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Deneen Richmond Named Acting President Of Doctors Community Medical Center

By ARMINTA PLATER
Luminis Health

ANNAPOLIS and LANHAM, Md. (September 28, 2020)—Luminis Health CEO Victoria Bayless announced today the appointment of Deneen Richmond as acting president of Doctors Community Medical Center (formerly Doctors Community Hospital) effective September 25, 2020. Richmond is assuming the position following the resignation of Paul Grenaldo.

Richmond was recently appointed chief Quality and Population Health officer for Luminis Health. Prior to that, she served as vice president of Population Health at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Richmond came to Anne Arundel Medical Center from Inova Health System, where she served as vice president of Performance Improvement and Outcomes. She has also held leadership positions at Holy Cross Hospital, the Delmarva Foundation and the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

"With more than 20 years of experience in the health care arena, Deneen is poised to lead Doctors Community Medical Center," said Bayless. "She has led large, matrixed teams and has deep expertise in hos-

pital operations, clinical outcomes management and public health. Deneen's depth and breadth of experience, coupled with her practical experience in building strong, quality community-focused programs, make her the right person to lead the medical center into its next chapter."

"Paul has given 11 years of dedicated service to Doctors Community Medical Center," Bayless continued. "He was an important part of the merger with Anne Arundel Medical Center and the formation of Luminis Health. We are grateful for his service and devotion over the years."

"I am honored to assume the role of acting president for Doctors Community Medical Center," said Richmond. "As a resident of Prince George's County, I know first-hand the importance of local, quality medical care and Doctors Community Medical Center has been a pillar in our community for decades. I look forward to building on that foundation and helping to usher in expanded services under the Luminis Health umbrella."

Richmond holds a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of the District of Columbia and a master's degree in health care administration from The George Washington University. She is an adjunct profes-



PHOTO COURTESY LUMINIS HEALTH

Deneen Richmond, acting president of Doctors Community Medical Center

sor at The George Washington University and recipient of the Milken Institute School of Public Health's Excellence in Teaching Masters Level Online Award. Named a Modern Healthcare/Witt Kieffer Up and Comer in 2004, Richmond has also been honored by the National Association of Health Service Executives as a 2014 Distinguished Healthcare Leader. Richmond is a resident of Bowie, Md.

Board of Health Receives Rand Corporation Briefing on Health and Human Services Needs Assessment Study; Discusses "Health in All Policies" Initiative

"Assessing Health and Human Services Needs to Support an Integrated Health in All Policies Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland" Addresses Health and Wellbeing of County Residents

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (September 29, 2020)—The Prince George's County Council, sitting as the Board of Health on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, received detailed briefing on the RAND Corporation report "Assessing Health and Human Services Needs to Support an Integrated Health in All Policies Plan for Prince George's County, Maryland," a comprehensive study commissioned by the Council as it considers future policy and funding decisions related to the health and well-being of residents and communities.

RAND is a nonprofit institution that helps improve decision-making through research and analysis. In partnership with the Board of Health, RAND completed a health needs assessment for Prince George's County focusing on health and healthcare-related issues and the full extent of human services that influence health outcomes.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D-District 4) notes the Board of Health briefing on the RAND Report comes as the County works to effectively address the short and long-

term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the health of its residents.

"COVID-19 has transformed how we address healthcare in our communities, and the effects of this pandemic extend beyond its physical health impact. As the Council considers future policies, plans, funding and resources to improve health outcomes, we need a fuller understanding of the current and future health and human service needs of our communities." Chair Turner adds, "The RAND report offers opportunities for immediate Council action and more community engagement, and we look forward to implementing its findings to improve quality of life for our residents."

RAND's Vice President and Director for Social and Economic Well-Being, Anita Chandra, Dr. P.H., says COVID-19 will change how counties address healthcare.

"The devastation of COVID-19, as well as related calls to dismantle systemic racism, continue to reveal how much our health is influenced by factors outside of medical care

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Lt. Collins' Law One of Several That Went Into Effect Oct. 1

By PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (September 30, 2020)—An update to Maryland's hate crimes law, named for slain Army 2nd Lt. Richard Collins III, is one of several anti-discrimination measures going into effect Oct. 1. Other notable bills address crime, the environment and healthcare, including an infectious disease mandate named for Olivia Paregol, a University of Maryland freshman who died during a 2018 campus outbreak.

Collins' Law - HB917/SB606. Sponsored by Delegate C. T. Wilson, D-Charles, and Sen. Joanne C. Benson, D-Prince George's, this hate crimes update was named in honor of the Bowie State University ROTC candidate who was murdered by Sean Urbanski at a University of Maryland, College Park bus stop in 2017.

"He was a young rising star, a young military officer about to be commissioned," state Sen. William C. Smith Jr., D-Montgomery, said of Collins, who was Black.

While Urbanski, who is white, was convicted of first-degree murder in 2019, the judge failed to find enough evidence to convict under the state's hate crime law at the time.

"The standard, the fact he didn't actually utter a certain phrase, was not enough to convict him of a hate crime as well," Smith explained. "So, we changed the standard to allow the prior activity to be enough to prove intent. We were able to give that small peace of mind to the family."

Sen. Clarence Lam, D-Howard and Baltimore counties, also wanted to highlight Collins' law as an important piece of legislation enacted last session.

"Particularly in this time when the national environment is certainly very fraught," Lam said. "There have been concerns about populations and individuals who feel they may be targeted due

to their race, color, gender or orientation. To make sure the hate crimes statute covers them is particularly important. They're all people, after all."

Below are a few other bills enacted last session and going into effect [last] Thursday. They are grouped by category.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Fair Housing - HB231/SB50. The HOME, or Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Act, whose sponsors include Smith and Delegate Brooke E. Lierman, D-Baltimore, expands Maryland's fair housing policy by prohibiting landlords from discriminating against individuals based on their source of income, to include government subsidized housing vouchers, when renting or selling property.

"I think this law will unleash economic opportunity for thousands of families across Maryland," said Smith. "A vast majority who have vouchers and are single mothers."

Employment Opportunity - HB1444/SB531. Known as the CROWN Act, this law bans employment discrimination due to racial perceptions regarding hair texture or style by expanding the state's legal definition of race. Bill sponsors included Sen. Smith and Delegate Stephanie M. Smith, D-Baltimore.

"The problem globally is a number of men and women who wear traditional hairstyles associated with the Black race have suffered discrimination in the workplace about 'professional' hairstyles," Sen. Smith explained. "If they refused to change, they wouldn't be hired or promoted. It's something a number of Black men and women think about every single day as they move through society."

Minority Businesses - HB404/SB499. Another new law with an intent to address economic racial disparity, sponsored by Delegate Eric G. Luedtke, D-Montgomery, and Sen. Melony G. Griffith, D-Prince George's, requires the Department of Commerce to

include information on the percentage of economic development assistance distributed to minority businesses.

