes. Mats for sitting on the ground will be provided.

Recommended for Ages 5 & up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$5/ person. Children under 12/Free. Registration recommended but not required. Walk-ins are welcome. Register with ticket code: MHM-SPEC-GA-20251011.

For more information, please call 301-464-5291 or email [mariettahouse@pgparks.com](mailto:mariettahouse@pgparks.com)

Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale, MD and is a property of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

### Center from AI

ified Maryland as a strategic destination for companies leading in quantum like Microsoft, which is one of two companies in the most advanced phase of DARPA’s Quantum Benchmarking Initiative.

Microsoft’s new quantum center will give quantum experts in government and academia direct access to advanced quantum hardware prototypes like Majorana 1, the world’s first quantum chip powered by a topological qubit design. Unveiled earlier this year, Majorana 1 has the potential to deliver error-resistant quantum systems that can be scaled for commercial use several years earlier than originally predicted. When operational, Microsoft’s quantum center will be a collaborative space that facilitates hands-on research, prototyping, and benchmarking for innovations like Majorana 1 in partnership with DARPA’s testing and evaluation team—paving the way for innovative breakthroughs to take place within years rather than decades.

“This is a landmark moment for the University of Maryland and for the entire state. The launch of Microsoft’s advanced quantum lab in our Discovery District is a testament to the incredible momentum we’ve built in quantum science and innovation. It reflects years of world-class research, visionary investment, and bold collaboration that together have made Maryland and the greater DC region the true Capital of Quantum,” said University of Maryland President Darryll J. Pines. “We are proud to work alongside Gov. Moore, Microsoft and our federal partners to drive the next wave of quantum breakthroughs—and to do it right here in College Park.

## Experience the Spirit of Greece at the 2025 St. Theodore Greek Festival

*Authentic cuisine, live music, dancing, and faith-filled hospitality returns this September*

By PRESS OFFICER  
St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church

LANHAM, Md. (Sept. 21, 2025)—OPA! The beloved St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church Cultural Festival returns **September 26–28, 2025**, inviting the community to experience the vibrant sights, sounds, and flavors of Greece right in Lanham. One of the region’s longest-running Greek festivals, the event brings together thousands from across Maryland, Washington D.C., and Virginia for three days of food, fun, and cultural celebration.

Since 1990, St. Theodore’s annual festival has welcomed families, friends, and neighbors to explore Greek traditions through food, music, and faith. The festival features a wide array of homemade Greek specialties, lively bouzouki music,

traditional folk dancing, and guided tours of the church’s breathtaking architecture, vibrant iconography and timeless beauty.

“Our annual festival is more than a cultural event—it’s a reflection of our Orthodox faith, our love of hospitality, and the strength of our parish community,” said St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church’s Rev. Fr. Manuel J. Burdusi, Protopresbyter and Parish Priest. “We are grateful for everyone who attends, and for the volunteers who make this celebration possible year after year.”

### Festival highlights:

- Authentic Greek Cuisine: Enjoy gyros, souvlaki, spanakopita, pastitsio, Greek cheeses, loukoumades, baklava, and more—paired with Greek wines, beer, ouzo, and traditional coffee.
- Live Music & Dancing: Dance to live

bouzouki and watch performances by the St. Theodore Greek dancers in full traditional costume.

- Church Tours: Step inside the beautifully adorned St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church to explore its stunning iconography, mosaics, and sacred art.
- Marketplace: Shop Greek imports, jewelry, Orthodox icons, and artisan gifts.
- Family-Friendly Fun: Free admission and activities for all ages—bring the whole family!

### Event Details:

- September 26 (11 a.m. to 9 p.m.), 27 (11 a.m. to 9 p.m.), 28 (12 p.m. to 7 p.m.)
- St. Theodore Greek Orthodox Church
- Free admission—all are welcome!

## PGCPS Students Record Broad Gains on 2025 State MCAP Assessments

*Many students recorded stronger year-over-year gains than their peers statewide as leaders focus on further accelerating growth.*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Prince George’s County Public Schools

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (Sept. 18, 2025)—Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) students demonstrated notable gains on the 2025 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), with results showing progress across grade levels and strong comparisons to peers statewide.

PGCPS increased proficiency rates across all mathematics grades and courses and in most English Language Arts (ELA) grades (with Grade 4 declining, as did the state). On average, math scores rose 3.9 percentage points—nearly double the statewide increase of 2.0. ELA performance, on average, grew by 2.8 points, closely aligned with Maryland’s overall 2.9-point rise.

Perhaps most encouraging, more than 30,000 PGCPS students are within reach of proficiency—a clear runway for acceleration. 20,815 PGCPS students are within 10 scale-score points of proficiency (13,773 in ELA; 7,042 in math), including nearly 9,800 within just five points. Among students who met the mark this year, 2,643 more reached proficiency and 737 more advanced to the distinguished level compared with last year.

“This year’s MCAP data provides a snapshot of real progress across our schools, even as we are reminded there is more work ahead,” said Interim Su-

perintendent Dr. Shawn Joseph. “These outcomes are not a story of deficiency—they are a story of momentum and lift-off. Rather than fixating on gaps, we must focus on achievement, asking whether students are growing at the pace they deserve and how we accelerate that growth.”

### Equity-Honest Comparisons

Looking through an equity-focused lens, PGCPS students shine:

- More than 85% of students are performing at or above their like peers statewide.
- Black/African American students outperformed statewide peers by 4.3 percentage points in ELA and 1.9 in mathematics.
- Hispanic/Latino students outperformed statewide peers by 1.9 in ELA and 1.2 in math.
- Multilingual learners improved in all math grades (and Algebra I) and in ELA grades 3, 6, 7, 8, and English 10.
- Students with disabilities improved in both math and ELA across grades, with Grade 6 as the only exception.
- PGCPS CSI schools are closing gaps at a higher rate than many other state-identified CSI schools. Many are showing solid progress, with some schools showing gains between 5–10 percentage points.

### Where Work Must Intensify

The data also highlight areas for

growth. Nearly half of elementary students scored zero on constructed-response writing and in mathematics, about 25% of eighth graders scored zero on math modeling.

“These are not verdicts on children; they are feedback for us about the kinds of thinking we must teach explicitly every day,” Dr. Joseph said.

To accelerate learning, the district has outlined the following priorities:

- Daily writing and discourse across disciplines.
- Public reasoning and multi-step problem solving in mathematics.
- Strengthened support for multilingual learners and students with disabilities.
- Addressing chronic absenteeism as an equity issue.
- Expanding internships and dual enrollment opportunities.
- Building an organizational culture that supports and develops educators.

“In Prince George’s County, we will define our work through rigorous instruction, emancipatory pedagogy, and an ethic of care that insists every student is seen as capable, creative, and worthy of the very best we can give,” Dr. Joseph said. “Tests may classify; they cannot define. We will continue to report results with integrity and context, compare like with like, and tell the fuller story of growth, gain, and genius.”

District leaders present[ed] 2025 MCAP data at a Board of Education work session on Thursday, Sept. 18.

## Burnett Center for Hope & Healing Hosts an Evening of Connection and Inspiration

By ELYZABETH MARCUSSEN  
Hospice of the Chesapeake

PRINCE FREDERICK, Md. (Sept. 17, 2025)—The Burnett Center for Hope & Healing is becoming an important resource for Calvert County. That growth and its impact will be celebrated at “Reflections: An Evening of Connection and Inspiration in Calvert County” from 5 to 7 p.m. **Thursday, Oct. 16**, at 4559 Sixes Road, Prince Frederick, Maryland.

The evening will highlight the breadth of hospice services with integrative and healing arts for mind, body and spirit; foster connections with Calvert County leaders and the Hospice of the Chesapeake team; and feature words of gratitude and inspiration from President and CEO Becky Miller. She will share the nonprofit’s vision for the future, including expanded partnerships with local healthcare providers and county agencies.

Special guest Barbara Burnett, who donated the property in memory of her husband, Robert Burnett, will be in attendance. The program also will include a blessing of the recently restored Labyrinth at Calvert Homestead, illuminated with luminaries.

All are welcome to attend to reflect, renew and rejoice in this cherished space that honors Calvert County traditions.

**RSVP by Oct. 6** to Lauren Thurston at [lthurston@hospicechesapeake.org](mailto:lthurston@hospicechesapeake.org). For questions, call 443-837-1531.

