

# MICUA Matters

*The newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association*

## *MICUA Announces New Leadership*



The Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) announced the appointment of Matthew Power as the next President of MICUA, effective December 7, 2022. Mr. Power replaced Sara Fidler who led the organization from November 2019 through October 2022. Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs at MICUA, served as interim President.

As the President of MICUA, Mr. Power also serves as the Managing Director of the Independent College Fund of Maryland, a foundation that raises scholarship funds for students attending MICUA member institutions.

Mr. Power is a talented executive leader who brings a strong understanding of higher education policy and Maryland State government. He is data-driven, financially astute, and quickly embraces technology innovations. Since 2020, Mr. Power served as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for Anne Arundel County Maryland. In that role, he oversaw county government, including 18 departments, a \$2 billion operating budget, a \$700M+ capital budget, and a staff of 6,000. He led the county's response to COVID-19 as well as its recovery and reopening efforts. He collaborated to establish the County's first Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and initiated the County's first disparity study as a precursor to a minority and women-owned businesses program. He actively modernized County operations and systems to improve services for county residents.

Mr. Power is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, Loyola University Maryland where he earned a Master of Business Administration as well as the University of Maryland where he earned a Master of Public Management. He is a graduate of Leadership Maryland and Leadership Anne Arundel.

"On behalf of the MICUA Board, I am pleased to be able to welcome Matt Power back to MICUA," says Dr. Marylou Yam, Chair of the MICUA Board of Trustees. "As a proven leader with success across State and local government and higher education, Matt is an exceptional choice to lead the Maryland Independent College and University Association. Matt's leadership and advocacy will help the MICUA institutions expand access and success to even more Maryland students."

"I'm excited to return to Annapolis and advocate for the priorities of independent higher education and MICUA's amazing institutions," said Mr. Power.



# MICUA Capital Project Requests for Fiscal Year 2024

During the 2023 Legislative Session, MICUA is seeking \$13.5 million in State capital grants to support campus renovation projects totaling \$65.8 million. These four capital projects are directly related to the mission of each institution, and they support the renovation of academic buildings and outdoor spaces used for innovative and high-demand academic programs and strategic initiatives of the institutions.

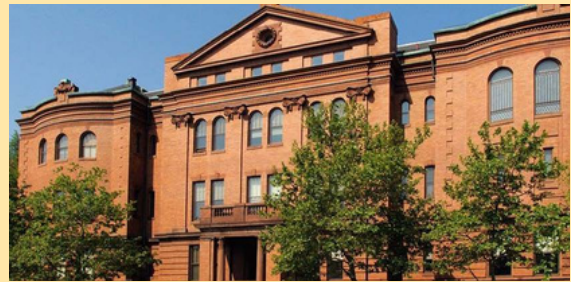
## ***Capitol Technology University: \$1.5 million***

Renovate laboratory spaces to have a modern design that provides flexibility, adds capability, and promotes greater student-student and student-faculty interactions.



## ***Johns Hopkins University: \$5.0 million***

Renovate the School of Education to consolidate previously separated programs within the School into one facility and create space for the School to grow in number of students, faculty, and centers.



## ***Loyola University Maryland: \$5.0 million***

Renovate Donnelly Science Center to support much-needed infrastructure improvements to the building as well as provide updated science facilities.



## ***Washington College: \$2.0 million***

Renovate instructional spaces to be more dynamic, safe, and accessible in four buildings that form the core of student life and learning on the campus and are the most recognizable and architecturally striking structures—William Smith Hall, the Miller Library, the Toll Science Center, and the Casey Academic Center.



These four MICUA projects will leverage more than **\$52 million in private resources** and support over **450 construction jobs**.

## *Seven 2022-2023 County Teachers of the Year Have Ties to MICUA Institutions*

Each year, Maryland's 24 school districts participate in the Maryland Teacher of the Year program, an affiliate of the National Teacher of the Year program. Seven of the teachers named as 2022-2023 County/City Teachers of the Year have ties to MICUA institutions.

### *Maryland Teacher of the Year*



**Jonathan Dunn**

Sherwood High School  
Montgomery County  
General/Choral Music, Grades 9-12  
Hood College (master's)



**Berol Dewdney**

Commodore John Rodgers School  
Baltimore City  
Pre-Kindergarten  
Johns Hopkins University (master's)



**Nadeline Fleischer-Pile**

Perryville Elementary School  
Cecil County  
English Language Arts, Grade 4  
Washington College (bachelor's)



**Alicia Amaral Freeman**

Franklin Elementary School  
Baltimore County  
ESOL, Grades K-5  
Notre Dame of Maryland University  
(bachelor's and master's)



**Johnathan Kurtz**

Governor Thomas Johnson High School  
Frederick County  
Music, Grades 9-12  
Hood College  
(Certificate of Educational Leadership)



**Jorden Lim**

Long Reach High School  
Howard County  
Math, Grade 9  
Stevenson University (bachelor's)  
McDaniel College (master's)



**Erica McAndrew**

Spring Garden Elementary School  
Carroll County  
Grade 1  
McDaniel College  
(bachelor's and master's)



## Two McDaniel College Students Share How They Chose Their College

Naomi Tamirate, a senior Marketing major from Burtonsville, Maryland shares what drew her to McDaniel College, "I chose to go to McDaniel College because I knew I would have more opportunities available to me than if I went to a bigger state school. I've been able to meet many amazing people, start my own club, have a paid internship, and dine with the president through the McDaniel Student Government Association (SGA). I've learned the value of hard work, and have been able to push past my own mental blocks because of the support I have here. I'm beyond grateful of the person I have become through being here."



*Naomi Tamirate, senior Marketing major  
Source: McDaniel College*

Gia Koutsokostas, senior Art-Communication major from New Cumberland, Pennsylvania shared the process she went through to choose McDaniel College, "I was extremely picky when I was going



*Gia Koutsokostas, senior Art-Communication major  
Source: McDaniel College*

through the process of choosing a college. I knew that the place I chose would be my home for the next four years, so I was thorough in my research. I wanted a school with small class sizes, a beautiful campus, and a wonderful community of people. The moment I stepped onto McDaniel College's campus, I knew it was my school! McDaniel had everything I wanted and so much more. Since starting my college career, McDaniel has been a gateway to many incredible opportunities. One that stands out, however, was my Little Free Library Installation! In my junior year, I was taking a Graphic Design course where we had a project designing products to put into a Little Free Library around the Westminster area. There was an opportunity, however, to apply for a grant to build a new Little Free Library as well. With the support of my professor, I applied for the grant and ended up winning \$1000 to build a brand new Little Free Library for the Westminster Community! Without this Graphic Design course at McDaniel, I likely would never have even thought to take the opportunity to apply for the grant in the first place. I am so grateful to McDaniel for the countless experiences and opportunities I have had within my almost four years at the College."



## Summer Research on Dark Matter - The Perfect Opportunity for a Washington College Student

Washington College may seem like a quiet place over the summer, but learning continues across campus even after the academic year ends. Sneha Vireshwar Dixit '23, a prime example, spent her summer studying and researching dark matter under the tutelage of Digesh Raut, Visiting Associate Professor in Physics.

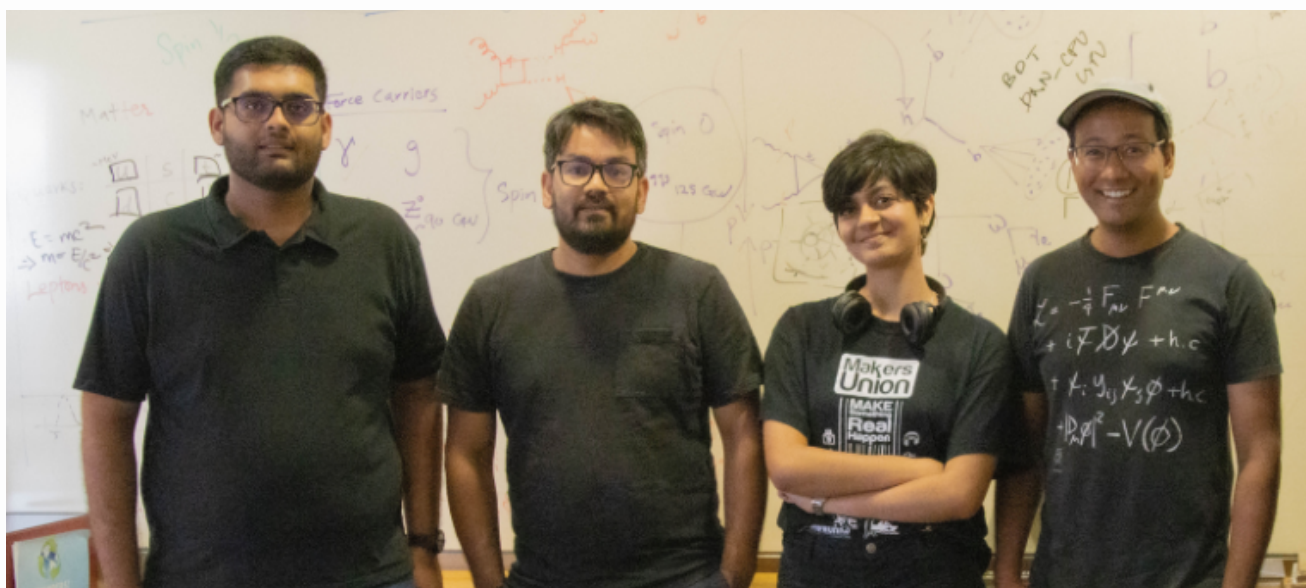
Far greater than just a summer internship, for Dixit this opportunity was one more step towards achieving her dream of becoming a physicist – something she's known she wanted to do since the 8th grade. Her summer research was focused on learning more about dark matter, a subject that is still relatively unknown. "We know dark matter exists and it's all around, but we can't see it or feel it," she explained. "We know it's there because certain things in space move faster than we think they should. So dark matter is this invisible matter exerting force."

Taking a cue from her subject of interest, Dixit actually exerted a little force of her own to create the

opportunity when she approached Dr. Digesh about working with him. "His course on quantum physics was the one I was most excited about, and I decided to learn more about him," she said. As it turned out, he was doing exactly the type of work she wanted to do. Dixit took the initiative to reach out and three days later, Dr. Digesh proposed a project that she said was more in line with her interests than the previous program applications she considered.

As a conceptual project, it required a great deal of reading and note-taking in an effort to understand the existing theories. Then she used that knowledge to run specific calculations on the computer. "This summer has been the happiest I think I've ever been," said Dixit. "It's so new and there's so much to study, I just feel really lucky."

Dixit's research – which was supported by the Cater Society and the John S. Toll Fellowship Program - will continue through the 2022-23 academic year and Dixit has plans to build her senior thesis around it.



Physics faculty pictured with summer researchers in the Toll Science Center. Pictured L-R: Tapaswin (Tapas) Chirwanuru Kumar '25, Dr. Digesh Raut, Visiting Associate Professor in Physics, Sneha Vireshwar Dixit '23, and Dr. Suyog Shrestha, Assistant Professor of Physics  
Source: Washington College

## *Spotlight on Mount St. Mary's Senior Collin Nji*

Excellence is a habit for Collin Nji, who consistently works to reach his potential.

When he was only 17, Nji, a native of Ghana, won international acclaim as a Google Code-In grand prize winner—the first African winner. His need to understand and perfect systems is rooted in his desire to solve real problems, build community and be of service to others—and hackathons provided all three.

In 2017, Nji won Best Google Cloud Machine Learning API Hack for the MHacks X hackathon at the University of Michigan. His team's project, Think Freely, was aimed at helping freewriters be more productive by constructing a graph of the writer's thought process. Using Google Cloud Platform (GCP) Sentiment Analysis API, they could understand the sentiment of each word in the text—producing a tree-like graph structure that relates words to each other based on context and sentiment.

Every summer Nji works to expand his skillset and enhance his understanding. In 2020 he worked as a data research analyst for the Center for Security and Emerging Technology. In 2021 he was a research fellow for the Data Science for Social Good Foundation headquartered in Coventry, England. Most recently, he worked as a software engineer intern for American Express.

As an honors student and Mount fellow, the computer science major has found a community of friends on campus, where he has the freedom to explore his ever-expanding interests inside and outside of the classroom. The Office of Competitive Fellowships, led by Associate Professor of History and Marshall Scholar Jamie Gianoutsos, Ph.D., is run by a team of dedicated faculty mentors who empower students like Nji to compete for and win nationally recognized awards. The mission is to help Mount students translate what they learn at the University into action for the world.



*Collin Nji, senior computer science major  
Source: Mount St. Mary's University*

## *Hood College Political Science Students Engage with Local Politics On and Off Campus*

In a politically divisive landscape, a group of Hood College students has been working to protect voter rights and increase engagement. Ibtisam Alafghani, Sadie Kowalski and Isabel Malizia are all current political science majors. They're turning theory into practice, taking the knowledge gained from classes and applying it to campaigns across Maryland.

Isabel Malizia '23 completed an internship with Common Cause, a non-partisan, pro-democracy nonprofit focused on passing reforms that empower voters. She advocated for public campaign financing in Anne Arundel County through training sessions, which educated people on petitioning to put issues on ballots. During the 2022 Maryland primary election, Malizia worked with Election Protection coalition volunteers to ensure equitable access to polling stations.

Sadie Kowalski '25 has been actively involved in the Wes Moore gubernatorial campaign. After attending the Western Maryland Democratic Summit, Kowalski applied for an internship and was accepted as a county organizer. Stationed in Frederick County, she planned canvass events and led grassroots outreach, going door-to-door and promoting Moore's campaign. She's brought that experience back to the classroom, particularly in the U.S. Campaigns and Elections course.

Being an international student gives Ibtisam Alafghani '25, a double major in political science and economics, a unique perspective on U.S. politics. Recently, Alafghani was involved with the Jessica Fitzwater campaign for county executive in Frederick. Fitzwater's campaign manager was a guest speaker at Hood's Introduction to U.S. Politics course, which led to Alafghani volunteering.



*Students participate in class in Hood's Moot Courtroom within Tatem Hall.*

*Source: Hood College*

Although their political aspirations are diverse, these students all have one common thread—Carin Robinson, Ph.D., associate professor of political science at Hood College. In her classes, students have been working on various projects, such as conducting surveys and starting their own TikTok account to promote political awareness.

Robinson's students have also been looking for ways to make the political climate on campus less divisive. One approach is to create a bipartisan politics club, rather than having a separate Democrat and Republican club. Another is simply canvassing the Quad to talk with students about their opinions and concerns.

Hood College had a record number of students vote in the 2020 presidential election. Alafghani, Kowalski and Malizia hope this trend continues. "In many places across the globe, people don't get to vote or decide who represents them. Here in the United States, every single person matters and can decide who gets to be part of the government," says Alafghani. "It is a privilege to vote. It is something that makes us all equal."



## *Goucher College Students are Leaders On and Off the Court*



*Elizabeth Bobo '23, a Goucher College women's volleyball player, serves as the executive director of student organizations.  
Source: Goucher College*

Goucher College has a longstanding commitment to civic engagement and has been recognized as one of the most engaged campuses for college student voting. That involvement extends to campus student leadership as several student athletes have taken advantage of the opportunity to serve the Goucher community in student government positions.

Elizabeth Bobo '23, a women's volleyball player from Doylestown, PA, was approached by a faculty member about serving as club council treasurer. Bobo shadowed a graduating senior prior to taking over that role. Now, she serves as the executive director of student organizations, overseeing the student-run clubs on campus. One of the things Bobo likes about serving in that role is connecting with groups across campus.

"When I came to Goucher, I knew I was going to meet a lot of different people, but in this position, I get into the nitty-gritty of getting to know different people and their backgrounds. I am always learning about all these different clubs," said Bobo.

Men's soccer player and political science major Jeff Castro '24 got involved with student government in

Spring 2022 and currently serves as club treasurer, working closely with Bobo.

"In my role," said Castro, who hails from Egg Harbor Township, NJ, "I'm communicating with the different student organizations, whether it be Humans Vs. Zombies or the Nomad Student Organization. We communicate with them about money that they request for events and things like that."

Being an NCAA Division III student athlete already comes with intense time demands, and throwing in another commitment like student government isn't for everyone. Still, it can be manageable with the right support.

"For me," said Bobo, "it comes down to planning. When I have so many different things to do, it forces me to be more scheduled and organized."

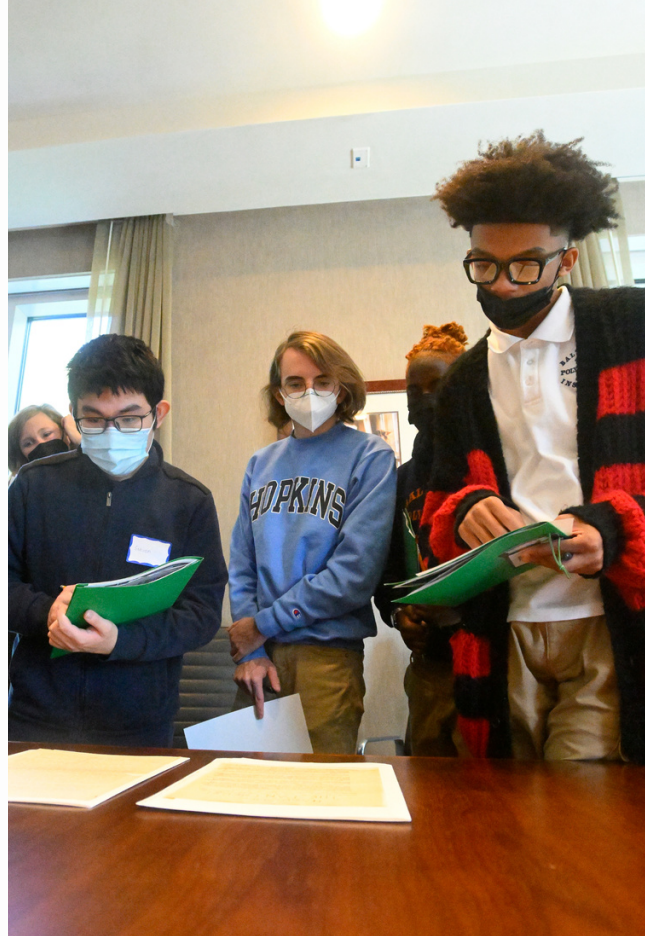
"It can creep into the academic part of your workload, but for me, it's been a genuinely amazing experience," said Castro. "I would recommend serving on student government to anyone, but I would warn them that it takes a lot of organization and diligence."

## *Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore High School Students Study City's Civil Rights History*

Johns Hopkins University undergraduates and Baltimore Polytechnic Institute high school students united on Oct. 19 to learn together about Baltimore's student and civil rights activists of the 1960s and '70s. Library archivists pulled together a collection of documents and artifacts from that era, including letters, photographs, and copies of the Johns Hopkins News-Letter. The day culminated with an in-person interaction with a trio of participants in that era's struggles, including retired Maryland Chief Judge Robert Bell, who was arrested during a 1960s sit-in protest and was represented at trial by Thurgood Marshall.

Two weeks earlier, these students gathered at the Maryland Center for History and Culture to tour the new exhibit titled "Passion and Purpose: Voices from Maryland's Civil Rights Activists." For the Poly students, these outings augment their African American history class. The Hopkins students participated as part of a history course called "1968: Rebels, Revolution, and the Right-Wing Backlash."

The effort to unite schools to study Baltimore history was born of a somewhat unlikely source—visiting assistant professor of history Victoria Harms, who came to Hopkins from her native Germany in 2018 as part of a program by the DAAD German Academic Exchange Service. An expert on Cold War-era European history, she knew little about Baltimore, and her first Hopkins class, focused on the pivotal year 1968, looked only at things such as the Prague Spring and unrest in France. But she grew increasingly curious about the city outside her windows and began visiting and making connections with the institutions that help tell the city's story, such as the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture.



*JHU and Poly students review historical documents.  
Source: Johns Hopkins University*

"I came to realize that it's a mistake not to include Baltimore's history in my class because it's so rich and representative of what was happening in the '60s," Harms says. "To understand Baltimore today, it's pertinent to understand the 1960s."

The idea of adding public school students to the mix was born of her meeting with folks from JHU's Center for Social Concern and participating in its Engaged Scholar Faculty and Community Partner Fellows Program, which promotes and facilitates community-based learning opportunities.

## *NDMU Junior Selected for Prestigious Internship at Baltimore Museum of Art*

A Notre Dame of Maryland University art student was recently selected for a highly competitive internship at the largest art museum in Maryland.

Jensen Armstrong '24 served as an intern for the American Painting and Sculpture department at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) in fall 2022. The position included extensive research opportunities to support a planned future reinstallation of American Art galleries at the BMA, which contains a collection of more than 97,000 pieces from a variety of eras and cultures.

An art major specializing in art history, Armstrong is also vice president of NDMU's Morrissy Honors Program and a student worker in the archives at the Loyola Notre Dame Library. She was involved in an oral history project with Morrissy alumni as an intern for the program's 40th anniversary celebration in April 2021, and she is currently assisting the archives department with moving rare book collections into climate-controlled rooms.

Armstrong credits her experience in both of those roles, along with her work as an assistant for the Art Department's Gormley and Civera Galleries, with helping her obtain the BMA internship as an undergraduate. She also highlighted the personalized support received by NDMU's art department faculty.

"I absolutely adore the Art Department faculty," Armstrong said. "I have such close connections with them, and that's given me the confidence to move out of my comfort zone in the classroom."

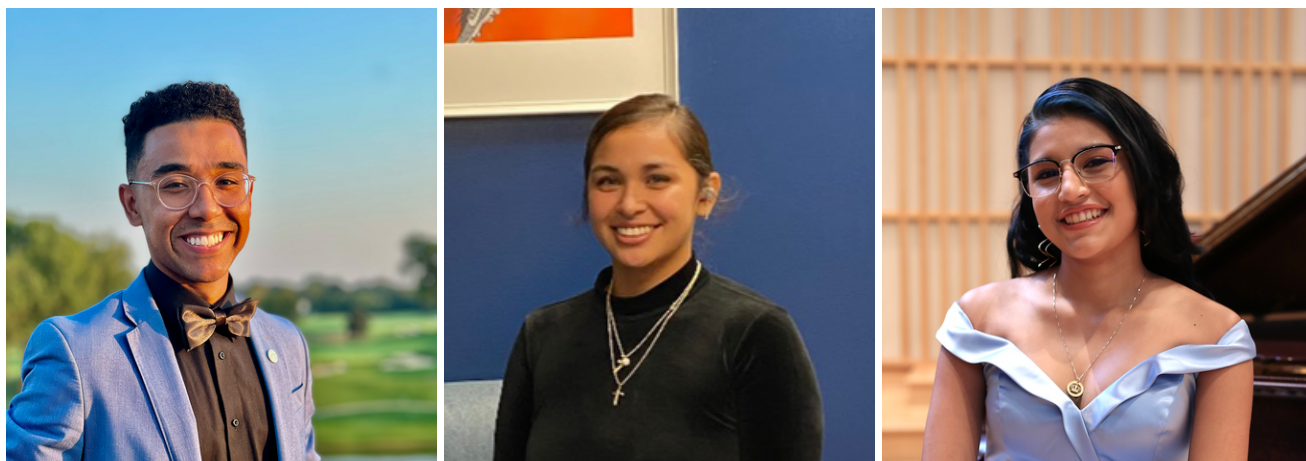
"The ability to work so closely with professors, not just in the Art Department, is one of the main reasons I decided to attend Notre Dame," she continued. "That personal experience is something you can't get at other schools, and I think it helps students thrive in their learning here."



*Jensen Armstrong credits her Notre Dame experience for helping her to land a prestigious internship at the Baltimore Museum of Art.  
Source: Notre Dame of Maryland University*



## *Washington Adventist University the Right Choice and the Right Size for Many*



*Pictured left to right: Henrique Da Silva, '24; Infinity Chacon, '23; Valeria Bentivegna; '23.  
Source: Washington Adventist University*

As the national debate surrounding the value of higher education continues, many of the students who attend Washington Adventist University (WAU) not only value the opportunity they have to attend an institution of higher learning, but they see WAU as the right choice for them and their needs, as well as helping them achieve their career goals.

After graduating from high school in 2020, Henrique De Silva went back home to Brazil because the COVID-19 pandemic had just begun, “WAU was the only University that cared for me from the beginning of the process until everything was finalized.” said Da Silva. “I had visited WAU before..., and I was already interested in coming to this beautiful campus, everything impressed me.” Da Silva continued.

“I had chosen WAU because I wanted a better education system in a new environment that felt comforting for me to adapt to, but also I wanted to explore my religious options and learn more about the Seventh-day Adventist faith.” said Infinity Chacon.

When asked about the obstacles they overcame, Valarie Bentivegna said that “WAU helped me

overcome my fear of performing on stage, I am still not 100% confident when I’m up on stage playing alone but it is definitely better than it used to be.”

Da Silva and Chacon both mentioned how difficult it was being far away from family, “but being on such a small campus like WAU everyone becomes part of your family, you’re never alone and you always have someone to pick you up or give a helping hand when needed.” said Chacon.

As they reflected on their greatest accomplishment since starting school, Chacon remembered how she lobbied to promote the WAU Softball team on campus and how the first photo promoting softball at WAU was a picture of her. Bentivegna mentioned how she is proud to be able to balance being involved with all the performances as a music major, being able manage all her Pre Med requirements as well as being a tutor. “Since the very beginning, I was introduced to different leadership opportunities that with no doubt I accepted, making me a better person. I am very thankful that I have chosen Washington Adventist University as the place to start my academic journey!” said Da Silva.

# Capitol Technology University's First STEM Challenge Encourages Young Learners to Explore STEM Education

Capitol Technology University held its first-ever STEM Challenge event on Saturday, October 15, 2022. This debut event drew almost 200 attendees of local middle and high-school aged students, and their families, interested in exploring STEM as a potential educational and career track and provided several faculty-led, hands-on activities in which students could participate. Demonstrations included everything from flying drones to building databases to launching rockets and were designed to engage and educate a younger crowd.

The day's activities kicked off with a computer science demonstration at the University library, where students built digital inventories to learn how to create and manage a database. At the unmanned autonomous systems station, students flew aerial vehicles through various obstacles to gain an understanding of flight mechanics and drone handling.

The University's impressive new Asteroid Large aperture PHotometry exoplAnet transit (ALPHA) Observatory was open to the public during this event, for the first time since its installation over the summer. Students were able to explore the new equipment during afternoon tours, while learning the names of different constellations and how to position the telescope towards stars and planets. Participants also performed a simulated launch in the Space Flight Operations and Training Center (SFOTC) on campus, as they launched a virtual satellite into orbit using the same technology found in real NASA flights.

Capitol Tech's prestigious Signal-9 cyber battle team was happy to relay their training and skills in helping young hackers work their way through a virtual "capture-the-flag" session in the campus' Cyber Lab.

While coding their way into cyberspace to capture a virtual marker, students learned key concepts and the unique logic needed to crack the various codes in this demonstration.

In collaboration with the National Society of Black Engineers' FIRE STEM program, rocketry enthusiasts got to build their own model rockets and launch them that same day. Students also had an opportunity to learn about the Capitol Tech Construction and Critical Infrastructure program with activities on how to accurately measure and plan for large-scale construction projects using mathematical equations, scaling calculations, and physical ground-mapping with flags.

Capitol Tech was thrilled with the attendance of this year's event, as it is an indication of the growing interest of our youth in STEM education and career development. The University is excited to host next year's event in 2023, focusing on showcasing the endless ways in which technology can make life exciting, and how Capitol Tech can continue to provide opportunities for the next generation of young innovators.



Capitol Tech STEM Challenge Day attendees participate in a build-and-launch-your-own rocket demonstration.  
Source: Capitol Technology University

## *Stevenson University and Women's Institute of Torah Seminary and College Form Partnership for Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, and Biomedical Engineering Degrees*

Stevenson University and Women's Institute of Torah Seminary and College of Baltimore (WITS) are pleased to announce a new partnership to create Pre-Med, Pre-Dental, and Biomedical Engineering degree pathways for WITS students. On Wednesday, October 26, 2022, representatives of the institutions signed a memorandum of understanding to create an educational collaboration that allows WITS students to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Jewish Studies at WITS and, concurrently, a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with a Pre-Med/Pre-Dental focus or a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Stevenson.

"WITS has achieved many successes in 25 years as a college for Orthodox Jewish women in the Baltimore area and beyond," said Leslie Klein, Ph.D., Academic Dean of WITS. "We have over 2,000 alumnae who have gone on to be successful in graduate school and in their chosen careers. Recently, there have been exciting developments as teams of Orthodox high school girls have been participating and winning robotics competitions while others have secured prestigious internships at NIH. With the growing interest in careers in medicine and engineering, WITS is eager to provide programming to support these students in their desired academic fields. That is why this partnership with Stevenson for pre-med, pre-dental, and biomedical engineering education is so valuable for our students and our community."

"This partnership is unique in that students continue their Jewish studies as they take their general education courses at WITS, while studying sciences and engineering at Stevenson University," said Elliot Hirshman, Ph.D., President of Stevenson.

This innovative partnership provides WITS students with a curriculum that prepares them to apply to medical or dental school, or with a degree that prepares them for careers in the growing and in-demand field of biomedical engineering. As part of their studies at Stevenson, WITS students in the pre-health professions track will complete two internships, one working with professionals in the healthcare field and one completing a medical or dental research experience. Students in the biomedical engineering pathway will complete four design courses that prepare them to be successful, technically proficient engineers. The first four WITS students, who are pursuing the pre-health pathway, started at Stevenson during the Fall 2022 semester.

This is the second education partnership that Stevenson has formed with higher education institutions serving the Orthodox Jewish community. In January 2019, Ner Israel Rabbinical College and Stevenson partnered to create a degree pathway for Ner Israel students seeking pre-med education to prepare for graduate programs in medicine and related health fields.



*Pictured left to right: Shlomo Spetner, Chairman of the WITS Board; Mindy Spetner, Vice-Chairman of the WITS Board; Rebbetzin Ettie Rosenbaum, WITS Executive Dean/Menaheles; Dr. Leslie G. Klein, WITS Academic Dean; Dr. Susan T. Gorman, Stevenson Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost; Dr. Ellen Roskes, Dean of Stevenson's Fine School of the Sciences; and Dr. Elliot Hirshman, President of Stevenson University.*

*Source: Stevenson University*



## *Three generations of MICA alumnae build community in Baltimore*

In the heart of Baltimore's Highlandtown neighborhood, three women — connected by their time at MICA — are helping build the next generation of artists in the city through hands-on educational experiences. And, the three alumnae know, it is never too early to explore creative opportunities in the arts.

For nearly 10 years, MICA alum Felicia Zannino-Baker '87 (Interior Design BFA) has owned and operated the Highlandtown Gallery on South Conkling Street, and always had a vision of three different galleries celebrating all forms of local art.

That dream is now a reality thanks to the help of fellow MICA alums Debbie Lynn Zwiebach '73 (General Fine Arts BFA) and Beth-Ann Wilson '05 (Painting BFA). Zwiebach has shown her work in the space from the beginning, and now operates her own gallery — Zwiebach Creations — within the property. Beth-Ann joined the series of galleries six years ago and runs her own space — Night Owl Gallery — from the property.

“Collectively, we represent a broad range of expertise in the arts. I believe we are an outstanding example of how a degree from MICA, coupled with alumni collaboration, can profoundly impact a community in the arts realm,” Zannino-Baker said.

The three have been hosting MICA students as interns to help them get hands-on experience in the entrepreneurial art world. The Highlandtown Gallery hosted MICA student Sofia Maldonado Feliciano '23 (Animation BFA) for a summer internship, giving her valuable experience on the business side of an artistic career.



*From left, Felicia Zannino-Baker and Sofia Maldonado Feliciano, Beth-Ann Wilson and Adrian Kurth.*

*Source: Maryland Institute College of Art*

And also this past summer, Wilson hosted MICA student Adrian Kurth '23 (Illustration BFA) in Night Owl Gallery for their first ever gallery show. The initiative kicked off this summer in partnership with MICA's Ratcliffe Center for Creative Entrepreneurship, and Kurth was awarded \$3,000 for the summer internship fellowship with Wilson at her gallery space. And, during this time, Kurth helped mentor a rising MICA freshman, Grey Clifford '26 (General Fine Arts BFA).

“The business of art and running a community-based gallery is an explorative endeavor that is shifting between promoting shows, bringing in partners and engaging with social media. It is a never ending cycle of innovation woven into business operations that can go unseen if not lived,” Stacy Stube, associate director for Creative Entrepreneurship, said. “This summer internship experience funded not only the network connection and introduction to small arts business learning, but it was passed on as Adrian supported an early stage artist beginning their journey at MICA.”

## *St. John's College Celebrates Grand Opening of New Student Health and Wellness Center*

On September 28, 2022, St. John's College celebrated the grand opening of its Student Health and Wellness Center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, featuring presentations from community partners, a group art project, visits from therapy dogs, and yoga demonstrations.

The newly renovated Center revolves around an integrated model of health services that includes primary care, free mental health services and counseling, vaccinations and health education in one central, accessible location for students.

"Expanding student support and ensuring our students feel safe and ready to learn is a major priority for the College. That starts with excellent wellness and mental health services," said St. John's College President Nora Demleitner in her opening speech.



*Student Health and Wellness Director Danielle Lico, President Nora Demleitner, and Dean Joseph Macfarland cut the ribbon on the new center.*

*Source: St. John's College*

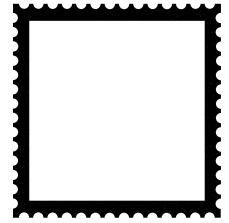


*Students visit with a therapy dog during Campus Wellness Day.*  
*Source: St. John's College*

St. John's College believes the Center's quality, accessible and holistic health services can serve as a national model for other small and medium-sized institutions of higher education. The Center offers students primary care, women's health, immunizations, counseling, and psychiatry services. In addition, the Center focuses on student well-being by providing ongoing wellness workshops and participating in health-related outreach events on campus. Students can book access to a mindfulness room, as well. Additionally, the Center's staff are highly skilled in crisis management and are trained in the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS), an evidence-based suicide-specific treatment framework. The Center also supports a 24/7 crisis hotline available to all students.

"We understand that student wellness is an essential component in student thriving and are excited to welcome students into the new Student Health and Wellness Center," says Executive Director of Campus Health and Wellness Danielle Lico. "The new, central location allows us to more effectively provide services and supports the collaboration required within our providers to address the health and wellness concerns of our students."

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MICUA Matters is published by the Maryland Independent College and University Association.

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Angela Sherman  
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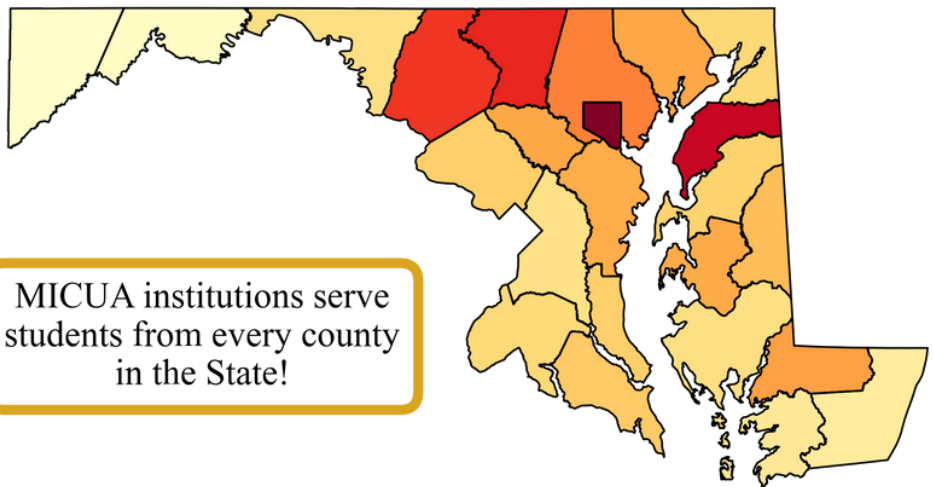
Irnande Altema  
Associate Vice President of  
Government and Business Affairs

Ashley Swift  
Manager of Business Operations

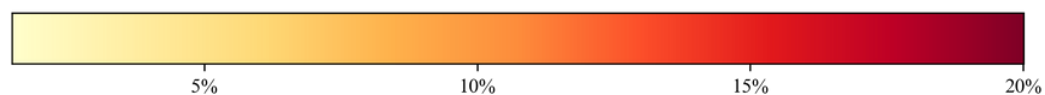
Stephanie Thomas  
Director of Communications

Pam Nussbaumer  
Executive Assistant

## The Percentage of Maryland Students attending a MICUA Institution by County of Residence



MICUA institutions serve students from every county in the State!



Note: Displayed statistics represent full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate students by their reported county of residence. Data does not include students with reported residences outside of Maryland.

Source: MICUA 2021 Accountability Survey, MHEC 2021 Maryland Residents Report

To be added to our newsletter mailing list, or for questions or comments, please contact MICUA's Director of Communications Stephanie Thomas at 410-269-0306 or [sthomas@micua.org](mailto:sthomas@micua.org).