The Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) announces the appointment of Sara Fidler as the next President of MICUA, replacing retiring President Tina Bjarekull who led the organization for 17 years. As the President of MICUA, Fidler 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.

Fidler brings a strong understanding of higher education policy and Maryland laws and regulations. Since 2001, Fidler has held the position of Committee Counsel to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (EHEA) Committee of the Maryland General Assembly. She also served as a Principal Policy Analyst for the Maryland Department of Legislative Services and Co-leader of the Education Workgroup. Previously, Fidler worked for the Office of the Maryland Attorney General and the Maryland State Department of Education.

“This is bittersweet news for me and other members of the Committee,” said Senator Paul G. Pinsky, Chair of the Senate EHEA Committee. “Sara is an accomplished professional who values education, has devoted 18 years to public service, and truly understands higher education. She will lead MICUA with integrity and vision.”

Fidler is a graduate of Duke University, earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 2001. She is a member of the Duke Board of Baltimore and Chairs of the Duke Alumni Admissions Advisory Committee.
As the sun sets on this season of my career, I give thanks for the privilege of working with principled individuals on important issues impacting our State and nation. Throughout my career, I have met hundreds of elected officials, college presidents, campus administrators, public service workers, association leaders, and community advocates who have truly changed the lives of millions.

Visionary leaders and ordinary citizens can be extraordinarily impactful. I am grateful to have worked with friends and colleagues who have dedicated their lives to improving education, advancing equality, and expanding opportunities for neighbors and total strangers. I applaud researchers who have contributed to pioneering discoveries that save lives, improve health, and stimulate economic activity. I praise students and campus leaders who promote environmental sustainability, gender equality, social justice, and inclusion. I value the generous contributions of foundations, corporations, and individual givers who provide grants and internship experiences to MICUA students.

Americans are safer, stronger, and more prosperous, because you cared. I celebrate your gifts to MICUA and to Maryland’s independent colleges and universities. Thank you!

With gratitude,

Tina Bjarekull
President of MICUA
2002 - 2019
A snapshot of Tina Bjarekull: MICUA's Retiring President

Tina Bjarekull announces the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP).

Tina Bjarekull (center) with First Lady Yumi Hogan (left), Chris Nelson, former President of St. John’s College, and Sammy Hoi, President of the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Senior leaders of Maryland’s independent colleges and universities and MICUA President, Tina Bjarekull, present the 2019 Presidents’ Award to Maryland’s U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen.

Tina Bjarekull presents House Speaker Michael E. Busch with the 2018 MICUA Presidents’ Award.

Tina Bjarekull, Delegate Adrienne Jones (now Speaker Jones), and Trayvon Hicks, a Goucher College alumnus and staff to Delegate Nick Moby, testify.

Tina Bjarekull and several MICUA Presidents discuss independent higher education during a meeting with U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin.

Tina Bjarekull announces President of the Senate Thomas V. “Mike” Miller as the recipient of the 2016 Presidents’ Award.
Loyola University Maryland’s 80 Acres are Accredited Arboretum

Loyola University Maryland’s Evergreen campus was awarded Level I Accreditation as an arboretum through the ArbNet program in December 2013. In 2019, the University achieved Level II accreditation, thanks to expansion and enhanced preservation.

“The Loyola Arboretum directly engages hundreds of Loyola community members in the vast and critical beauty of biodiversity,” says Taylor Casalena, Loyola’s Sustainability Coordinator. “The arboretum supports Loyola’s Climate Action Plan goal to reimagine the campus landscape to protect biodiversity and inspire environmental stewardship.”

Thanks to the University’s dedication to nurturing and preserving dozens of tree species on campus, today the Loyola Arboretum is recognized internationally among other professional public gardens in the Morton Register of Arboreta. The 80-acre Evergreen campus boasts more than 2,200 trees that represent 114 varieties, including 33 native species. Visitors to campus can explore the arboretum through a self-guided walking audio tour.

The plan for Loyola’s Arboretum began in 1999 with assessments of existing tree conditions, the development of a tree care program, and the labeling of trees. Today Loyola is one of only 11 arboreta in the State of Maryland on the Morton Register.

