2023 WINTER COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023, 9:00 A.M.
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
WINTER 2023
COMMENCEMENT

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
AT NINE O’CLOCK IN THE MORNING
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX
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Dr. Aminta H. Breaux has served as the visionary 10th president of Bowie State University since July 2017. From the beginning of her presidency, she has been committed to building on the legacy and rich history of Maryland’s oldest historically Black university. She has initiated a university-wide focus to infuse entrepreneurship education across all disciplines and spearheaded the opening of the Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community in the fall of 2021 to provide a hub for student innovation. As president, she is laser focused on ensuring the long-term viability of the institution.

A leading voice in higher education, Dr. Breaux has been tapped to serve in multiple leadership roles. She was appointed to the President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Governor’s P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland. She is chair of the Board of Directors for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

Dr. Breaux is very committed to serving the community, specifically with programs and support activities that enrich the lives of children and youth. She serves as a member on the board of directors for the Greater Prince George’s Business Roundtable, Prince George’s County Chamber of Commerce and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Strada Education Network and the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board. She is an emeritus trustee of the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia after serving there for 16 years.

Her most recent honors include the Educator of the Year Award from the National Council of Negro Women and the Trailblazer Award from the Bowie Business Innovation Center, in conjunction with Capital One and the Capital City Chapter Links Inc. Leadership Award.

Dr. Breaux previously served as vice president for advancement at Millersville University, where she oversaw fundraising, alumni engagement, event management and external relations. She also served as their vice president for student affairs. Previously, she was dean of students at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and served as assistant provost, and as director of co-operative education and career services at Drexel University. She began her career in higher education as a counselor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Breaux holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Temple University, a master’s degree in psychological services in education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a doctorate in counseling psychology from Temple University. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Institute for Executive Management and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities Millennium Leadership Institute.
Abby Phillip anchors CNN NewsNight with Abby Phillip airing weeknights at 10:00 p.m. Phillip takes a sharp approach to the day’s biggest stories, driven by the facts and pursuit of the truth. With her award-winning background in dogged Washington reporting, Phillip brings a unique context to the complexity of current affairs. Phillip holds powerful leaders accountable with hard-hitting interviews and hosts interesting conversations from a variety of perspectives.

She was previously CNN’s senior political correspondent and anchor of Inside Politics Sunday. She joined the network in 2017 to cover the Trump Administration and served as a White House Correspondent through 2019. In January 2020, she moderated CNN’s Democratic Presidential Debate in Iowa. She also anchored special coverage of election night in America surrounding the 2020 election. In January 2021, she covered the CNN Special Report: Kamala Harris: Making History about the vice president’s barrier-breaking career and the childhood experiences that helped shape her. Phillip has been an essential player in CNN’s special coverage of political events, including election nights, State of the Union Addresses and the January 6th Committee hearings.

Phillip joined CNN from The Washington Post. She previously worked at ABC News and Politico. Throughout her career, she has covered multiple presidents, campaign finance, lobbying and several presidential campaigns.

Phillip was named to the Time100 Next list in 2021 and she was the recipient of the National Urban League’s Women of Power award.

Phillip was raised in Bowie, Md., and is a graduate of Harvard University with a degree in government. When not on television, she spends time with her husband, daughter and their pup Booker T.
Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley is a nationally recognized counselor/educator, organizational leader, college professor and activist. She has devoted her career to empowering others through her professional, charitable and public service endeavors. She is a graduate of Bowie State University, New York University and George Washington University.

She had a long professorial tenure with Loyola University in its Graduate School Counseling Program. Other professorial roles include George Washington University and the Harvard University Summer Institute for Counselors.

Dr. Daley broke racial barriers when she was elected President of the American School Counselor Association, representing school counselors across the country. She again broke racial barriers as President of the American Counseling Association, the largest counseling association in the world and received their Wrenn Humanitarian Award, its highest award. Ebony Magazine also listed her among the 100 Outstanding Black Americans.

She is a humanitarian who willingly shares her knowledge and skills and has been at the forefront of endeavors that seek to bring justice to everyone. She has conducted workshops and given speeches across the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. She has also led the Women in NAACP in building schools in Benin, West Africa.

Dr. Daley has fought for social justice and equity on the local, state, and national levels, and served as one of Maryland’s ten Electors in the 2020 Electoral College where she cast votes for President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. In September 2023, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior appointed her to the National Historic Site Advisory Commission for the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House. In February 2023, The Baltimore Sun recognized her as a Living Civil Rights Legend, and in 2020, she was inducted into the Baltimore Gas and Electric and The Baltimore Sun’s Business & Civic Hall of Fame.

She served as president of five national organizations, and on January 1, 2023, she completed a successful term as the 8th president and chair of the National Council of Negro Women. She currently serves as NCNW Affiliates Chair, is the 16 National President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. and is Vice Chair of the sorority’s D4 Women in Action.
ALMA MATER
CHARLOTTE B. ROBINSON

There’s a spot in my heart that never grows cold,
There’s a place in my memory that never grows old.
There’s a prayer on my lips that I’ll ever be true
To God and my country,
To Bowie State, my school.

