

BSUPI

The Bowie State University Philanthropy Initiative

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Jakeya Johnson Launches Campaign for Congress in Maryland's 4th District



Jakeya Johnson, Fellowship Class of 2023

On August 21st, BSU alum and Philanthropy Fellowship graduate (2023), Jakeya Johnson, formally announced her candidacy for the U.S. Congressional seat representing Maryland's 4th District. In an interview with the BSUPI, she reflected on her journey and the role the Philanthropy Fellowship played in it.

"Some time ago, I worked in health administration," said Johnson, "but I left it because it didn't feel aligned with what I wanted for myself, my career, and my legacy. So I started doing a lot of volunteering and that brought me to public administration and nonprofit work. Joining the Philanthropy Fellowship in 2022 was an eyeopener. It gave me an up-close look at how much commitment and creativity goes into supporting our communities. But it also helped me understand that there are limits to what nonprofits and philanthropy can do because they operate within systems shaped by public policy. We need people in our government who are willing to fight for policies that address the root causes of problems and so that's what led me here."

"Jakeya has repeatedly shown herself to be a standout here at Bowie State," said Assistant Professor, Dr. James Hyman. In 2023, she was selected for the Langenberg Legacy Fellowship – a program that recognizes one student from each University System of Maryland member school for their efforts to conduct public service projects that improve the world through local justice-oriented action. Her project focused on enhancing access to products that support sexual and reproductive health. Working collaboratively with MD State Senator, Ariana Kelly, she wrote legislation, signed into law by Governor Wes Moore, that addressed contraception and other reproductive health issues in Maryland's higher education system.

Jakeya served her Fellowship assignment at the TIDES Network – a philanthropic organization with assets of \$850M. Upon completing the Fellowship she was hired at TIDES as a grants manager, and she continues in that position while also serving as a community organizer, nonprofit leader, and union steward.

BSUPI salutes Jakeya Johnson and celebrates her vision and commitment as she continues her journey making a difference for our society.

"I am running because the people closest to the pain have been furthest from power for all of my life, and that gap continues to grow," said Johnson. "We've spent so long watching politics serve corporate donors and career politicians instead of the people. Our voices, the voices of working people, parents, renters, students, and everyday neighbors, need to be heard and reflected in every decision made in Washington."