“Our mission is to provide a beautiful and sustainable environment for Loyola students, faculty, staff, and visitors,” Helen Schneider, Associate Vice President of Facilities and Campus Services, says. “Maintaining the Loyola Arboretum is an opportunity to preserve the natural aesthetics of our historic campus and enhance its biodiversity.”

Capitol Technology Signs MOU to Strengthen International Cybersecurity

On May 31, 2019, Dr. Bradford Sims, President of Capitol Technology University, signed an MOU with Dr. Mustafa Aydin, President of Istanbul Aydin University. The official signing was held following a meeting with the university presidents, along with Mr. Gunay Evinch, Co-chairman of the Board of the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC), and Maryland’s Secretary of State, Mr. John Wobensmith.

“As one of the leading universities of Turkey in the fields of cybersecurity and blockchain technology research, we are delighted to sign an MOU with Capitol Technology University to conduct joint summer school, research, [and] conferences, in the following days,” said Dr. Aydin.

The partnership between the universities began in September 2018, when Dr. Sims met Dr. Aydin on a trip to the Republic of Turkey, sponsored by the Turkish American National Steering Committee and Turkish Airlines. Several weeks ago, Dr. Samil Erdogan, Director of International Relations at Istanbul Aydin University, and Dr. William Butler, Capitol’s Chair of the Department of Cyber and Information Security, presented together at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators National Conference in Washington, D.C. on the importance of protecting private data at universities from cyber-attacks.

“One of our common philosophies is that we both believe in hands-on classes and working closely with industry,” said Dr. Sims.

Istanbul Aydin University is the leading cybersecurity university in the Republic of Turkey. Capitol was one of the first schools to be designated a National Center of Academic Excellence-Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) in 2003 and has been successfully re-designated two times.
McDaniel College Students Raise Awareness for Climate Change

The McDaniel College community—mostly students—joined peers around the world to strike at noon September 20 to bring awareness and spark action to stop climate change. Young people all over the world are worried that the Earth will be uninhabitable in their lifetime, including McDaniel College students who created two organizations, Green Life and the Progressive Student Union (PSU), to pool their enthusiasm and activism to orchestrate Climate Week from September 20-27.

PSU president Samantha Bouton of Pasadena, Maryland, and Green Life president Emma Findeisen of Westminster, Maryland, led the week-long rally, which included Meatless Monday, Turn it off Tuesday, Letter Writing Wednesday, Think about the Future Thursday, and Campus Carbon and Sustainability Friday.

“We’ve had a lot of positive feedback—people said they were interested or that they learned something new,” said Findeisen, a junior Environmental Studies and History major. “It’s important to make this close to home for everyone—the shock factor doesn’t work.”

Climate change couldn’t have been closer to home for junior Khalil Edwards, a Computer Science and Philosophy major from Hawaii.

“I live on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean,” Edwards said. “As the oceans rise, they threaten my home. My island could disappear into the sea. We have to take action now—maybe I can’t save my own land but maybe I can help to save others.”

Goucher College Recognized in Princeton Review's "Top 50 Green Colleges"

Environmental sustainability is woven throughout the student experience at Goucher College. As part of Goucher’s liberal arts curriculum, students are required to explore ecological, policy, social, cultural, and historical dimensions of human relationships to the environment through an environmental sustainability learning requirement.

Students may engage with environmental studies in varied courses developed across the disciplines. Specific cross-cultural, environmentally themed courses range from “Consumer Culture and the Environment” to “Quantitative Reasoning and Environment Ethics.” Building on these courses, Goucher offers an interdisciplinary environmental studies major and minor with two concentrations—environmental science and environment and society.

Environmental themes continue to the College’s study abroad program, which is recognized as one of the best in the nation. Goucher’s commitment to environmental sustainability also extends outside of the classroom. The new campus dining facility is greener than the previous dining hall and includes a state-of-the-art composter and a centralized storage unit for cooking grease that creates bio-diesel. Because of these sustainable features, along with the environmental design and renovation of the building, a LEED Silver certification is being pursued for this building, as well as the two new residence halls that opened in 2018.

By prioritizing environmental sustainability across the student experience, Goucher’s ongoing commitment to the environment has continually been recognized in The Princeton Review’s “Top 50 Green Colleges” rankings.
NDMU’s Focus on Diversity is Celebrated and Recognized by the NCAA

Notre Dame of Maryland University’s (NDMU) Department of Athletics was selected as the September Division III Diversity Spotlight Initiative by the NCAA after NDMU hosted OneTeam Week on campus. OneTeam is an NCAA LGBTQ+ working group which promotes the inclusion of all genders, races, and sexualities on campus teams. OneTeam also granted NDMU $500 toward its next Diversity Initiative.

“The OneTeam Week was a perfect way to bring all the student-athletes together. It didn’t matter what team you were a part of, during OneTeam Week, we were all one team,” said Hannah Amodia, NDMU student and National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President. “The trainings held throughout the week really helped student-athletes be more aware and helped us learn how to become better allies for the LGBTQ+ community.”

According to a 2017 membership survey, more than 80% of athletic and school administrators identified themselves as LGBTQ+ allies, and roughly 60% of student-athletes identified themselves as allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

NDMU student, Samantha Kastner, helped to bring the OneTeam Program to NDMU’s campus after hearing the Program’s messages while she served on several athletic committees including the SAAC for the Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) and Empire Eight Conference. As a member of National SAAC, Kastner has served on the NCAA Division III Management Council, Committee on Women’s Athletics, and Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS). NDMU’s Director of Athletics Renee Bostic also supported the OneTeam cause by becoming one of over 30 OneTeam Program Facilitators nationwide.

“Not only did our student-athletes sign up for our trainings, they showed up and were engaged and responsive to the material. We are excited NCAA’s Diversity Initiative is helping us fulfill our NDMU mission,” Bostic said. “As an institution, we look forward to our next opportunity to live out our goal of promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion.”

NDMU’s Focus on Diversity is Celebrated and Recognized by the NCAA

St. John’s, United Negro College Fund, & American Enterprise Institute Partner

From July 28 to August 3, 20 African American and Black students, primarily from Historically Black Colleges and Universities, convened at St. John’s College for a weeklong program. The pilot program, “What to the African American Is Freedom? A Historical Perspective,” was co-created by the United Negro College Fund, the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), and St. John’s with the assistance of a group of African American scholars at Harvard. Participants read works from authors such as Hosea Easton and Ida B. Wells in preparation for discussions ranging from “Abolition & Revolution” and “Freedom & Justice” to “Self-Help” and “Political Economy.”

Each day, students engaged in discussions with the whole group, followed by breakout sessions with smaller groups of students and two faculty members. After class, the students would meet for lunch, where they heard from speakers such as economist Glenn Loury and representatives from the Graduate Institute and AEI.

“They asked good, but hard questions,” said tutor Brendan Boyle of the students’ reactions to the speakers. “That, for me, was one of the most successful parts of the week—watching the students try to understand convictions they did not share, but which, all the same, were rooted in the very texts they had been reading.”

St. John’s student Rae-Ann Clement agreed. She did not always hold the same views as her peers—something she attributes to being a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago rather than an African American—but appreciated the discussions. “Opening our minds to another perspective is, to me, part of what we do at St. John’s,” said Clement. “It was intense, but in a good way, an engaging way, an enlightening way.”
**Johns Hopkins University Researcher Wins 2019 Nobel Prize**

Gregg L. Semenza, a C. Michael Armstrong Professor of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine. The Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden honored Semenza for his discovery of hypoxia-inducible factor 1, or HIF-1, the protein that switches genes on and off in cells in response to low oxygen levels.

Semenza’s discovery has far-reaching implications in understanding the impact of low oxygen levels in blood disorders, blinding eye diseases, cancer, diabetes, coronary artery disease, and other conditions.

“I’ve been able to do what I’ve been able to do here at Hopkins, and I really don’t believe that I would have accomplished this anywhere else,” Semenza said. “That’s why I’ve stayed here my whole career, because I think this is the greatest place to do research.”

Semenza shares the award with William G. Kaelin Jr. and Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe. Kaelin, a professor of medicine at Harvard University and researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, completed his specialist training in internal medicine and oncology at Johns Hopkins. Ratcliffe is a professor at University of Oxford and the Francis Crick Institute. Semenza and Kaelin are the 28th and 29th people associated with Johns Hopkins to win a Nobel Prize.

“Gregg’s passion for discovery and the energy with which he pursues that passion exemplify Johns Hopkins’ commitment to create new knowledge that helps make a better and more humane world,” said Ronald J. Daniels, President of Johns Hopkins University. “That hunger to always know more is what makes Gregg and our Johns Hopkins faculty so extraordinary.”

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**McDaniel College Student Travels the World Researching the Environment**

McDaniel College Environmental Studies major Jackie Fahrenholz has traveled the globe to research nature. In her sophomore year, Jackie explored marine life in the Bahamas and trekked deep into the jungles of Borneo. During Jackie’s junior year, her Conservation Biology class discovered the first ever recorded rare black jaguar in the remote Ichigkat Muja-Cordillera del Cóndor National Park in Peru while analyzing footage from camera traps their professor helped position there.

This year, Jackie traveled to the Galapagos then to The Turks and Caicos Islands for a semester of marine resource studies and research through a program with the Center for Marine Resource Studies (CMRS) on South Caicos. Here, Jackie studied fishery management, identification of organisms in seagrass beds, and the sociological side to development and well-being of the islanders. Jackie said the CMRS program’s remote location offered an amazing connection to the natural world. After returning to campus, Jackie helped Environmental Studies professor Jason Scullion identify threatened chokepoints in existing habitats.

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All of these opportunities have allowed me to experience the cultures of different parts of the world as well as increase my academic knowledge of the ecosystems, their weak points in regards to human development, and what’s being done to mitigate that.

My experiences have been more around becoming a better scientist, gaining more confidence in my abilities to not only conduct research but present it in front of a group of people whose lives are affected by what I found. These times also allowed me to gain some knowledge about myself and give myself time to reflect on what’s important to me by connecting with the natural world around me.
Hood College Builds Partnerships

Hood College President Andrea E. Chapdelaine and Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner announced two innovative partnerships between the College and the County.

The first partnership agreement will allow Hood College to use two county-owned greenhouses at the Scott Key Center for community gardens to supply food to people through the Frederick Food Security Network. The greenhouses will be used by Hood students to grow fresh local produce, which they will supply year-round to the Frederick Food Security Network. These community gardens improve food security for residents of local food deserts and promote better eating habits and environmental stewardship in the community. In exchange for the use of the greenhouses, Hood College will recruit and train volunteers and students to grow plants to feed community members and will also provide education outreach programs for the community.

The second agreement is the NeighborHOOD Partners Program that provides educational opportunities to county employees and their qualified dependents. Tuition discounts will be available to county employees, their spouses and dependent children who are degree seeking and enrolled either full time at the undergraduate level or part time at the graduate level.

“We are excited to have such strong partnerships with Frederick County and be able to improve communities and offer scholarships,” said President Chapdelaine. “As an institution of higher education, our mission is to empower students and the community to meet personal, professional and global challenges. These partnerships allow us to do just that.”

“Our collaboration with Hood College will provide food for people in need throughout our community,” said Executive Gardner. “I’m also excited that our employees will benefit from scholarships at the College, as we work together to develop people who are vested in our community.”

MICA Faculty Helps Bay Oysters

Ryan Hoover, an artist and interdisciplinary sculpture faculty member at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), has been working to create “biocement” scaffolding that could potentially help restore the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay.

“The goal is to blend scientific research and artistic exploration into a practice that yields results,” Hoover explained. “It gets [students] toggling back and forth between modes of thinking and working. I don’t expect them to be expert bioengineers, but I want them to understand enough to be conversant and active in that field.”

In January of 2018, Hoover and Dr. Matthew Gray, an oyster scientist at Horn Point Labs, began collaboration that combines expertise in biomaterials and computational design at MICA’s Biomaterial Lab with oyster science and restoration expertise at University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science’s Horn Point Lab. Hoover and Gray have been working on the biocement, which is made using bacteria that, under the right conditions, are capable of growing calcium carbonate crystals that can bind together grains of sand into a cement. It is an environmentally friendly material with similarities to oyster shell.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of shell that limits the scale of current restoration projects. Alternative substrates such as granite or concrete vary in their success, have negative environmental impact, or are not acceptable materials to add to the Bay. An alternative substrate is needed that optimizes oyster larvae settling, can be formed into three-dimensional structures mimicking benefits of a reef, and does not have negative environmental impacts.

So far, the biocement seems to be working. Preliminary tests show oyster larvae settle on this substrate at a rate that could make it an advantageous material for restoration efforts. For more information about biofabrication and Hoover’s work, visit https://www.mica.edu/art-articles/details/art-biology/.
Goucher College launched the Hallowed Ground Project to study and recognize the role of slavery and racism in the history of the land occupied by the College. Earlier this year, the Goucher College Board of Trustees unanimously approved the first initiative of this multi-year project by voting to refile and strike the racist language from the College’s original 1921 land deed with the State of Maryland.

“The symbolic, public step of amending our original land deed will live in the historical record and reflect our community’s values,” said Kent Devereaux, Goucher’s President. “We see it as an institutional priority to better understand and recognize the history of slavery on the 287 acres the College now resides upon.”

The College, which was founded in 1885 after slavery was abolished in the U.S., purchased the land in Towson in 1921 from Harriet Ridgely Chew, the daughter of Maryland Governor Charles Carnan Ridgely. Chew and her husband inherited the land from her father. Ridgely also bequeathed some twenty enslaved men, women, and children to the Chews. In 1921, descendants of the Chew family sold 421 acres of their land to Goucher College with a clause in the deed of sale that stipulated “no part of said land or premises shall ever be leased, sold, transferred to or occupied by any person of the African Race.”

In addition to amending the 1921 deed, the Goucher College History Program plans to acquire a large volume of digitized copies of Chew family letters from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to help illuminate the history of slavery on the land. As research projects expand, options to educate the community and memorialize the history of slavery on the land will be explored, including public lectures, permanent exhibitions, and the viability of erecting a permanent memorial to the enslaved men, women, and children who once labored on the land.

“The project’s purpose is to integrate this history into the College’s collective memory so new generations of students can learn from our shared past and remember the lives of the enslaved who, until now, have largely been forgotten,” said James Dator, Assistant Professor of History at Goucher College and Chair of the Hallowed Ground Project.

Goucher College has also joined the Universities Studying Slavery (USS) consortium. The USS’s mission is to support institutions as they address both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education, and the complicated legacies of slavery in modern America.

Stevenson University Plans to Break Ground on New Library and Theater

This fall, Stevenson University will break ground and begin site development on a new Library and Theater complex on the Owings Mills campus. The 55,000-square-foot facility will be located at Owings Mills North, complementing the University’s 200,000-square-foot Manning Academic Center and School of Design also located there.

In addition to a library, the complex will include a black box theater accompanied by additional spaces for rehearsals, a green room, and costume and scene shops; a faculty commons with offices; and a variety of gathering spaces for academic, social, and cultural functions.

This building will enhance Stevenson’s student experience on the Owings Mills campus by expanding study and social spaces as well as foster collaborations between academic departments.
In an era in which small liberal arts schools are struggling to attract new students, enrollment numbers at St. John’s College keep getting better.

“It has been a really good year in admissions,” says Ben Baum, Vice President of Enrollment. “In the years I have been at St. John’s, we’ve not been in such a strong position as we are in this moment.”

The transformative vision of the Freeing Minds campaign—to make the St. John’s education affordable and accessible to qualified students who seek it through a new financial model—has had a significant impact on philanthropy and student interest.

A coordinated marketing push to prospective students, new publications and digital communications, national and regional ad campaigns, a refreshed website, and press coverage about the Freeing Minds campaign have all further bolstered St. John’s visibility.

“It’s important that we create a well-rounded classroom,” continues Baum. “When the application pool is up, that means our domestic applications are up, our number of Pell grant recipients are stronger, [and] we have a broader diversity within a class, as well as strong academic credentials.”

While many small colleges saw an average five percent decrease in tuition deposits by May 1—the date most admitted students accept offers—Annapolis reported a one-year 10 percent increase and Santa Fe a one-year 26 percent increase. Joey Pennington, who matriculated to the Annapolis campus this fall, is one of the benefitting students. As Pennington says, “Without the new financial aid package, we may not have been able to afford St. John’s.”

Beginning in Fall 2020, Mount St. Mary’s University (MSMU) will adopt test-optional admissions for freshman applicants. The University looked at studies, both nationally and internally, that show test scores are not an accurate representation of a student’s academic potential or success. Instead the Mount will take a holistic approach to reviewing applications and awarding merit scholarships, with no penalty for absence of test scores.

The call for test-optional admissions first sounded in the spring of 2018 when The Visionaries of Inclusive Cultural Experiences (The V.O.I.C.E.), a student organization, recommended such a policy to improve access to a Mount education and promote equity. Student Lyndsey Saunders, a V.O.I.C.E. leader since the group’s inception in 2018, views the decision as being reflective of her Mount experience.

“The test itself is not reflective of you as a person. The system often fails when you don’t have accessibility to the time, money or other resources to prepare for the test,” said Saunders whose interest in educational inequalities was spurred when she became a Peer Educators and Advocates for Campus Equality, also known as a P.E.A.C.E. Leader. “Why should people have to pay thousands of dollars in prep programs to get into college?”

Using MSMU’s data and her own research, Honors Program Director Sarah K. Scott, Ph.D., made the data-based decision to eliminate the SAT or ACT requirement from MSMU’s application for admission to the Honors Program.

“In my first year as Honors Director, I decided to study whether a correlation between Honors students’ undergraduate GPAs and SAT scores existed at the Mount,” said Scott, who found no correlation. “The Honors Program is dedicated to promoting equity and success, as is MSMU, so it made no sense to continue with a test score requirement.”
Washington College Dedicates New Building to Environmental Studies

In October, Washington College dedicated its newest and most innovative academic building, Semans-Griswold Environmental Hall (SGEH). Located along the Chester River, the 11,500-square-foot building will house the Center for Environment and Society, as well as provide academic and lab spaces for the College’s growing biology and environmental programs. Its very presence—located on a former brownfield site—is a statement to its purpose of supporting hands-on research on the Chesapeake Bay and becoming a magnet for leadership centered on the environmental challenges facing the region, the country, and the world.

Serving as a model for sustainable buildings, the new Environmental Hall has been designed and built to meet the rigorous standards of the Living Buildings Challenge. It will rely solely on renewable energy sources and operate year-round pollution-free, producing at least 105 percent of its energy intake through a rooftop photovoltaic array of over 300 solar panels. Over a year, the building will push more energy into the grid than it removes.

Among its innovative design features is a state-of-the-art marine science lab that includes a river flow-through system, bringing water from the Chester River to support a teaching and research lab. Faculty and students will have the unique ability to study river ecology and marine organism biology in a controlled environment. A Watershed Innovations Lab will serve as the home of Chester River Watershed Observatory, where students will monitor water quality, deploy side-scan sonar to explore the river floor, build autonomous underwater vehicles, and develop innovative processes that incorporate the latest technology in watershed science.

MICUA Celebrates U.S. Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

MICUA joins its 15 member institutions in celebrating the life and legacy of U.S. Congressman Elijah Cummings. Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J., president of Loyola University Maryland, described his impact on the city and beyond.

Congressman Cummings will long be remembered for his commitment to public service and his support for those he represented, particularly the residents of Baltimore City. A civil rights champion, he understood that the people and institutions of Baltimore faced many challenges but even more opportunities, and he led with a depth of knowledge, insight, and compassion.

Loyola University Maryland is proud to host an annual Teen Summit on campus each March through a partnership with the Elijah Cummings Youth Program. With his legacy of leadership, Congressman Cummings kindled in many not just a belief that Baltimore and Maryland have an exceedingly bright future, but also that the community—and each of us—has a responsibility to work together to bring that future to life.
Washington Adventist U. Offers School Counseling Degree

Washington Adventist University (WAU) was approved by the Maryland State Department of Education for a joint psychology-education M.Ed. School Counseling degree. This is a nontraditional 48 credit hour, 18 month degree program offered through WAU’s School of Graduate and Professional Studies (SGPS). The program prepares students to provide psychological counseling, identify learning disabilities, assist students in choosing potential career paths, and serve as a liaison between students and parents.

WAU’s motto “Gateway to Service” captures the spirit of this new program in which the psychology and education departments assist graduate students to develop into fully competent, caring, ethically motivated school counselors. School counselors play an important role in private and public schools, but unfortunately many are dealing with a severe shortage of counselors to meet student needs.

To fill this gap, WAU’s new degree is designed to train, equip, and prepare graduate students with the necessary theoretical knowledge and practical experiences in school counseling for K-12 as they complete their school practicum and internship placement in the Prince George’s County Public School system.