*At Hospice of the Chesapeake, we support individuals and families facing progressive, serious illness to reimagine hope—living each day with intention and peace—while ensuring our nonprofit organization remains a vital resource for future generations.*



PHOTO BY BARBARA BURNETT

**A view of the recently restored Labyrinth at Calvert Homestead, which is adjacent to and accessible from the Burnett Center for Hope and Healing.**

*erations. We develop care plans to minimize symptoms and focus on what matters most for patients and families in Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles and Prince George’s counties. Caring for life throughout the journey with illness and loss is the mission of Hospice of the Chesapeake. For more information, please visit [www.hospicechesapeake.org](http://www.hospicechesapeake.org).*



# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Educational Systems Federal Credit Union Partners With Free State PTA to Provide Financial Literacy Workshops Across Maryland

By PRESS OFFICER  
ESFCU

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 16, 2025)—Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is proud to announce a new partnership with Free State PTA to bring free Financial Literacy Workshops to communities across Maryland.

Through this partnership, every local PTA will have the opportunity to host engaging, informative financial literacy workshops facilitated by Educational Systems FCU. The sessions will cover essential topics such as budgeting, saving

and building healthy financial habits, all at no cost. The goal of the workshops is to support parents, caregivers, students and school employees in developing financial skills that will foster long-term success.

“We’re proud to partner with Free State PTA to bring free financial literacy workshops to PTAs across Maryland,” said Girado Smith, President/CEO of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union. “This collaboration reflects our commitment to empowering the education community with accessible financial solutions that support lifelong financial wellness.”

“We are excited to work alongside a trusted financial institution that understands the unique needs of our school communities,” said Traci Tatum, President of Free State PTA. “Together, we are taking another step toward creating informed, resilient families and stronger schools across Maryland.”

If your school system falls under the Free State PTA umbrella, email FinancialEducation@esfcu.org to schedule a Financial Literacy Workshop to benefit parents, students and school employees.

Educational Systems Federal Credit Union has proudly served the education

community since 1955. With \$1.2 billion in assets and 13 branches, the Credit Union serves over 90,000 members of the education community including school employees, students, parents and individuals working for education-related organizations. For more information and to explore career opportunities with the award-winning organization, visit [www.esfcu.org](http://www.esfcu.org).

Free State PTA is a state-level branch of National PTA, representing parents, teachers, students, and community members. Free State PTA works to promote the welfare of children and youth, foster-

ing collaboration between parents, educators, and stakeholders to enhance education and well-being.

Free State PTA engages in various activities, such as advocating for education-related policies, providing resources and programs for parents and teachers, supporting school improvement efforts and organizing events that encourage family involvement in education. Free State PTA plays a significant role in connecting local PTAs across the state, amplifying their collective voice and striving to create a positive impact on education and children’s lives in Maryland.

## GWRCCC Job Fair to Connect Job Seekers With Over 40 Employers

By PRESS OFFICER  
GWRCCC

WASHINGTON (Sept. 21, 2025)—The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) is excited to invite job seekers to its upcoming Job Fair, where they will have the chance to connect with over 40 employers from various industries.

The GWRCCC Job Fair is designed to help attendees discover new career paths, meet with hiring representatives, and explore a range of job openings in diverse sectors. Job seekers are encouraged to bring their resumes and make meaningful connections with employers looking to grow their teams.

**Why Attend the GWRCCC Job Fair?**

- Meet with over 40 employers representing various fields.
- Explore a variety of job opportunities and engage directly with hiring managers.
- Network with professionals across multiple sectors and gain insights into exciting career

paths.

**Event Details:**

- Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025
- Time: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Location: Westphalia Community Center, Westphalia Road, Upper Marlboro, Maryland

**For Employers:**

Employers interested in participating can register now to join over 40 other companies showcasing their organizations to a diverse pool of talented job seekers. The GWRCCC Job Fair offers a unique opportunity for companies to:

- Connect with qualified candidates across different industries.
- Promote open positions and meet motivated individuals ready to contribute.

Registration for Employers is FREE: Employers are encouraged to secure their spots promptly. This event provides an ideal platform for recruiting top talent.

Whether you’re a job seeker ready to launch your next career move or an employer seeking the best talent, the GWRCCC Job

Fair is the ideal place to build valuable professional connections.

“GWRCCC is dedicated to helping people get training and jobs. Living in Prince George’s County, this job fair is very important to me because so many of my neighbors and friends are looking for jobs,” stated Antoine M. Thompson, CEO & Executive Director of GWRCCC.

For more information on the job fair and future events, please visit the GWRCCC website or contact us at 1-202-671-1580!

Register:  
<https://Sept302025-JobFair-UpperMarlboro.eventbrite.com>

*The Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), focused in the Washington, D.C. metro area, is one of nearly 80 coalitions in the U.S. that fosters economic, environmental, and energy security by working locally to advance affordable, domestic transportation fuels, environmental justice, energy efficient mobility systems, and other fuel-saving technologies and practices. Find out more at <https://gwrccc.org>.*

## M-NCPPC Prince George’s County Planning Board Schedules 2025 Budget Forums

By PRESS OFFICER  
M-NCPPC

LARGO, Md. (Sept. 18, 2025)—The Prince George’s County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) will hold its 2025 Budget Forums this fall, to solicit comments on the M-NCPPC budget for planning, parks, and recreation in Prince George’s County for the next fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2026.

The public budget forums will be held in person:

**Wednesday, October 15, 2025—7 p.m.**  
Harmony Hall Arts Center  
John Addison Concert Hall  
10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744

*Advance Registration Deadline:* 12 Noon | Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Onsite registration will be available at the forum.

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025—7 p.m.**  
M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George’s County Administration Building, 6600 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, MD 20737

*Advance Registration Deadline:* 12 Noon | Monday, October 20, 2025

Onsite registration will be available at the forum.

**Register**

To register to speak, visit <https://pgplanningboard.org/participate/sign-up-to-speak/> and click on “Budget Forums.” Complete the online form and submit. To submit documentation as a part of the forum, email information to PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org.

**Written Comments**

Written comments will also be accepted until close of business, Tuesday, November 4, 2025, by mail, fax, or email. Comments may be addressed to Darryl Barnes, Chairman, Prince George’s County Planning Board, 1616 McCormick Drive, Largo, Maryland 20774. Comments may also be transmitted via email to PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org.

**Assistance**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of persons with disabilities in all its programs and services. Register at least a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation. Call the Public Affairs Office at 301-952-3038, email PublicAffairs@ppd.mncppc.org, or complete the online form.

## Governor Moore, Arnold Ventures Announce \$20 Million in Grant Awards to Support Programs That Help Maryland Youth Thrive

*Funding through Maryland Partnership for Proven Programs will promote initiatives to uplift men and boys, community colleges, and Big Brothers Big Sisters chapters across the state*

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 16, 2025)—In the culminating grants of the Maryland Partnership for Proven Programs, Governor Wes Moore and the philanthropy Arnold Ventures announced \$20 million in total grant awards to promote the Moore-Miller Administration’s work to uplift young men and boys, Maryland Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates, and four community colleges to support implementation of the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) model. Together, the grants will help more than 3,000 Maryland youth and students thrive in their schools and communities.

“Maryland’s young people are the future. We share a common duty to unlock their potential and elevate their dreams,” said Gov. Moore. “Through this partnership with Arnold Ventures, we have now invested a total of \$40 million in proven initiatives to support the education and well-being of our children and young adults. And together, we are continuing to move in partnership to uplift young men and boys in our state.”

The Maryland Partnership for Proven Programs is an evidence-based philanthropic partnership between the State of Maryland and Arnold Ventures. Governor Moore announced the partnership in February 2024 as a critical means to scale and expand programs across the state that will increase economic mobility and cradle-to-career outcomes for Marylanders. Through the partnership, Arnold Ventures has provided \$20 million in matching funds to carefully selected programs to scale and expand proven programs in workforce training, education, and crime prevention.

“Leaders often talk about money spent on a program, but they rarely talk about how well that program worked,” said Arnold Ven-

tures Co-Founder and Co-Chair Laura Arnold. “With committed, determined partners like Governor Moore, Arnold Ventures is changing the conversation. Both ASAP and Big Brothers Big Sisters have been effective in improving the lives of young people and their communities, and we are pleased to extend these proven programs to thousands of Maryland’s young people.”

The \$20 million in new awards include:

- \$14.4 million to Harford Community College, **Prince George’s Community College**, Wor-Wic Community College, and Community College of Baltimore County, in collaboration with the Maryland Higher Education Commission. With this grant, these colleges will replicate the ASAP model. The model is a comprehensive community college program that provides academic, personal, and financial support to low-income students who would benefit from remedial education. ASAP is proven to significantly improve student graduation rates.
- \$5.6 million to Big Brothers Big Sisters, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services and the Governor’s Office for Children. In Maryland, there are hundreds of youth waiting to be matched with mentors in Big Brothers Big Sisters—the overwhelming majority being boys. The investment will help alleviate a backlog in mentors, allowing Big Brothers Big Sisters to reach an additional 1,000 young people across nine counties with community-based mentoring. Mentorship programs like Big Brothers Big Sisters are proven to successfully address challenges facing young men and boys, including supporting mental health and substance use, keeping young men safe from violence, and strengthening pathways to careers and postsecondary education. The program will expand in Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Cecil, Frederick, Kent, **Prince George’s**, Somerset, Washington, and Wicomico counties.

Program implementation and expansion supported by the grants will begin this year and is expected to continue for four years.

Past grantees of the Maryland Partnership for Proven Programs include ASSISTments to provide online digital learning and assessment to math students in 11 schools and Saga Education to provide high dosage tutoring to students in 16 schools to improve educational achievement.

The nonprofit, nonpartisan Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy is supporting the State of Maryland and Arnold Ventures in their effort to identify promising programmatic opportunities, implement and expand proven programs, and sustain public funding.

Learn more about Partnerships for Proven Programs from Arnold Ventures: <https://www.arnoldventures.org/partnerships-for-proven-programs>.

## Phi Kappa Phi Names 2025 Love of Learning Award Recipients

By PRESS OFFICER  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, La. (Sept. 23, 2025)—The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is proud to announce the recipients of a 2025 Love of Learning Award. The awards help fund post-baccalaureate studies and career development for active Society members.

**Ann Harrell** of Bowie initiated in 2025 at Pennsylvania State University

**Zsana Hoskins** of College Park initiated in 2025 at University of Maryland, College Park

**Parth Karwa** of College Park initiated in 2025 at University of Maryland, College Park

**Irene Park** of College Park initiated in 2024 at University of Maryland

They are among 155 recipients to receive the award.

Established in 2007, the Love of Learning program distributes 155 awards annually. Recipients are selected based on academic excellence, service to campus and community, clarity of career goals, and the potential impact of award funding.

### The Prince George’s Post

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# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

### Should I Claim Social Security Early Because it Is Going Bankrupt?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,  
National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation,  
the non-profit arm of the **Association of Mature American Citizens**

**Dear Rusty:** My best friend is going to be 62 and wants to begin taking her Social Security immediately. Her reasoning not to wait is the thought that it is going to run out in 10 years, so she wants as much of her money before that happens. I have paid into Social Security my entire working life (44 years and counting). What are your thoughts on taking it as soon as you are eligible? **Signed: Uncertain what to do**

**Dear Uncertain:** Deciding when to claim Social Security is a sometimes-confusing task, but no one should ever claim SS early because they believe Social Security will go bankrupt in the near future. Social Security cannot and will not go bankrupt. What your friend may be referring to is the fact that Social Security will be facing some financial issues in 2033 unless Congress acts soon to reform the program. And they will act, but likely not until they must.

The fact is, Social Security still has about \$2.7 trillion in reserved funds which are now being used to pay full benefits. If that Reserves balance were to be fully depleted, then Social Security would need to go to a “cash basis” (essentially, paying out in benefits only what is received in SS taxes), which would result in about a 21% cut in everyone’s benefit. In other words, even if Congress neglected to reform the program, beneficiaries would still get about 79% of their monthly benefit starting in about 2033/2034. Hardly anyone believes that Congress will fail to eventually reform Social Security, and, in fact, they already know how to do that reform (they just currently lack the bipartisanship to accomplish it). But neglecting reform would amount to political suicide for all members of Congress, which is extremely unlikely to happen.

Here at the AMAC Foundation, we are confident that Congress will soon address Social Security’s future financial dilemma, and we have been working on potential solutions. We have, for several years, been providing these suggestions to various members of Congress, and those members are now considering our proposals. Thus, we do not suggest making a Social Security claiming decision based on fear of the program going bankrupt. That fear is unfounded. Instead, we suggest that everyone decide when to claim based upon their individual personal situation, considering their need for the SS money, their life expectancy, and their marital status. And remember, claiming early (before one’s SS full retirement age (FRA)) also means Social Security’s Annual Earnings Test (AET) will apply (the AET limits how much can be earned from working before FRA is attained).

So, our thought on the wisdom of taking Social Security as soon as you are eligible is that it is often not a wise decision, and certainly not if that decision is made based on fear of Social Security “not being there” soon. Instead, we suggest making your Social Security claiming decision based upon your unique personal circumstances, including, especially, your life expectancy, financial need, and marital status.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

*The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] www.amac.us is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. AMAC Action is a non-profit, non-partisan organization representing the membership in our nation’s capital and in local Congressional Districts throughout the country. And the AMAC Foundation (www.AmacFoundation.org) is the Association’s non-profit organization, dedicated to supporting and educating America’s Seniors. Together, we act and speak on the Association members’ behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at www.amac.us/join-amac.*

## Support Education Foundation Presents \$142,000 in Scholarships and Professional Development Awards

By PRESS OFFICER  
ESFCU

GREENBELT, Md. (Sept. 2025)—The Support Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) established by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union, is proud to announce the recipients of its 2025 scholarships and professional development awards. A total of \$142,000 was awarded to 39 students and 20 educators to advance their educational goals and professional growth.

“Congratulations to this year’s Support Education Foundation scholarship and award recipients,” said Kristy Mathey, Board Chair of the Foundation. “With the rising costs of education and professional development, the need for meaningful support has never been greater. These scholarships and awards reflect our unwavering commitment to empowering students and educators by investing in their future. Supporting educational and professional growth within our communities remains at the heart of our mission, and we are proud to celebrate the achievements of those making a difference.”

Among the recipients was Alyssa Bradley, a senior at Colonel Richardson High School and winner of a Dorothy Marvil Scholarship. “As a first-generation college student figuring out how to pay for school can be overwhelming,” said Bradley. “The scholarship has helped me grow and better myself, and

in the future, I’d like to do the same to help students work toward their dreams.”

The 2025 scholarship and professional development award recipients for Prince George’s County are included below.

### Eva Chesley Scholarships:

The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to a rising-college sophomore who currently attends a four-year college or university in the state of Maryland and is pursuing a degree in education.

A total of \$10,000 was awarded to two college sophomores pursuing degrees in education.

An additional \$10,000 was awarded to the 2024 recipients for their junior year, as part of a recurring scholarship: **Zaire Bond, Bowie State University**

### Rosemary Brinkley Business and Finance Scholarships:

A total of \$39,000 was awarded to 13 graduating high school seniors who completed the business and finance curriculum.

**Zhiere Ogaldes, Charles Herbert Flowers High School**

### Dorothy Marvil Scholarships:

A total of \$42,000 was awarded to 14 college-bound high school seniors.

**Kamryn Nero, Charles H. Flowers High School**

### Community College Scholarships:

A total of \$21,000 was awarded to

seven students to help complete their community college degree.

**Jahidul Hasan, Prince George’s Community College**

### Maurice Erly Professional Development Awards:

A total of \$20,000 was awarded to 20 educators to continue their professional development.

### K–12 Educators

**Sidnitra Bates, Judith P. Hoyer Montessori**

### Community College Educators

**Kayla Saunders, Prince George’s Community College**

For detailed information on each scholarship and professional development award, visit <https://supporteducation.org/>.

The Support Education Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization established by Educational Systems Federal Credit Union in 2017 with the mission to operate and support charitable giving programs for the benefit of members of the education community. Each year, the Foundation supports thousands of students and school employees through community initiatives, scholarships and professional development awards. Learn more about how we Support Education by visiting <https://supporteducation.org/>.

## Leadership Maryland Now Accepting Applications for the 2026 Class Year

By PRESS OFFICER  
Leadership Maryland

MARYLAND (Sept. 16, 2025)—Leadership Maryland, the professional development program dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its local business and community leaders, is now accepting applications to its Executive and Emerging Leader programs for 2026. Leadership Maryland’s selection committee will choose 53 applicants for the Executive Program Class of 2026 to complete an eight-month hands-on learning program focused on the state’s most vital social, economic, and environmental issues. The selection committee will choose up to 40 applicants for the Emerging Leader Third Class to complete a six-month learning program focused on a holistic approach to leadership development, designed to help each applicant increase their self-awareness and gain behaviors, skills, and tools to become more adaptive, inclusive, strategic, and impactful leaders.

Applications to the flagship Executive Program are open to senior-level executives with significant achievements in their careers and/or their communities. Ideal applicants will have a desire to learn more about Maryland’s most critical issues and a personal commitment to



be a force for positive change in their organizations, communities, and state. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age, and gender.

Applications to the Emerging Leader Program are open to individuals who are advancing in their careers, are actively involved in their communities, and desire to become stronger leaders in both areas. The chosen class will reflect a cross-section of the state by including diversity of geographic location, profession, ethnicity, age, and gender.

To be considered for the 2026 class year, application packages must include:

- Completed application, available online only at [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org);
- Paid non-refundable application fee;
- Two references;
- One letter of recommendation;
- Authorizing official statement from applicant’s supervisor or CEO (unless applicant is self-employed or is their own supervisor);

- Professional color photo

Completed application packages and registration fees must be received by Leadership Maryland by 5 p.m. on **Friday, October 31, 2025**. Upon acceptance of the application, candidates will be contacted to schedule an interview with members of the Leadership Maryland selection committee. The selected Class of 2026 will be announced in early February 2026.

Before applying, candidates should know they will be able to attend program sessions on the dates outlined in the application instructions, available on the Leadership Maryland website.

Full information regarding Leadership Maryland’s application instructions, selection process, tuition, and financial assistance, 2026 program dates and locations, and attendance policy are available at [www.LeadershipMD.org](http://www.LeadershipMD.org). Anyone with questions may contact Leadership Maryland at 410-841-2101 or [Info@LeadershipMD.org](mailto:Info@LeadershipMD.org).

*Leadership Maryland is a statewide non-profit offering professional development programs dedicated to building a better Maryland by harnessing the strength of its business and community leaders.*

## Governor Moore Announces Registered Apprenticeship Program to Expand Maryland’s Teacher Workforce and Create More Affordable Pathways to Teaching Careers

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the Governor

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (Sept. 15, 2025)—Governor Wes Moore today announced Maryland’s first state-sponsored registered apprenticeship program for teaching. The program will enable aspiring teachers to receive more hands-on training, mentorship, and paid work experience while reducing the out-of-pocket cost of earning a degree and license.

“If someone is raising their hand to teach our children, they should be rewarded with opportunity, not burdened by debt,” said Gov. Moore. “Today marks another step in our work to uplift the aspirations of our students and educators by closing the teacher shortage.

And together, we will continue our work to ensure Maryland public schools are the best in the nation.”

Unlike traditional educator preparation programs, Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program apprentices will begin working in the classroom while they earn their college degree and teaching license. Through partnerships with colleges and universities, apprentices will have access to flexible course offerings, and opportunities to earn college credits for their on-the-job learning.

“If someone has a passion for education, we want to prepare them with the skills, experience, and certifications they will need to be successful—because their success is Maryland’s success,” said Maryland Department of

Labor Secretary Portia Wu. “This apprenticeship program opens doors for Marylanders who want to teach, but may not have the resources to pursue a traditional path.”

Approved by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council, the program was developed through a partnership between the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland State Education Association, and Maryland Department of Labor following a framework first implemented by St. Mary’s County Public Schools in 2024—Maryland’s first county-specific registered apprenticeship for teachers.

The program’s first cohort is expected to begin enrollment in Caroline and Washington counties in early 2026.

When fully scaled, the program will be open to participants across the state, providing training options for future educators at a wide range of experience levels—from high school students considering a career in teaching, to mid-career professionals preparing for a career pivot.

The State of Maryland has filled more than 500 teacher vacancies since the Moore-Miller Administration took office and continues to make more progress a top priority. The Excellence in Maryland Public Schools Act—signed by the governor this year—takes additional steps to address the teacher shortage by developing fully licensed teachers through recruitment campaigns and supporting debt-free pathways to teacher licensure. Cur-

rently, half of Maryland’s teachers come from other states, making a statewide registered apprenticeship program for teaching critical for enabling more Marylanders to pursue teaching careers.

“This ‘earn-as-you-learn’ model will help address the state’s critical teacher shortage by taking a home-grown approach to preparing the next generation of educators,” said State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carey M. Wright. “Through the apprenticeship, participants will gain hands-on classroom experience, receive mentorship and support from veteran educators, and pursue their teaching credentials



EarthTalk®  
Q&A

Experts See Link Between Eye Health and Global Warming

By Shashwat Mishra | September 12, 2025

Dear EarthTalk:  
What’s the connection between global warming and increased eye problems for humans?  
—Pauline Mercy, Wilmington, NC

When most people think of global warming, they picture melting glaciers, intense heat waves, or rising seas. What is less widely recognized is the growing impact of climate change on human eye health. Rising global temperatures, worsening air quality, shifting disease patterns, and increasing water scarcity are all contributing factors that heighten the risk of eye-related problems worldwide. As the atmosphere warms and the ozone layer thins in some regions, people are exposed to more intense ultraviolet radiation. This type of radiation has been strongly linked to conditions such as cataracts, macular degeneration, and pterygium, also known as “surfer’s eye.” Dr. Anne Lynch of Stony Brook University notes, “The eyes, like the skin, are vulnerable to UV damage—and we’re seeing an uptick in related conditions as temperatures rise globally.” In other words, the same sunlight that burns the skin can also quietly damage vision.

Air pollution exacerbates the problem. Climate change drives an increase in wildfires, worsens urban smog, and traps fine particulate matter in the air, all of which irritate the eyes and can trigger dry eye syndrome, allergic conjunctivitis, and other inflammatory conditions. Some research even shows that during wild-fire seasons, hospital emergency rooms see measurable increases in eye-related visits. Meanwhile, warmer and wetter environments allow insects that carry pathogens to expand into new regions. This has resulted in the spread of infectious diseases such as trachoma, a bacterial infection that can cause blindness if untreated, while fungal and viral eye infections are also becoming more common



PHOTO COURTESY EARTHTALK

Climate change is taking a toll on humans’ eye health and health care professionals are wondering what to do...

under shifting climate conditions. Water scarcity adds another dimension. Prolonged droughts and shrinking access to clean water make it harder for people, especially in low-income regions, to maintain basic hygiene. Without enough clean water, the risk of eye infections rises sharply. Tragically, those who contribute least to climate change are often the ones who suffer the most severe consequences. There are, however, meaningful steps that can help. On an individual level, wearing sunglasses that block ultraviolet rays provides critical protection, and reducing exposure to polluted air can lessen irritation and disease risk. On a broader scale, stricter air quality regulations, programs that expand access to safe water, and greater public awareness of climate change’s hidden health impacts all play essential roles. Climate change is not only altering weather systems and ecosystems but also directly affecting human vision, making clear that the eyes are yet another front line in the struggle to adapt to a warming world.

**CONTACTS:** Impacts of climate change on ocular health, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667278223000950>; How climate change threatens eye health, <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2025/05/how-climate-change-threatens-eye-health/>; Is Climate Change Harming Your Eyes? <https://news.cuanschutz.edu/ophthalmology/is-climate-change-harming-your-eyes/>; The Effects of Climate Change on Eye Health, <https://www.dragarwal.com/blog/the-effects-of-climate-change-on-eye-health/>.

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Teaching from A5

while earning a salary. Most importantly, more students will have the opportunity to learn from teachers who come from communities like their own. We want to thank our Maryland Department of Labor partners for working with us to make this a reality, as well as the Caroline and Washington County Public Schools for being the first to participate in the apprenticeship program.”

“The Maryland State Education Association is excited about the joint effort to build the Registered Teacher Apprenticeship Program, because it’s critically important that we expand high-quality pathways to becoming an educator,” said Maryland State Education Association President Paul Lemle. “A well-constructed apprenticeship program recognizes teaching is a profession that requires investment, training, and support. It meets the needs of our students, and our future, by providing great teachers to schools across the state. It also opens a door into teaching for students and workers who are currently in other roles, but whose career goals include making a difference in our classrooms.”

To learn more about Registered Apprenticeship Programs, visit <https://labor.maryland.gov/>.

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