Hate Symbols - HB5/SB161. A new law that will prohibit using symbols of hate to threaten or intimidate others was sponsored by Delegate Mark S. Change and Sen. Sarah K. Elfeth, both Democrats representing Anne Arundel County, where in February multiple news outlets reported a noose found in a middle school classroom.

LGBTQ - HB81. In another inclusive legislative move, Delegate David Moon, D-Montgomery, sponsored a repeal of Maryland's sodomy law.

The ACLU reports several states dating back to Illinois in 1961 have already repealed these laws, which were historically used in a discriminatory manner against the LGBTQ community.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Speed Cameras - HB46/SB177. As of Oct. 1, according to this bill sponsored by Delegate Alfred C. Carr and Sen. Jeff Waldstreicher, both D-Montgomery, the Motor Vehicle Administration will no longer have the authority to suspend a vehicle's registration if the owner or driver fails to pay a traffic light or speeding ticket. Other penalties may still be assessed.

Strangulation - HB233/SB212. Delegate Jesse T. Pippy, R-Carroll and Frederick, and Sen. Susan C. Lee, D-Montgomery, are co-sponsors of two significant pieces of anti-crime legislation. This first bill adds an additional prison sentence of up to 25 years for intentionally strangling someone during an assault.

Sexual Solicitation - HB246/SB231. Pippy and Lee's second major law enforcement bill bans individuals from seeking the consent of a parent or guardian of a minor when attempting to sexually solicit a minor.

House of Ruth - HB620. A law whose



PHOTO CREDIT: PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN / CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

2nd Lt. Richard Collins III was fatally stabbed at a University of Maryland, College Park campus bus stop in 2017 while awaiting an Uber with friends. Sean Urbanski was convicted of first-degree murder but not of a hate crime charge.

sponsors include Delegate Sara N. Love, D-Montgomery, requires money deposited in donation boxes at Baltimore-Washington International Airport security screening checkpoints go to support House of Ruth Maryland. House of Ruth is a leading center aiding victims of intimate partner violence.

ENVIRONMENT

The General Assembly passed several

bills last session that also seek to protect Maryland's environment from harm.

Vehicle Emissions - HB133. Active duty service members who are deployed when their vehicles are due for emissions testing may seek an exemption under this new law.

One of the law's requirements is that

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To Be Equal: Campaign's "Deterrence" Strategy Should Motivate Every Black American to Vote in Defiance

If you see intimidating behavior at the polls, report it (866-OUR-VOTE). Then vote. If you see a negative Facebook ad, research the truth. Then vote.

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Education Design Lab Selects Prince George's Community College for Inaugural Workforce Development Cohort

Council Work Groups Begin Discussions on Climate Change, Food Security, and Legacy Building in Prince George's County

Business and Finance, Page A5

TOWNS *and* NEIGHBORS

In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301-735-3451

Remembering Chadwick Boseman as Jackie Robinson

On April 15, 2013, Bishop McNamara High School's own Lou Holder, WMAC Moderator, was working for one of the Washington TV stations when a call came in with an invite to interview Chadwick Boseman, star of the new movie "42," about the life and career of Jackie Robinson, the first African American major league baseball player.

Lou was a huge Jackie Robinson fan. He hurried over to the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown, excited to have the privilege of an interview with the actor who would play this iconic role. Now that actor is famous.

I know Lou thinks back fondly on that meeting seven years ago, especially since the untimely death of Boseman who died August 28 at the age of 43.

Boseman may best be known as The Black Panther, but I remember him best as Jackie Robinson, #42. Great movie!

Neighbors & other good people

Daisy and Ralph Young will celebrate their 67th anniversary on Oct. 15, out in California where they now live. They were among my favorite Skyline friends back in the days when they lived at 4305 Donna Street. The house burned several years ago (long after they moved) and, I believe, is an empty lot now. It was such a jolly homestead when the Youngs lived there.

Janice Duckett has been elected a commissioner for the Town of Upper Marlboro, defeating challenger Bryan Bontrager. This special election was needed following the unexpected death of former Mayor and Commissioner Wanda Leonard on June 30.

Carl A. "Skip" Miller, Sr., who served with the Metropolitan Police Dept. for more than 30 years, died Sept. 9 at his home in Fort Washington. Survivors include his wife of 58 years, Janet, three children, and grandchildren. Service was at Lee Funeral Home.

Election 2020

I requested an absentee ballot and am still waiting for it.

Kenneth F. Harris II, Democrat for the Board of Education, is doing well on my block—three HARRIS signs have

gone up. I gave my permission. I don't see campaign signs anywhere else. It's not like the "good old times" when there were campaign 20 signs at every intersection and in hundreds of front yards.

200-years-old church closes

Forest Memorial United Methodist Church has been there on Forestville Road for more than 200 years. But, sadly, it's closing its doors. A Closing Service was held Sunday afternoon, Sept. 27. It was by Zoom and 54 "attended." The official date of closing was Sept. 30.

Betty Cottrell, of Skyline, who has worked at the church for years, says they're still packing up. She wrote that the original church was once the Base Chapel at Andrews. It was called Forest Grove UM Church. I've asked Betty to compose a short history of the church.

If you have been a member of Forest Memorial and have memories to share, email or call me.

Halloween in Morningside

Morningside will celebrate Halloween with a Trunk-or-Treat at the Town Hall on Oct. 31, from 6 to 8 p.m. People need to reserve a car space by Thursday, Oct. 29, by calling the Town Hall at 301-736-2300. If they don't get at least 5 cars, it will be cancelled.

Also, monthly meetings are coming up: Work Session, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. and Town Meeting, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Contact the Town at generalmailbox@morningsidemd.gov or call 301-736-2300 for information.

Changing landscape

Dee's Barber Shop, across Suitland Road from the Baptist Church, shares another business in its space—custom-made T-shirts. You can contact ArtandCoBrand@gmail.com and or drop by Dee's.

Despite pushing back plans to demolish RFK Stadium, the Events D.C. board of directors has selected the contractor for demolition.

So long 202! With the 202 area code for Washington expected to run out of numbers by the end of 2022, D.C. has been assigned 771 as its replacement.

I recently bemoaned the closing of favorite department stores. I had an email

from a former Morningsider: "Don't forget about Montgomery Ward... I really liked Wards." I did, too. At Iverson Mall. Particularly good for boys' clothing.

Smithsonian opens four more museums

Two months after the Smithsonian reopened the National Zoo and the Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Va., four more museums were welcomed on September 18. They are the National American Art Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of African American History & Culture, and the Renwick Gallery. They are open Wednesdays through Sundays and free timed passes will be required for some of them. Masks will be required. Email si.edu/visit or call 800-514-3849, ext. 1.

Morningside Memories: Halloween 1986

Mayor Jerry Glaubitz emceed Morningside's annual Halloween party at Foulis Middle School 36 years ago. Winners in various categories were 3 & under: William Waggoner, Brandy MacBride and Amanda Roberts; ages 4-5: Dawn Marie Haley, Roby Gray, Jacki Showell, Melanie King, Natika Tsinnie and Amy Anthony; ages 6-7: Daniell Pirner, Jennifer Daniels, Mary Waggoner and Kendra Seaman.

Ages 8-10: Mykia Mahan, Archie Bassett, Susan Bowman, Michelle Gotreaux; ages 11-13: Jason Watson, Shelly Martin, Beth Ellis, Heather Knox and Charlie Mickey; ages 14-17: Dana Wise, Telance Daniels, Ruby Baker, Steven Betts, Sam Ball and Michelle DiToto; adults: Rachael Fisher, Lawrence Bipera, Dennis Seaman and Tad Blanchard.

Prizes for best-carved jack-o-lanterns: scariest, Mary Waggoner; prettiest, Misty Muchmore; funniest, Asa Knox; most creative, Emma Witczak.

Those were great parties in 1986. Lots of winners, prizes and refreshments. Back then I was a member of that Recreation Council.

Milestones

Happy birthday to Mary Deans, Oct. 11; Tj Foster, Oct. 12; Mildred Peaire and Carolyn Williams, Oct. 16.

Brandywine-Aquasco

by Audrey Johnson 301-922-5384

HIGHLAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Highland Park is among 517 schools nationwide to earn a spot on the Alliance for a Healthier Generations' (Healthier Generation) 2020 list of America's Healthiest Schools for their commitment to promoting quality nutrition, regular physical activity, and strong wellness policies. Highland Park, which serves 258 students, is among seven schools in Maryland to receive the recognition for promoting good health before and during the pandemic through: Offering fresh fruit and healthy snacks throughout the day and free breakfast provided for all students. Morning Movement announcements and stress reduction exercises. Arts projects focused on unity and inclusivity. Free wellness for staff. A community health and wellness night. After school physical engagement programs.

"The teachers, parents, students and staff at Highland Park Elementary recognize the critical role that health plays in learning and are honored to receive this national recognition," said Principal Wanda L. Robinson. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering environments where all members of the school community can succeed."

As members of Healthier Generation's Healthy School Program, Highland Park Elementary will work to implement wellness policies and practices that meet federal requirements and support a comprehensive approach to kid's health. To view the complete list of America's Healthiest Schools, visit HealthiestSchools.org. communications@pgcps.org Office of Communications 301-952-6001.

ANNUAL HOMECOMING

Christ United Methodist Church in Aquasco, Maryland Annual Homecoming weekend started Saturday, September 26. A Concert was held at 7 p.m. featuring the group "His 4" of the Washington Metro area via Live Streaming. On Sunday, September 27 at 9 a.m. their Homecoming Worship Service guest speaker was Bishop Kenneth E. Coles, Founding Pastor of the Lion of Judah Praise Temple in Baltimore, Maryland. The service was livestreamed and broadcasted as usual. People were invited to worship together under their tent or in their cars in the parking lot. They were asked to observe the "social distancing" guidelines to wear their mask and seat six feet apart.

NOTTINGHAM MYERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Way to show up Nottingham Myers United Methodist Church, Pastor Constance Smith. They visited another Senior member of the Congregation with another Drive by Sunday, September 20, 2020. The Diva that they visited was Mrs.

Berline Brooks in Fort Washington, Maryland. Mrs. Berline Brooks came out in all her Diva glory. She was dressed in purple. What a beauty to see and to experience this wonderful occasion on a sunny day.

Nottingham Myers did a drive by at Brandywine Park to greet Mr. Oliver and Mrs. Alice Myers in August. Another drive-by visit in September to visit Diva Mrs. Juanita Turley in Clinton, Maryland dressed as a Queen. Other Seniors who are members of Nottingham Myers will also have a drive by visit. Thanks, Nottingham Myers, for recognizing your Seniors during this Pandemic.

144TH CHURCH HOMECOMING ANNIVERSARY

St. Philip's Church Baden of Brandywine celebrated their 144th Homecoming Anniversary on Sunday, September 20, 2020 from the comfort of our homes. If you missed our service it can still be seen on YouTube at <https://youtube/ngWWfZGmj8g> or by checking out St. Philip's Baden Facebook page @ stphilipsbaden. Our guest speaker was our community family member the Rev. Tyrone Johnson. Check out the prerecorded service. Thanks to all who volunteered to come out and make this program possible. To God Be the Glory.

ARMY ROTC

You have seen them grow. Now watch them lead. College is a challenge. Paying for it should not be. Your child can discover scholarships to cover full tuition and become an officer through Army ROTC programs at almost 1,000 colleges and universities. Help them follow a proud path to leadership on a team that makes a difference. Find out more at goarmy.com. or learn more at goarmy.com/rotc/qm93.

It is not for everyone, just the leaders of tomorrow. Army ROTC sets you apart by providing leadership skills and incredible personal development. It also provides great benefits like advanced career training and opportunities for scholarships. As an Army officer, you adapt to challenges and empower others to become highly trained, adaptable, and ready for anything. Be a leader on the team that makes a difference. The Kappa Alpha Journal (An Official Publication of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to Gerald Adams, Geneva Butler, Denette Chew, Terrence Chew, Wanda Contee, Ron Jackson, Cynthia Wilkerson, Jameka Williams, Herman Glascoe, Rudell Jones, Linda Lee, Tracy Pinkney, Ora Wilson, and Dennis Worthy who are celebrating birthdays in October.

Around the County

Prince George's County Students Recognized for Academic Achievement at Berkeley College

Students from Prince George's County, MD, have been named to the President's and Dean's Lists at Berkeley College for the spring 2020 semester.

"The work ethic and talent of these students will serve them well as they prepare to graduate and progress toward their future success," said Michael J. Smith, President of Berkeley College.

The following students from Prince George's County have been recognized:

President's List: **Zyaira Peters** of Fort Washington

Dean's List: **Nichole Williamson** of Upper Marlboro

Berkeley College students with a minimum of 12 academic credits who achieve a grade point average of 4.00 for two consecutive semesters in the same academic year qualify for the President's List. Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.50 or better with a minimum of 12 academic credits qualify for the Dean's List.

—Ilene Greenfield, Berkeley College

Prince George's Community College Partners to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence

Purple Light Nights ceremony reinforces County commitment to solidarity

LARGO, Md. (October 1, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) ushers in National Domestic Violence Awareness Month today with a virtual Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony, co-sponsored by the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, to spread awareness of the impact and prevalence of domestic violence.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one in four women and one in ten men experience violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Historically, the rates of domestic violence in Prince George's County are among the highest in the state. The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office notes current rates remain steady overall, with slight declines in some areas.

"We're delighted that, notwithstanding the challenges COVID-19 presents around large gatherings, our co-host—Dr. Williams and PGCC—made this ceremony possible," said Sheriff Melvin High of the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office. "Citizens and residents, as well as partners and service providers, look forward to the Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony as a focal point that begins Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence never takes a break, and so neither can we."

The Purple Light Nights Lighting Ceremony featured keynote speaker LuAnn Edwards, managing attorney of the House of Ruth Maryland, Domestic Violence Legal Clinic. Three awardees were honored for their commitment to domestic violence awareness: Justine Love, national vice president, Swing Phi Swing Social Fellowship, Inc.; Stanley Johnson, chief, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission Police; and Dr. Delaine Smith-Clark, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Center, University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

Additional event participants included Dr. Falecia Williams, Prince George's Community College president; Melvin High, Prince George's County sheriff; and Darrin Palmer, Prince George's County chief assistant sheriff.

At the end of the event while holding purple lights, participants took part in a countdown ceremony, which symbolized their solidarity with domestic violence awareness. In accordance with Purple Light Nights tradition, participants keep their purple lights illuminated for the duration of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, recognized annually during the month of October.

"As we participate in today's symbolic lighting ceremony, remember awareness is only the start," said Dr. Falecia Williams, Prince George's Community College president. "Even after this event ends and Domestic Violence Awareness Month comes to a close, never let your purple light burn out. Keep your lamp burning because more people than you know are counting on that light to lead them to shore."

Initially launched in 2007 as a local initiative in Covington, Washington, Purple Light Nights has expanded into a national effort. Key goals of the initiative include promoting healthy relationships among youth and adults, increasing awareness of domestic violence, and providing assistance to victims and their families.

Visit <https://youtu.be/R5EY14RpUu4> to watch the Purple Light Nights ceremony. If you or someone you know is in need of support, contact the Prince George's County Family Justice Center hotline at 301-780-8008.

—Courtney Davis, Prince George's Community College

Greater Washington Halloween SoberRide Campaign Suspended Due to Continuing COVID-19 Concerns

WASHINGTON (September 30, 2020)—With Greater Washington localities still in the early to middle phases of easing public health restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) announced today the suspension of its 2020 Halloween SoberRide® campaign.

WRAP, the organization conducting the region's free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, had similarly suspended its 2020 St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo and Independence Day SoberRide® campaigns earlier this year. The charity also offers its SoberRide® program during the winter holidays and is provided throughout rideshare partner Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 80,047 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at www.SoberRide.com.

—Tammy Wan, WRAP

COMMUNITY

Briefing from A1

alone. With this report, the Prince George's County Council has taken a significant step toward a comprehensive approach to building a healthier future for its residents and forging a path for others to follow."

The RAND study reflects the "Health-in-All-Policies" approach embraced by the Board of Health, examining more closely what effect such factors as education, the economy, transportation, environment, social service delivery and even chronic stress have on the health and wellbeing of County residents and communities, in an initiative to achieve more positive health outcomes.

40PlusDC Announces October Monday Speaker Series Lineup

By CRAIG M. MUCKLE
40 Plus of Greater Washington

WASHINGTON (October 4, 2020)—40 Plus of Greater Washington (40PlusDC), a non-profit career transition agency serving experienced professionals, announces the lineup of presenters for its popular Monday Morning Speaker series. The free weekly program, now conducted virtually, offers attendees guidance from career coaches, human resource experts and financial consultants on topics relevant to mature adult professionals who are in the midst of a job or career transition.

The October schedule began October 5 with a discussion on Personal Branding Secrets from resume expert Melanie Denny. The list of speakers and their topics for the rest of October follows. All presentations start at 10 a.m. with pre-registration required for participation.

Date	Speaker	Topic
October 12	Career Coach Caitlin Magidson	Navigating Employment and Life Challenges in 2020
October 19	Kathryn Troutman	Five Best Federal Resume Writing Tips
October 26	Lisa Ealy	Proven Career Strategies: How To Land Your Dream Job During a Crisis and Beyond

In addition to its Monday programming, 40Plus will host a virtual Speed Networking event on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. Participants will learn how to network effectively with limited time in both virtual and in-person gatherings before networking begins with randomly selected attendees. The registration fee for this program is \$10 through the 40Plus website at www.40PlusDC.org

Prior to the pandemic, the organization conducted the series at its office in downtown Washington, but successfully transitioned to online sessions shortly after local governments imposed stay-at-home orders and gathering restrictions. Despite participants losing the opportunity to personally engage with speakers during the post-meeting networking sessions (that often continued into the lunch hour at a nearby eatery), the switch to virtual meetings has typically generated increased attendance with one session in the early summer attracting more than 100 attendees, far more than could have been accommodated in the office. The new paradigm has also allowed 40Plus to schedule speakers from well outside the metro Washington area, along with exposing its services to suburban residents. Recent Monday speakers included guests from Houston, Washington State and even Europe.

40PlusDC has operated as an all-volunteer organization since 1953 that empowers professionals, managers and executives by redeploying their skills, rediscovering their strengths, and rebuilding their confidence toward making a successful career transitions across all professions and disciplines. Nearly 40 percent of 40Plus graduates ultimately find a job at or above their previous salary.

Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® Amps Up Voter Engagement Efforts in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt

By RACINE TUCKER-HAMILTON
Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Md. (September 28, 2020)—In support of the upcoming 2020 General Election, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter (PEO) of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA), Incorporated® is hosting a variety of voter education and engagement activities. This call to action is aligned with AKA's national efforts to recognize the political prowess and leadership of Black women to create positive sustainable change.

"We are specifically targeting residents in Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt which are the communities that PEO serves. We are encouraging people to register to vote and to make a voting plan," said Benita A. Swindell, president of Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter. "In addition to voter education and engagement, we also have to consider safety,

which is why PEO has shifted all of its activities to virtual platforms."

On Sept. 17, the sorority hosted a virtual voter registration drive, Know Before You Go: Understanding Your Rights at the Polls. Several hundred people joined a zoom discussion featuring State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy. She shared information on voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, and anyone with questions about their ability to legally vote in the Nov. elections. "The best way to make sure your vote is not counted, is to not vote," Braveboy told the group.

In partnership with the Women's Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN), on Oct. 3, PEO will hold a virtual writing party. Members of both organizations will write letters to persons in eight states asking them to vote in the upcoming election. Others can join by visiting WE CAN.

PEO's activities are part of the national program, AKAs L.E.A.D. where members are encouraged to L.E.A.D.—Learn, Empower, Advocate, and Decide on legislative, public policy and social justice issues critical to Black women and the African American community.

"As the premier Greek-lettered sorority established by African American college educated women, it is critical that the community see us out front and taking the lead in these voter mobilization efforts," added Swindell.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated®, Psi Epsilon Omega Chapter was chartered in 2007. Since its founding, the chapter has been aggressively implementing its programs of service in the communities of Laurel, Bowie, and Greenbelt Maryland.

Health Department Announces Changes to COVID-19 Testing Locations and Schedule

Department to close three testing locations, expand the number of community partner testing sites; testing remains free to the public, no appointment needed

By GEORGE LETTIS
Prince George's County Health Department

LARGO, Md. (September 29, 2020)—Effective Thursday, Oct. 1, the Prince George's County Health Department will end community COVID-19 testing at three temporary locations and begin expanding the number of partner test sites the department supplies across the County. COVID-19 testing from the Health Department remains free and no appointment is needed.

The sites transitioning out of the Health Department's testing schedule are the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center, and the Chillum-Rollingcrest Recreation Center, all of which are County Department of Parks and Recreation facilities that were made available for testing when they were not able to be used for their usual purposes due to COVID-19 restrictions. As restrictions relax and recreational activities resume, the facilities are once again needed for their intended uses.

"While we transition to our next phase of testing operations, we will provide the same level of testing services, or more, on a weekly basis to the community. We're in this fight for the long haul," said Prince George's County Health Officer Dr. Ernest Carter. "As we work toward reopening more parts of our County, as impending colder and inclement weather poses challenges to our testing operations, and as we prepare for a mass vaccine distribution, we must continue to be nimble in our action and thoughtful in our approach."

The Health Department's Cheverly Health Center and the D. Leonard Dyer Regional Health Center will continue to offer free testing, but with modified days and hours:

Cheverly Health Center
3003 Hospital Drive, Cheverly, MD 20785
Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Leonard Dyer Regional Health Center
9314 Piscataway Road, Clinton, MD 20744
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

In addition to weekly pop-up testing sites at rotating locations countywide, the Health Department's two partner test sites, which are County-supplied, remain open at the Adventist Medical Group's Primary Care Center in Fort Washington (Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.) and Luminis Health's site at the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville (Monday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). The Hyattsville site is two and a half miles from the Rollingcrest-Chillum Recreation Center. The Health Department will expand to supplying as many as ten additional partner test sites countywide; locations and partner organizations will be announced soon.

For more information about COVID-19 testing and policies at the Prince George's County Health Department, as well as a locator map of other testing sites across the County and throughout Maryland, please visit health.mypgc.org/COVIDtesting.

Earth TALK™ Global Warming=Tree Killer?

Dear EarthTalk:
How will global warming change the distribution of trees across the continental U.S.? Which types of trees and forests are most at risk?

—Mike Powers, Golden, CO

It's true that climate change is already affecting tree distribution and forest cover in the United States (as well as everywhere), but only time will tell which tree species are most successful at adapting and whether we will lose significant amounts of forest cover overall.

"A walk in the woods or a stroll on a tree-lined street could be a very different experience just a few decades from now," says U.S. Forest Service researcher Stephanie Worley Firley. "Higher temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and longer growing seasons predicted for the future could require that some tree species will have to move—or be moved—into new areas where habitat will be more suitable." She adds that some tree species may be able to stay in place by adapting to new conditions, but many others are unlikely to be able to adapt and "may succumb to the pressures of climate change."

One example of an iconic tree species that is already suffering from the effects of climate change is the Quaking Aspen, the most widely distributed tree species in North America. To day the tree is still common in higher elevation regions of Colorado and Utah as well as throughout the rest of the American West, but that might change in the coming decades. Researchers have been tracking the decline of aspens in Colorado for at least 20 years at the hands of climate change and related stressors. Given their shallow root systems, aspens are particularly sensitive to drought; warmer, drier weather overall as a result of global warming

means more drought and more trouble for the trees moving forward. Researchers worry that aspens may be gone from the southern (and driest) band of its range within decades, and foresee drastic declines in the tree's overall distribution as temperatures inch up, drought pervades and forest fires rage throughout the region.

Another iconic tree that has already been hit hard by global warming is the Sugar maple, famous as the source of Vermont maple syrup. Warmer winters have already shortened the syrup "tapping" season by more than 10% and if the trend continues there won't be enough winter to sustain the \$200 million/year Vermont maple syrup industry. Some other tree species on the ropes thanks to climate change include Balsam fir, Black ash, Paper birch, White pine, Tamarack and Red spruce.

Researchers from the North Carolina-based Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center are using forest inventory and analysis data from the U.S. Forest Service to compare where tree species occur presently with a wider range of where they could move or expand given rising temperatures and other changing landscape conditions. By looking at how landscape, weather and temperature conditions will change over the next three decades based on a conservative model of climate



CREDIT: JOHN FOWLER, FLICKRCC

Quaking aspens are just one type of iconic American tree species that's losing ground against global warming.

change, the researchers can start to project where the most suitable conditions for different types of trees might occur across the country by 2050. This kind of knowledge can help land managers prepare for the changes coming and can help planners map out forward-looking, climate-friendly zoning patterns.

CONTACTS: A Review of the Potential Effects of Climate Change on Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides), fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr235/psw_gtr235.pdf; Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center, forestthreats.org.

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COMMENTARY

Marc Morial

President and CEO, National Urban League



To Be Equal:

Campaign's "Deterrence" Strategy Should Motivate Every Black American to Vote in Defiance

"Yet the harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting simply because they are Negroes. Every device of which human ingenuity is capable has been used to deny this right. The Negro citizen may go to register only to be told that the day is wrong, or the hour is late, or the official in charge is absent. And if he persists, and if he manages to present himself to the registrar, he may be disqualified because he did not spell out his middle name or because he abbreviated a word on the application. And if he manages to fill out an application, he is

given a test. The registrar is the sole judge of whether he passes this test. He may be asked to recite the entire Constitution, or explain the most complex provisions of State law. And even a college degree cannot be used to prove that he can read and write. For the fact is that the only way to pass these barriers is to show a white skin."
—President Lyndon Baines Johnson, 1965

Deterrence: the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

In 2016, the Trump campaign sorted millions of voters in 16 key battleground states into categories, also described as 'audiences', so they could then be targeted with tailored ads on Facebook and other platforms.

Black voters were sorted into a category titled "Deterrence."

These were the people the campaign wanted to keep from voting, according to Britain's Channel 4 News. Facebook was flooded with negative ads, targeted specifically at Black audiences, designed to keep them at home on Election Day.

Efforts to keep Black Americans from voting are nothing new, of course. For most of the century and a half since the Fifteenth Amendment declared the right to vote "shall not be denied on account of race," the right to vote consistently has been denied on account of race.

Nor is it breaking news that social media was a key tool used to suppress the Black vote in 2016. The largest part of Russia's disinformation campaign was aimed at demoralizing and discouraging African Americans from voting, as the National Urban League's State of Black America® detailed last year.

But the Channel 4 investigation revealed that overt contempt for Black voters was not just an undercurrent in the 2016 presidential race, but a key component of a one campaign's official strategy.

The revelation should impel every Black American to vote with might and main.

"Deterrence" belongs on the same ash heap of history as the poll tax, literacy tests, and the "Southern Strategy," along with other shameful voter suppression tactics still in use such as restrictive voter-ID laws, excessive purges of voter rolls, and the rampant shutdown of polling places in Black neighborhoods.

When President Trump urged his supporters during Tuesday's debate "go into the polls and watch very carefully," he was alluding to the expiration of a consent decree that has protected voters from intimidation at the polls since 1982. The decree was enacted after Democrats sued the Republican National Committee for sending off-duty law enforcement officers as "ballot security" to New Jersey polling places in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. A Trump campaign official was recorded last year saying the expiration of the consent decree was a "huge, huge, huge deal" for the campaign's election day operations in Wisconsin.

If you see intimidating behavior at the polls, report it (866-OUR-VOTE). Then vote. If you see a negative Facebook ad, research the truth. Then vote. Don't allow any campaign to put you in a box marked "Deterrence."

AMAC Seeks End to "The Tax on Aging"

WASHINGTON (October 2, 2020)—"No one likes to pay taxes. But, it can be downright painful if you are elderly and your income from Social Security is not enough to support retirement. So you try to make ends meet by taking on a job. And then you learn that not only do you have to pay taxes on your earnings from that job but also on your Social Security income, which you funded in the first place with taxes you paid when you were working full time," says senior activist Bob Carlstrom.

Carlstrom says it is time to put an end to what he calls: "the tax on aging."

He notes that it is getting tougher and tougher each year for seniors to make ends meet as the cost of living continues to rise. According to the National Institute on Retirement Security, "The burden of preparing for retirement is increasing as workers face more risk and rising costs. Escalating housing, healthcare, and long-term care costs in retirement are creating retirement obstacles for Americans."

Carlstrom, president of AMAC Action, the advocacy affiliate of the Association of Mature American Citizens, says that he and AMAC are determined to see the law changed. They are promoting a bill in Congress that would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove the inclusion of Social Security and tier I railroad retirement benefits

in an individual's taxable gross income.

Social Security benefits were initially exempt from federal income tax, but in 1983, Congress approved recommendations from the National Commission on Social Security Reform to tax the benefits of some higher-income Social Security beneficiaries.

Carlstrom notes that the definition of "higher income" has changed dramatically in the ensuing 37 years. As he put it in a letter to Members of Congress.

"Every year, millions of seniors become eligible for either Social Security or tier I railroad retirement benefits. After working for decades, paying taxes on their hard-earned income to fund these federal programs, some seniors are forced to pay income tax on the benefits they receive from the federal government. Taxing benefits which were created from already taxed funds is nonsensical and curtails retirement benefits seniors have been promised. Seniors deserve to reap the full benefits of their hard work from career-long contributions to Social Security and the Railroad Retirement Plan."

The Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove the inclusion of tier I railroad retirement benefits and Social Security benefits in an individual's gross income. As this legislation takes effect, seniors will notice their tax liability is sig-

nificantly reduced. Seniors will no longer be burdened with the "double tax" on their federally earned benefits.

AMAC Action is a 501(c)(4) non-profit advocacy organization created to assist Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] members with grassroots participation on Capitol Hill and at the local level through its advocacy programs.

[H.R. 3971, the Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act, was introduced by Congressman Thomas Massie (R-KY), and has 34 cosponsors.]

The 2 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.

Senator Van Hollen, NASA Administrator Bridenstine, Maryland Space Leaders Discuss Maryland's Vital Role in NASA

Van Hollen Vows To Keep Fighting to Support Maryland's Space Efforts in Congress

WASHINGTON (September 29, 2020)—Today, U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), joined by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine and a number of leaders in Maryland's space initiatives, hosted a virtual event to discuss Maryland's vital role in NASA's mission. During the event, the Senator and Administrator highlighted Maryland's many contributions to NASA's efforts, including the crucial work being done at NASA Goddard, the Lunar Surface Innovation Initiative, the NASA Wallops Flight Facility, the Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Lab, and the Space Telescope Science Institute—all of which are based in or near Maryland. Video of the event can be found here and a recording is available upon request.

"Maryland is home to some of our nation's finest science, technology, and space facilities. Today's event gave us the oppor-

tunity to showcase Maryland's essential role in furthering NASA's mission and highlight the need for continued federal support of this crucial work. I thank Administrator Bridenstine for his leadership and, in my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will keep fighting to invest in NASA's missions in Maryland so that our state can continue to be at the forefront of advancing our understanding of the universe and our own planet Earth," said Senator Van Hollen, a member of the Senate Appropriations Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies subcommittee.

"Maryland has played an important role in our nation's space program for decades, and with Senator Van Hollen's leadership, those contributions will remain strong. NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Wallops Flight Facility (in Virginia, but operates as part of Goddard) perform crit-

ical work for our agency, with programs there integral to our 2024 goal of landing the first woman and the next man on the lunar surface with the Artemis program. NASA programs made a \$7.5 billion economic impact in Maryland in 2019 with over 35,000 jobs in the state, and we expect that impact to grow in the coming years with bipartisan support from Congress," said NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine.

The Senator and Administrator were also joined in the discussion by Dennis Andrucyk, Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center; Niki Werkheiser, Lead of the Lunar Surface Innovation Initiative; David L. Pierce, Director of NASA's Wallops Flight Facility; Dr. Ralph Semmel, Director of Johns Hopkins' Applied Physics Laboratory; and Dr. Kenneth Sembach, Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Small Business Workforce Diversity Strengthens America's Economy

By SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator (acting) STEVE BULGER
Small Business Administration

For many small business owners, their workforce often naturally reflects their own cultures and experiences rather than that of their communities. However, bringing together people of various backgrounds with different life experiences provides unique perspectives that can be of benefit not only to employees, but to the business owner. In short, workplace diversity is good for business.

Gallup studies have found that businesses with diverse workgroups have higher profits. They also found companies that emphasized diversity in the workplace had employees that were more likely to stay at the company. Creating an environment of inclusion is a must in the workplace that results in a happier, healthier company and community.

Everyone has their own way of viewing situations shaped by their individual experiences. Diversity empowers groups to use those unique experiences to find unique solutions and improve inter-group understanding. The values and culture of a company have a direct effect on employees, customers and

ultimately the bottom line.

Diversity is a major ingredient in enabling innovation to truly take a business to the next level. Embracing differences fuels productive thinking, different takes on the customer experience, and even the business process itself. Diversity disrupts the "echo chamber" effect in which businesses tend to falter and fail because "we've always done it this way," or, "everyone else does it this way." A wide community of ideas gives us more data to make smarter, more informed decisions.

Recruiting and retention are impacted by diversity as well. Candidates naturally ask themselves, "Do I see myself fitting in here?" Gender identity, race, age and other factors helps candidates decide if they will feel safe and welcome. Once the candidate is on board, those same factors help them decide if they will stay. A happy, consistent workforce makes for a productive team.

I encourage small business owners to embrace inclusivity so that people of all backgrounds feel safe and welcomed, from gender identity and sexual orientation to race and socioeconomic background. Businesses that commit to a diverse workforce can make a stronger team and a stronger community.

Cardin Calls Record-Low Refugee Cap an Embarrassment

"We must welcome refugees not only to fulfill our responsibilities as a world leader, but because the diversity, skills, and experience refugees add to our country make America a greater nation."

WASHINGTON (October 1, 2020)—U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism, and Intolerance for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly, released the following statement after the Trump Administration announced its decision to reduce refugee admissions to just 15,000—a cap that is even less than last year's record low of 18,000.

"As the world experiences one of the most severe refugee crises in recorded history, the Trump Administration has decided, yet again, to turn our back on the globe's most vulnerable. Tens of millions of people around the world have been forced to flee

their homes, and countries much smaller than ours—like Jordan and Germany—have taken in millions of their neighbors seeking refuge. Last fiscal year, however, we only admitted 11,000 refugees. This is an embarrassment. There is no excuse for not doing our part by giving a new home to those facing persecution.

"Refugees—half of whom are children—go through an extensive vetting process before entering this country, and they contribute greatly to the communities that they join. We must welcome refugees not only to fulfill our responsibilities as a world leader, but because the diversity, skills, and experience refugees add to our country make America a greater nation."

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The Prince George's Post

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Social Security Matters

Ask Rusty:

Can I Get Social Security With My Municipal Pension?

By RUSSELL GLOOR,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor
Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I retired from a municipal Fire Department seven years ago at the age of 54. It is a private pension, and I was exempt from Social Security while I was working. I receive about \$50,000 per year in pension benefits. I recently got a letter from Social Security saying I needed 8 more credits of work to qualify for Social Security benefits. I was wondering if I worked two more years, paying into Social Security, would I qualify for benefits, since I am on a municipal pension? **Signed: Retired Fireman**

Dear Retired Fireman: Although your municipal Fire Department pension would reduce your Social Security benefit, it will not eliminate it. So, if you work and earn those additional eight credits you will be entitled to a Social Security benefit.

Because of your non-covered municipal pension your Social Security benefit will be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), which affects anyone who has a pension from an employer which did not participate in Social Security (neither the employee nor the employer paid into Social Security). WEP uses a special benefit computation formula which will result in you getting a smaller benefit, but you will, nevertheless, get some benefit amount if you have accumulated at least 40 quarters of Social Security credit. Note that your SS benefit amount will be further reduced if you claim it at age 62, or any age prior to your full retirement age.

You earn Social Security credits by working in a job where you pay FICA payroll taxes on your earnings, and you can earn a maximum of four SS credits per year. For 2020, you'll earn one credit for each \$1410 of earnings, up to a maximum of four credits for the year, but you don't need to work the entire year to get the credits. For example, if you work yet in 2020 and earn \$5640 (4 times \$1410) you'll earn the maximum four credits for this year.

You need a total of 40 quarter credits to become eligible for Social Security, and those credits never expire, so even old credits earned before your Fire Department career still count. And, even if small, this would be a benefit you have earned by contributing to Social Security, so there's little reason not to pursue it by gaining the needed additional credits.

The 2.1 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.

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Education Design Lab Selects Prince George's Community College for Inaugural Workforce Development Cohort

Six colleges to receive \$100,000 each to improve underrepresented student outcomes

By COURTNEY DAVIS
Prince George's Community College

LARGO, Md. (September 30, 2020)—Prince George's Community College (PGCC) announced today its selection by the Education Design Lab as one of six community colleges with extraordinary entrepreneurship potential to take part in a scalable, pathways model to improve outcomes for underserved students. The Community College Growth Engine Fund, established by the Education Design Lab, will provide the College with a \$100,000 implementation grant and extensive support, carrying a total value of \$417,000, over a two-year period.

The Community College Growth Engine Fund will be used to address regional high-impact skills gaps for students and employers using equity-focused solutions to build capacity. The College's program deliverables include developing micro-pathways leading to new stackable credentials that are validated by employers, enrolling at least 600 students in the micro-pathways over the two-year grant period, and expanding the College's established pathways initiative, with a focus on in-demand career fields, including allied

health and technology.

"Many of the challenges we face in higher education in terms of attainment and outcomes are linked to systematic barriers and inequities, a divide I often refer to as the tale of two cities," said Dr. Falecia Williams, president of Prince George's Community College. "In the current context, I'd say it's actually the tale of two counties. We're excited about this new opportunity with the Community College Growth Engine Fund. The partnership will enable us to better position our students for the school-to-work pipeline, actively enriching not only their economic mobility, but also the region's," she added.

Key focus areas for the partnership include strengthening the two- to four-year college pipeline and ensuring that opportunities for economic mobility are available to underserved populations, including minorities, adult learners, part-time students, and the unemployed. The Fund will allow the College to revise its instructional design to incorporate more project-based learning, enhance digital pedagogy training for faculty, improve student support systems, and collect analytics to improve outcomes, both for the College, as one of the program's pilots, and for future institutions

that take advantage of the scalable model.

"Prince George's Community College is excited to participate in the Community College Growth Engine Fund," said June Evans, director of the College's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. "This is a visionary initiative designed to infuse innovation in education. The College's Innovation Hub will bring together internal and local stakeholders to ideate and identify a solution that will address the massive unemployment and displacement caused by historic inequities in the labor market. These inequities were amplified during the current COVID-19 crisis here in Prince George's County," she added.

In addition to Prince George's Community College, the following institutions were selected as members of the inaugural cohort: Austin Community College District, The City University of New York, Ivy Tech Community College, Pima Community College, and Seattle Colleges.

To learn more about the Community College Growth Engine Fund, visit <https://eddesignlab.org/project/growthenginefund/>. To learn more about program offerings at Prince George's Community College, visit www.pgcc.edu/programs-courses/.

Council Work Groups Begin Discussions on Climate Change, Food Security, and Legacy Building in Prince George's County

Climate Action Commission, Food Security Task Force and Responsible Legacy Task Force Will Address Matters of Community Concern

By ANGELA ROUSON
Prince George's County Council Media

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (September 30, 2020)—The Prince George's County Council, aiming to effectively address several matters of community concern, has established work groups focusing on climate change, food security and legacy building in Prince George's County. The Climate Action Commission, the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force, and the Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force began to convene on Friday, October 2, 2020.

The Climate Action Commission, established by CR-007-2020, is charged with developing a Climate Action Plan for Prince George's County to prepare for regional climate change impacts and set climate stabilization goals. The commission will review the 2012 Draft Plan and research best practices for greenhouse gas emission reductions, adaptation, and resiliency at the federal, state and local levels; update the County's greenhouse gas emissions inventory; and identify a plan of action for implementation of climate adaptation. This sixteen-member Commission is scheduled to issue an interim

report by January 31, 2021 and a final report by September 30, 2021.

Established by CR-062-2020, the Prince George's County Food Security Task Force, will address issues related to the demand and supply of healthy food and areas with limited access to healthy food, food health connections, school meals, and food insecurity in Prince George's County. This twenty-one-member Task Force is scheduled to issue a final report by June 30, 2021.

The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force, established by Council Resolution-009-2019, is charged with reviewing all County monuments, parks, street names, County buildings and other places of honor, and create a process to determine the future of names linked to a prejudiced past. The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force will work to ensure that the County's legacy is one of equality, diversity and inclusion. This nine-member Task Force is scheduled to issue an interim report by December 31, 2020 and a final report by June 30, 2021.