(REFRAIN)

Oh, Bowie State, dear Bowie State
May you forever be, the flame of faith,
The torch of truth,
To guide the steps of youth.

There’s a song in my heart that I’ll ever sing
Of the beauties of Bowie State that each season brings.
There’s a pledge in my heart that I’ll ever keep true
To uphold the standards of Bowie State, my school.

(REFRAIN)

Oh, Bowie State, dear Bowie State
May you forever be, the flame of faith,
The torch of truth,
To guide the steps of youth.

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.
THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX
President of the University, Presiding

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL

POSTING OF THE COLORS
BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)
Lieutenant Colonel Kareem Y. Fernandez, U.S. Army
Department Chair, Military Science

"THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"
by Frances Scott Key
Led by Jade Frasier, Senior
Bowie State Gospel Choir

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"
by James Weldon Johnson & J. Rosamond Johnson
Arrangement by Latonya Wrenn, Director
Bowie State Gospel Choir

MOMENTS OF REFLECTIONS
Led by Dr. William Lewis, Mace Bearer

GREETINGS & CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES
Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, President

SPECIAL MUSICAL SELECTION
Myles Frost
Tony Award winner, Grammy Award nominee, "MJ: The Musical"

William T. Wood
Regent, University System of Maryland Board of Regents

Stephanie Nelson
President, Senior Class

Linda Orajekwe
President, Graduate Student Association

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS
Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief of Staff

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA PRESENTATION
Dr. Thelma T. Daley
INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER
Dr. Aminta H. Breaux
President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Abby Phillip
Anchor, CNN, NewsNight with Abby Phillip

“AERIUS”
by Carl Strommen
Performed by the Bowie State University Symphonic Band
Mr. Billy Bennett, Director

RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou
Acting Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

CONFERRING OF DEGREES
Candidates for Degrees presented by
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES
Dr. Janet Guyden
Interim Dean, Graduate School

Dr. George Acquaah
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Regina Tawah
Interim Dean, College of Business

Dr. Rhonda Jeter
Dean, College of Education

Dr. Cheryl Blackman
Dean, College of Professional Studies

INDUCTION INTO THE BSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Darren M. Swain ('93 & '95), President, BSU National Alumni Association

ALMA MATER
Led by Laila Gwathmey, Junior, Bowie State Gospel Choir

RETIRING OF THE COLORS
BSU Army ROTC

ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL
DEGREES CONFERRED

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Doctor of Science in Computer Science
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
  Master of Arts
  Master of Arts in Teaching
  Master of Business Administration
  Master of Education
  Master of Public Administration
  Master of Science
  Master of Science in Management Information Systems
  Master of Science in Nursing

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

  Bachelor of Arts
  Bachelor of Science

The list of candidates for graduation was prepared within the time limits imposed for the printing of the program. Therefore, the list of names is not conclusive. Only those candidates who have met all graduation requirements will be granted a degree.
THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Abdullah Abdulhadi Al Gahtani
Catonsville, Maryland
M.S. — Lawrence Technological University
B.S. — King Faisal University
"Building an Intelligent Framework Using a Novel Combination of Ensemble Classification to Predict Heart Disease"

Bander Ayed Allogmany
Columbia, Maryland
M.S. — California Lutheran University
B.S. — Taibani University
"Dealing with Concept Drift in Personalized Learning Systems"

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dallas Donnell Lee
Bowie, Maryland
B.A. — Langston University
M.S. — Trinity Washington University
"Examining Culturally Responsive School Leadership on Student Engagement in the Title 1 and TSI Middle School Setting"

Reginald Riddick
Hanover, Maryland
B.A. — Delaware State University
M.A. — Strayer College
"Retention of African American Male Students at a Historically Black College from the Perspective of Athletes Identifying Strategies for Success"

Dawn Jakaye Riddick
Hanover, Maryland
B.S. — Delaware State University
M.A. — Hampton University
M.Ed. — Bowie State University
"Alternative Certified Teachers’ Perceptions of the Obstacles, Catalysts, and How School Administrators Provide Appropriate Resources to Help Retain Teachers in an Urban School District"

*Denotes Summer 2023 Completion
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Ijenakhe Abudu-Sule
Benin City, Nigeria
B.S. — King Faisal University
M.S. — Lawrence Technological University

Ericka Anjelica Holt
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.A. — North Carolina Central University

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Patrick Nana Addison
Hanover, Maryland
B.S. — Pentecost University College

John Bright Affam
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park
B.S. — University of the District of Columbia

Tunde Olumide Ayodele
Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Computer Science University of Benin

Dwayne D. Grant
Oxford, Maryland
B.A. — University of Maryland Baltimore County

Tolulope Oladipupo Okeowo
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Lagos State University

Wasiu Adebiyi Sanyaolu
Parksville, