

Connect.ED

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Dean

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the the Spring/Summer issue of Connect.Ed. The College of Education consists of three departments, Educational Professions, Kinesiology and Recreation and Parks Management. These three departments comprise fourteen very diverse programs all of which reflect our central mission which is to prepare you for a challenging and exciting career in your chosen field.

In the College of Education one will find the most dedicated, well prepared and caring faculty and staff you will find throughout higher education. The significance of this is that they bring to the college a rich diversity in their own backgrounds and experiences which illuminate and inform their teaching and interactions with each other, students, faculty, and staff.

Please enjoy the articles and activities captured in the following pages and remember “Our Door is Always Open.”



Boyce C. Williams, Ph.D.

CoAES and CAAHEP Accreditation Visits

The Committee on Accreditation for the Exercise Sciences (CoAES) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) completed their virtual site visit of the Exercise and Sport Science Program for the College of Education in April of 2022.

The visit provided ways for us to communicate both our accomplishments and aspirations, which all of you are helping us to achieve. A special thank you is extended to CoAES Faculty Coordinator, Mr. Hunter Brakeall, and Program Director, Dr. Jacqueline Durst. Their collegiate leadership and guidance as well as thoughtful professional development discussions guided the program towards a very comprehensive virtual on-site visit. The preliminary report to the faculty by the site Visitors was very complimentary of the program, offerings, and faculty.

Congratulations to the faculty, steering committee, staff administration and all stakeholders who contributed to and supported the continuing accreditation visit.

Maryland Accelerates National Leadership Conference



The students from Cohort I, II, & III pose for a photograph with Dr. Darla Strouse and Senator Griffith.



Author and Anti-Racist Tiffany Jewel signs copies of her book for the students, faculty, and staff in attendance.



FSU's Provost Dr. Traki Taylor welcomes attendees to the second day of the conference.



Scan the QR code above to follow Maryland Accelerates and receive updates on social media

Maryland Accelerates Update

Maryland Accelerates held its Third Annual National Leadership Conference in June of 2022. Over 100 people were in attendance. The event was held at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City.

“My recent experience at the Maryland Accelerates Conference was inspiring and energizing,” said Dr. Traki Talor, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at FSU. *“Being in a space full of prior, long term, new and aspiring educators reemphasizes the importance of those who choose to positively touch lives forever. Teaching is a rewarding and impactful profession. It touches every other career in ways that can sometimes be unimaginable.”*

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond served as the keynote speaker for the event, speaking to attendees about the importance of leadership and preparation programs for educators. New York Times #1 Best Selling Author, Tiffany Jewell, spoke on her book, “This Book is Anti-Racist,” and educated students on the process of waking up, taking action and doing the work to become an anti-racist.

During the event, Sen. Melony Griffith recognized Sen. George C. Edwards (in absentia) and Dr. Darla Strouse, Maryland State Department of Education Executive Director, for their exceptional efforts on the Maryland Accelerates Executive Advisory Board. Griffith also presented Presidential Recognition Awards from Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk and citations signed by Sen. Ferguson and Speaker Adrienne Jones to Edwards and Strouse.

Attendees participated in a variety of professional development activities throughout the conference including breakout sessions, working groups, networking and team-building opportunities. The leading national association for teacher residencies, The National Center for Teacher Residencies, facilitated a session that focused on lessons learned from developing and supporting teacher residencies across the nation. The conference closed with a panel of leading experts from Maryland Accelerates district partners discussing the impact of the pandemic on student and teacher mental health.

This year’s conference was held in-person for the first time since the start of the pandemic and included all three cohorts of students from the program; district partners from Washington County Public Schools, Frederick County Public Schools and Garrett County; University System of Maryland employees; FSU faculty; National Center for Teacher Residencies members; MN Associates; edBridge Partners; and Maryland



Senator Ben Cardin Visits Campus



Senator Ben Cardin visited Frostburg State University campus on Tuesday, June 28, 2022. President Ronald Nowachyzk, Dr. Boyce C. Williams, and Provost Dr. Traki Taylor briefed the senator on two programs that are currently receiving federal funds. Dr. Williams described the Maryland Accelerates program in depth as the program is currently in the application process to receive a federal earmark. Tim Malloy and his staff also spent time with Senator Cardin to introduce 2022's Upward Bound students.

Pictured Above: (from left to right) Dr. Nowachyzk, Senator Ben Cardin, Dr. Traki Taylor,

Dr. Boyce C. Williams, and Tim Malloy.

A Symposium on Teacher Diversity and Student Success

University System of Maryland's Chancellor, Jay Perman, hosted a Symposium on Teacher Diversity and Student Success on Friday, June 3, 2022 at his home in Hidden Waters. Dr. Boyce C. Williams, Dr. Kim Rotruck, Rohit Tandon, Jacqueline Brathwaite, and Caleb Brown of Frostburg State University were invited alongside their district partners to not only attend but also speak. Caleb Brown, recent MAT-Secondary graduate and newly hired GCPS teacher had this to say *"The Education Symposium was a wonderful gathering that primarily sought to explore the obstacles preventing equitable access to the profession of teaching. My mentor teacher, Mrs. Lindsay Krisher, and I were joined by representatives from several other USM programs that, like Maryland Accelerates, who aim to help students overcome these obstacles. Our diverse panel discussed our backgrounds, motivations, and hurdles that paved our path towards becoming educators. The discussion was invaluable, and I feel everyone left that day with a grasp of what stands in the way of prospective teachers and how such can be alleviated."*

F2T2 (Future Frostburg Teachers Teaching) Stem Camp

The College of Education at Frostburg State University and Allegany County Public Schools collaborated in April of 2022 to host a 3-day camp with activities rooted in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). The Camp was titled "F2T2 or Future Frostburg Teachers Teaching" and was offered to area middle school students from an underserved population.

Dr. Sarah O'Neal stated "At this year's camp we had 28 students attend from all four middle schools and one private middle school. The campers enjoyed three days of STEM activities. Each day we networked with another department on campus for hands-on activities that linked to the STEM topic that day. We worked with sustainability, health science, and mass communication. Additionally, each day the campers attended a one-hour health and physical education activity session with faculty from HPE. The campers enjoyed touring the campus, meeting with admissions, eating from Chartwells, meeting our faculty, and planning for their future as a Bobcat!"

The short-term goal of this initiative is to engage participants from all four middle schools in high-tech, high-touch, high-impact activities rooted in the STEM, with the ultimate goal of increasing participants' interest in the educational professions. Partners include Allegany Public Schools, FSU College of Education, and several FSU departments in the College of Liberal Arts. Planned activities included the following: virtual reality, flying drones, working with Java script, coding, eco bricking, film making, and engineering activities. The long-term goal of this initiative is to recruit participants to FSU and inspire them to major in the educational professions while helping them to see that higher education is a viable option.

The College of Education Welcomes New Faculty Member



Dr. Michael R. Williams

The College of Education welcomes Dr. Michael R. Williams as the college's newest Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership. Dr. Williams received a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Chowan University in 2013. He then completed his Master of Exercise Science degree from California University Pennsylvania in 2016. By June of 2019, he received his Doctor of Education degree in High Education Administration from Northeastern University. After his academic pursuits, Dr. Williams worked as an administrative faculty member at Virginia Tech, Radford University, Wilmington University, The University of Missouri-Kansas City, and most recently, The University of Oklahoma. Dr. Michael Williams will begin his tenure at Frostburg starting in the Fall of 2022 semester.

Faculty & Staff Achievements, Publications & Retirements

Dr. Curt Baker received NELP (National Education Leadership Program) Recognition over the Summer for his work in The Ed.D. Educational Leadership Program at Frostburg State University.

Dr. Heather Hurst released two publications during the Spring/Summer of 2022:

- *Laughter, J., & Hurst, H. (2022). Critical AntiRacist Discourse Analysis (CARDA). Urban Education. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00420859221097029>*
- *Hurst, H., Ryan, E., Wishard, M., & Daigle, G. (2022). Understanding our complicity in bullying as a foundation to activism: An investigation of characters and bullying processes in Young Adult Literature. The ALAN Review. (co-written with three FSU graduates. Eibhlín Ryan M.Ed, Mallory Wishard Ed.D, and Grace Daigle.)*

Dr. Janet Mattern was selected as The National Reviewer for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Dr. Natalia Buta served as a university site visit reviewer in Spring 2022 for The Council on The Accreditation for Recreation and Parks Management Tourism.

Toby Eirich retired from his position as PDS and Field Experience Coordinator in June of 2022.

Linda Lewis retired from her position as Executive Administrative Assistant I in the Educational Professions department of the College of Education on February 28, 2022.

2022 Spring Commencement Ceremony

Frostburg State University held its 160th commencement ceremony on May 19, 2022. The College of Education honored 69 graduates in bachelor programs, 74 graduates in masters programs, and 11 graduates in the doctorate program. Of these 154 graduates who attended in person, 16 of these students graduated with honors. Quenten Demps served as the college's commencement speaker. Quenten is originally from Frederick and graduated with a bachelor's degree in early childhood/elementary education. He completed his internships for the program at Mount Savage Elementary School and Bel Air Elementary School. The Dr. R. Bowen and R. Bowen Hardesty, Jr. Award was also presented to Jonathan Guerrero, M.Ed. Special Education.

MSDE Approves New Health Education Concentration

The Maryland State Department of Education has approved the new Health Education Concentration within the Health and Wellness major. This new concentration will prepare students for certification in P-12 Health Education. This concentration is one of few approved in the state of Maryland.

Continuation: A First in Program History

In a previously highlighted College of Education Newsletter article, for the first time in program history, a graduate student from the Athletic Training Education Program represented the Frostburg State University on Team Maryland for the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Trainers' Association District 3 (MAATA) Quiz Bowl in May. Team Maryland won the MAATA Quiz Bowl! Team Maryland was comprised of Stephanie Vigezzi (First year FSU Graduate Student), Kendall Stuff (First Year Towson University Graduate Student), and Crystal Ambersley (Fourth Year Salisbury University Undergraduate Student). The MAATA Quiz Bowl victory allowed Team Maryland to compete against teams that represent each of the 11 districts at the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) Quiz Bowl on June 30th in Philadelphia, PA.

The NATA Quiz Bowl proved to be a very challenging competition, with students from each district competing with other students representing institutions from across the nation. More than bragging rights were on the line as the winning team received \$1,000 toward the school's athletic training program or club and the second and third place teams received \$500 and \$250, respectively. Unforeseen circumstances prevented two of the members of Team Maryland from competing, providing an opportunity for two Towson University students to serve as alternates. Team Maryland, which included Stephanie Vigezzi and the two alternates from Towson University, finished in a multi-team tie in the middle of the pack, with the neighboring District 2 team, representing Duquesne University, King's College, and the University of Pittsburgh, placing first.



Pictured Right: Team Maryland at NATA Quiz Bowl: Janay Ward (Left), Omar (Marvin) Perez (Middle), Stephanie Vigezzi (Right).

Maryland Accelerates Staff Attend Annual PACE Summit

Mountain Maryland PACE (Positive Attitudes Change Everything) is an economic and networking summit held annually in Annapolis, MD. PACE serves as a vital connection between DC and our rural Western Maryland area. This event allows political leadership to become aware of the needs of both Allegany and Garrett Counties. The 2022 summit was held on March 3rd at The Westin Annapolis. Special guests of the event included: U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, U.S. Senator Chris Vanhollen, Retired Maryland State Senator Senator George Edwards, Maryland State Senate President Bill Ferguson, Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot, and Maryland House Speaker Adrienne Jones.



Frostburg State University's Maryland Accelerates Team attended the event and exhibited the importance of creating teachers in high-rural and high-need areas to our legislators. Those in attendance from Frostburg State University included Dr. Ronald Nowaczyk, FSU President; Nicole McDonald, Asst. VP of Marketing and Communications; Al Delia, VP of Regional Development & Engagement; John Short, VP for University Advancement; and Dr. Artie Travis, VP of Student Affairs.

Pictured Above: (from left to right) Annika Many and Anne Winters of Maryland Accelerates

The College of Education Welcomes Two New Staff Members



Mr. Jesse Puffenberger

The College of Education welcomes Jesse Puffenberger as the Department of Education Professions' Administrative Assistant II. Previously Jesse worked for FSU as an Adjunct Instructor in the Department of Theater and Dance. Jesse graduated with an associate degree in Graphic Design from Hagerstown Community College in 2016 and a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from FSU in 2019.



Ms. Jennifer Chisholm

The College of Education welcomes Jennifer Chissom as the Administrative Assistant II for both the Kinesiology and Parks & Recreation Departments. Jennifer graduated from FSU in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Previously, Jennifer worked as an Accounting Assistant II for Friends Aware and as a licensed insurance agent for State Farm.

College of Education Student Spotlight



"I graduated from Northern Garrett High School in 2016 and I decided to pursue early childhood education to share my strong passion for learning and eagerness to make a difference. They say, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world," but my goal is to teach it. The future lies in the hands of the students that we teach and I want to give those students necessary tools to create a positive impact on our society. I want to be the support system that, unfortunately, many children do not get to experience. I chose to become an educator because I think that education is so important and influential. My job will be to provide an equal opportunity for each and every student to learn in a respectful, safe, and fun learning environment."

Taylor is mom to a beautiful 8-month-old girl and currently enrolled in the Early Childhood / Elementary Education Program at Frostburg State University's College of Education and is set to graduate in December of 2022.

College of Education Department Changes

We are pleased to announce reorganization plans for the College of Education for The Fall 2022 Semester. Following recent accreditation visits within the Department of Kinesiology and Recreation, the department will be divided into two departments with each focusing on standards-based programming specific to the majors offered.

The Department of Kinesiology will include Exercise Sport Science in Athletic Training. The interim chair of the department will be Dr. Jacqueline Durst. The Department of Recreation and Parks Management will include the undergraduate program in Recreation and Parks Management and Tourism with Dr. Natalia Buta serving as the department chair.

Also in Fall of 2022, Health and Wellness will be exclusively connected to the Department of Educational Professions. This department comprises concentrations in Community Health Education, Health and Physical Education, and Health Education. Faculty and students for the Health and Wellness Department will be physically located in the Cordts P.E. building. The department chair for Educational Professions will remain Dr. Doris Santamaria-Makang.

'SmartAsset' Ranks Frostburg State University as Best Value

SmartAsset, a New York based financial company, identified Frostburg State University as being one of the top best value colleges and universities among the top five Maryland institutions. According to the study, FSU was the highest-ranking Maryland university with fewer than 10,000 Students.

2022 Teachers of Promise

Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education recognizes teacher candidates who have shown evidence of high academic skills and solid potential of becoming outstanding teachers through the Teachers of Promise (TOP) Program and Institute. The following seven students from Frostburg State University have been recognized by our College of Education's faculty members as nominees for the TOP Program:

- **Katie Brenneman** (*Early Childhood/Elementary Education*) - Private Tutor
- **Dana Hardy** (*Early Childhood/Elementary Education*) - 5th Grade Teacher at ACPS
- **Noah Loar** (*Elementary Education/Middle School*) - 6th/7th Grade Teacher at ACPS
- **Julietta Murguia-Cab** (*Early Childhood/Elementary Education*) - Kindergarden Spanish Immersion Teacher at MCPS
- **Emma Neff** (*Early Childhood/Elementary Education*) - 2nd Grade Teacher at BCPS
- **Sean Patterson** (*Health and Physical Education*) - Elementary PE Teacher at AACPS
- **Mayce Sloan** (*Elementary Education/Middle School*) - 5th Grade Teacher at ACPS

These nominees joined other Teachers of Promise nominees from other Maryland universities and colleges at the virtual Teachers of Promise Institute on April 22, 2022. Each Teacher of Promise nominee was assigned a Teacher-of-the-Year or an award-winning teacher mentor from Maryland. The nominees and their mentors collaborated throughout the summer until the nominees were placed in new school settings. We are proud of our FSU Teachers of Promise nominees, and are excited for them as they pursue full-time teaching positions in Maryland. Congratulations to our new teachers and we wish them all the best as they embark on a new year in a new career!

Office of Instructional Tech. Supports Maryland Accelerates



Michelle Hixson serves as an instructional technologist at Frostburg State where she supports staff and faculty by offering training in the many platforms and applications on campus. She also works with faculty through the Teaching Online Certificate asynchronous courses, primarily in assessment. This spring, she had the opportunity for a dual-employment role as a research associate de-identifying data for Maryland Accelerates Master of Arts Teacher Residency program for the external program evaluator.

This role provided her with access to the evaluation of student residents' observations and reviews by their supervisors during their spring semester of teaching, while being mentored in partner school districts. The residents simultaneously attended their online teacher preparation courses. Reading about the many facets of growth in the students' teaching experiences through their building of student rapport, creation of rigorous, yet engaging lesson plans was very rewarding for Michele.

During her role as research associate, Michele was also invited to attend the Maryland Accelerates National Leadership Conference. She enjoyed two days of excellent trainings, speakers, and networking with all the school district partners. The amount of excitement and anticipation of the upcoming school year was an exhilarating experience that has invigorated her even more as she works to support FSU faculty.

The College of Education Faculty Update



Dr. Seniz Celimli-Aksoy

During the Fall 2022 semester, while Dr. Heather Hurst is on sabbatical, Dr. Seniz Celimli-Aksoy will serve as the Interim Ed.D. Program Director. Dr. Celimli-Aksoy is also an Assistant Professor at Frostburg State and previously worked for The University of Miami. She has a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Orta Doğu Teknik Üniversitesi / Middle East Technical University and a Ph.D. in Research, Measurement, and Evaluation from The University of Miami.

The College of Education 2022 Enrollment Breakdown

Undergraduate Students

472

Graduate Students

327

Doctorate Students

81

preliminary data as of 09/07/22

2022 Conferences



In the Spring and Summer semesters of 2022 Dr. Jodi Eirich, Dr. Kris McGee, and Dr. Jennifer Bishoff attended the ATE (Association of Teacher Educators) 2022 Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. The theme for this meeting was Equipment for Teaching, Equipment for Living: Helping to form the Antifragile Teacher. Also in 2022,

College of Education Staff, Faculty, and Administration in partnership with district partners from FCPS and GCPS attended the AACTE (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education), Educator's Rising, and NAPDS (National Association for Professional Development Schools) Conferences. These events served as a great professional development experience for not only FSU employees but also our district partners.

Pictured Above: (from left to right) Dr McGee, Dr. Bishoff, & Dr. Eirich.

Faculty Present at Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

The Ed.D. Program will be presenting at Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate (CPED) 2022 Convening. The event will be held at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, PA and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. Drs. Heather Hurst, Seniz Celimli-Aksoy, Jerry Kiel, Michael Williams, and Curtis Baker will serve as the presenting faculty members.

Dr. Seniz Celimli-Aksoy, the Interim Program Director of the Ed.D. program, stated that they have submitted two proposals, "Engaging the Community through a Consultancy-Based Group Practicum" and "A Conceptual Model of Collaboration for Ed.D. Programs" and both were accepted to present in the Learning Exchange sessions of the CPED 2022 event.

Among the topics to be shared in "Engaging the Community through a Consultancy-Based Group Practicum" are the problems of practice with developing field-based opportunities and examples from a transformed collaborative practicum with students, faculty, and community partners. The presenting faculty members will discuss various problems in the traditional solo practicum design and how the group practicum design has proven to be a key capstone learning experience while also providing a meaningful transition to the dissertation process.

The second proposal, "A Conceptual Model of Collaboration for Ed.D. Programs," will involve discussion about how the understandings of collaboration within our Ed. D program have evolved over time and how the model currently utilized offers programmatic assessment of existing and future opportunities for collaboration and examples of transformed and expanded collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

Children's Literature Centre



CLC Spring Festival

The Children's Literature Centre or CLC's 39th Spring Festival was held on April 22-23, 2022. The purpose of the CLC Spring Festival is to provide librarians, educators, students, and other advocates the opportunity to experience first-hand interaction with celebrated authors, illustrators and storytellers. The Festival's featured speakers for 2022 were authors Beth Ferry and Varian Johnson as well as authors and illustrators Eric Velasquez and Tom Lichtenheld. Professional Development Workshops on current educational topics, as well as book sales, autographing & a luncheon were included in the Festival registration. The Festival concluded with the presentation of the Betty Roemmelmeyer Children's Literature Advocate Award to Carla-Anne Fazi.

Pirates Ahoy!

In the spring and summer of 2022, The CLC hosted two major events: The Spring Festival of Children's Literature and Pirates Ahoy!, Pirates Ahoy! was offered in partnership with 22 local businesses in July. The event had the largest group of children and parents ever for Pirates Ahoy and was called "a perfect day for the little pirates (and I hope future bobcats) to spend the day with our students, staff and faculty" by President Ronald Nowachyzk.

#BobcatGivingDay

Bobcat Giving Day is a 24-hour online fundraising event that brings the Frostburg State community together. Alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and Bobcat fans all over the world to make a difference for Frostburg State University. During the 2022 event, Frostburg offered an incentive that allowed the fund which received the most donations to be given an extra \$10,000. Dr. Barbara Ornstein, professor, emerita of Education Professions and former Children's Literature Centre Co-Director, and the CLC team decided to put extra effort into this year's Bobcat Giving Day. This event lined up perfectly with The CLC's 40th Anniversary campaign to raise \$40,000. The incentive offered by Frostburg was called "*a perfect fit for our patrons*" by Ornstein. By the end of the 24 hour event, The CLC has secured the top spot with 174 supporters and were given the \$10,000 prize. "The 24 hours of Giving Day were so exciting," Ornstein added, pointing out that everyone was watching the real-time tallies with bated breath. "*We were cautiously optimistic but glued to our screens – refreshing minute-by-minute. All of us were truly in shock when the last second melted, and we had won the \$10,000 prize.*"

Pictured Right: (from left to right) Dr. Bill Bingman and Dr. Barbara Ornstein, emeriti professors; CLC Graduate Assistants Erica Hill, Ellie Bolton and Taylor McCarty; CLC Director Dr. Sarah O'Neal; Director of Annual Giving Kathleen Breighner; and Vice President of University Advancement John Short.



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Frostburg Students Win Scholarship in WCPS

The Education Foundation of Washington County Schools Scholarship Fund was established through a partnership between Rise Up Hagerstown, The Hagerstown Area Religious Council, and The Education Foundation of WCPS. The Foundation awards multiple scholarships annually ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000 to racially minoritized students (with preference to African American students) who reside in or intend to work in Washington County, Maryland, and are pursuing a degree in education or a related field.

The 2022 Equity in Education Scholarship winners were selected in mid August. Amongst the four winners were three Frostburg State University Maryland Accelerates students Lyvon Campbell, Chanda Thompson, and Delphine Kahl.

Lyvon Campbell (pictured right) is a mother of four adopted daughters and one son by birth. Before deciding to pursue education, Lyvon was a published author of two books and started “The Forever Family” international organization.

Chanda Thompson (pictured above) is also a “career-changer” as she originally received her bachelor and master’s degree in Business Management. After working in FCPS she realized her true dream of becoming a certified teacher in the state of Maryland.

Delphine Kahl (pictured below) is a mother and worked previously as a paraprofessional at Western Heights middle school in WCPS. Delphine has been pursuing her teaching certificate since her time at The University of Maryland as an undergrad.

These amazing women are working hard aspiring their dreams of becoming WCPS teachers. We are proud of their dedication and accomplishments and look forward to seeing them become great teachers.

The Foundation awarded \$16,500 in scholarships this year to racially minoritized students who reside in Washington County, Md., and are

pursuing a degree in education or a related field. This initiative was made possible due to the leadership of Hagerstown Area Religious Council, and Rise Up Hagerstown. For more information on how to support this initiative visit www.educationfoundationofwcps.org/equity-in-education.

Pictured from second left to second right: Chanda Thompson, Lyvon Campbell, Gabrielle Desir-Pierre, Delphine Kahl



College of Education Retreat

The College of Education's annual retreat was hosted by Associate Dean Dr. Rotruck at The Cumberland Country Club on August 22nd. In attendance were faculty and staff from The College's three departments: Educational Professions, Parks & Recreation, and Kinesiology. Part One of the retreat focused on the College of Education's efforts to continually reflect and improve on the operations of the college and departments. President Ronald Nowaczyk spoke on enrollment and university advancements such as The Challenger Center that is currently under renovations on Main Street. Natalie Wagoner, Director of Admissions, spoke on policy and procedure updates. Kate Kinsinger, Director of Academic Advising, also gave updates regarding the upcoming 2022-2023 school year. Newly appointed Director of Financial Aid, Natalia Kennedy, spoke on the changes to the university's financial aid system and its impact on current student enrollment. Natalia advised the college that the Financial Aid department is currently looking to employ more Financial Aid Advisors. Director of Human Resources, Lisa Hersch, also attended Part One of the retreat with Chris Everett, HR Business Partner for the College of Education. Part Two of the retreat focused on The College of Education's commitment to creating a supportive learning environment that promotes community outreach and collaboration with community needs and future employers. Vice President of Regional Development and Engagement, Al Delia, spoke on how the university intends to promote Frostburg's rural nature into future endeavors with the university. Sara Wilhelm, Director of Sponsored Programs, updated the faculty and staff on changes to grant reporting measures and faculty effort declarations. The retreat closed with remarks from Provost Traki Taylor. Dr. Taylor spoke on how she intends to promote faculty excellence, student success, and staff advancement. College of Education Staff Member Jen Delaney stated that *"the retreat was a success and it was nice to be able to hear from the new provost in person."*

MSDE Funds Maryland Leads Initiative



Maryland Leads is a new grant initiative designed to support Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in utilizing federal funds to overcome the learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerate student learning to narrow opportunity and achievement gaps, and provide more targeted support for historically underserved students and their communities.

Maryland's 24 LEAs will access the state's allotment of \$133 million in ESSER funds through a single,

non-competitive grant process. Awards were announced in Spring 2022 with implementation beginning in Summer 2022 and continuing through the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years. The grant initiative is centered around seven high-leverage strategies that have been proven to be effective and transformative for schools and school systems.

Washington County and Garrett County Public School Systems have decided to focus on the strategy "Grow Your Own Staff." WCPS will be choosing current employees to participate in the Maryland Accelerates Program and GCPS will be choosing current teachers to enroll in the existing MAT program.