Council Chair Todd M. Turner (D-District 4) says work groups provide an opportunity for community members and key stakeholders to share best practices on issues

of concern in Prince George's County, and work towards solutions to some of our most urgent challenges.

"Work groups are important because community members bring varying perspectives and have the expertise necessary to effectively address some of the challenges we face as a County. As these groups begin to convene in the coming days and weeks, the Council looks forward to hearing the policy and legislative recommendations for enhancing communities and quality of life for County residents."

The Prince George's County Responsible Legacy Task Force and the Food Security Task Force convened for the first time on Friday, October 2, 2020, at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. respectively. The Climate Action Commission will convene its first meeting on Friday, October 16, 2020, at 1 p.m.

All meetings will be held virtually. The work group meetings may be viewed live and on demand at https://pgccouncil.us/303/County-CouncilVideo?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. Agendas may be viewed in their entirety at https://princegeorgescountymd.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

Laws from A1

the vehicle owner must certify receiving orders to deploy outside of the U.S. or to a duty station not subject to an emissions program. More information on this legislation sponsored by the Environment and Transportation Committee should be made available to service members through applicable agencies once the law goes into effect.

Black Bears - HB897/SB353. Maryland's Department of Natural Resources reports on its website that the state's black bear population is rapidly growing, partly due to an improving natural habitat. Unfortunately, this environmental success story is tempered by the need to manage increasing human-bear interactions.

The Black Bear Damage Reimbursement fund is one such effort and this year. Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel and Senator George G. Edwards, both Republicans representing Garrett and Allegany counties, sponsored legislation adding pets to the list of damages that can be claimed for reimbursement under the fund.

Firefighting Foam Ban - HB619/SB420. Though this law goes into effect Thursday, Delegate Patrick Young's, D-Baltimore, and Sen. Sarah K. Elfreth's, D-Anne Arundel, legislation actually bans the training use of fire-fighting foams that contain polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, as of Oct. 1, 2021. As of that date firefighters must use non-fluorinated foam during training.

According to the EPA, PFAS chemicals don't break down in either the environment or the human body, and can build up over time leading to adverse health effects.

Styrofoam Ban - HB109/SB285. This law bans the use of Styrofoam food and beverage packaging across the state and was sponsored by Sen. Cheryl Kagan, D-Rockville and Gaithersburg, and Delegate Lierman.

"This first-in-the-nation-ban is an important step toward eliminating harmful environmental waste," Kagan said Wednesday in a press release.

Originally passed in 2019, this bill was to take effect July 1, 2020, but was delayed due in part to the pandemic.

HEALTH CARE

Maternal Mortality - HB286. A health-related bill designed to address racial disparities in maternal health care goes into effect this week as well.

This bill, sponsored by Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins, D-Montgomery, requires meetings convened under the Maternal Mortality Review Program to include stakeholders reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of women most impacted by maternal deaths in the state.

According to the group's 2019 annual report, at least 40% of the 15 pregnancy-related deaths in 2017 were among non-Hispanic Black women. It is now required for this data to be taken into account and reflected in the diversity of the program.

Suicide Prevention - SB810. This new law permits the State Highway Administration to post suicide prevention information, which includes a hotline number, on highway electronic signs within five miles of a zone designated as a high risk for suicides. Waldstreicher sponsored the bill.

Cannabis Providers - HB378/SB304. Delegate Nicholas Kipke's, R-Anne Arundel, and Sen. Christopher R. West's, R-Baltimore County, bill stating physician assistants can be considered as a "certifying provider" and member in the Natalie M. LaPrade Medical Cannabis Commission, pending a review of eligibility requirements, goes into effect.

The commission develops the policies and procedures needed to safely implement Maryland's medical cannabis program.

Nursing Homes - HB 364. This week each hospital or nursing facility in the state must begin ensuring personnel wear an identification tag when providing patient care. This mandate, sponsored by Delegates Sid A. Saab, R-Anne Arundel, and Bonnie L. Cullison, D-Montgomery, comes at a time when elderly care and vulnerability have been critical issues during the pandemic.

Olivia's Law - HB187/SB329. This legislation enacted last term is named for

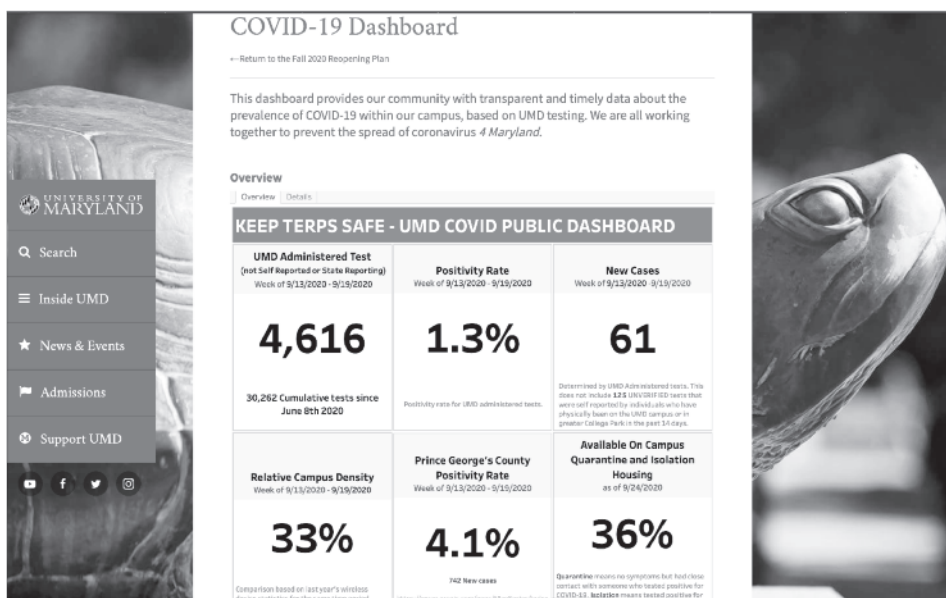


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On Aug. 19, the University of Maryland launched a COVID-19 Dashboard, pictured on Sept. 25, to provide public updates on testing, new cases, and the availability of campus quarantine and isolation housing. (<https://umd.edu/covid-19-dashboard>) This follows criticism of the campus after a 2018 outbreak ended in the death of one student.

Olivia Paregol, a University of Maryland, College Park freshman who died during an adenovirus outbreak on campus in 2018.

Sponsored by legislators including Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, D-Prince George's and Anne Arundel, and Senators Jeffrey D. Waldstreicher, D-Montgomery, and James C. Rosapepe, D-Prince George's and Anne Arundel, it requires colleges and universities to submit an infectious disease outbreak re-

sponse plan to the Maryland Department of Health annually beginning in 2021.

In response to the current pandemic outbreak, the University of Maryland launched a COVID-19 Dashboard on Aug. 19 to provide public updates on testing, cases, and the availability of campus quarantine and isolation housing.

The General Assembly's previous session ended early, on March 18, due to the pandemic. The next session is set to start Jan. 13.

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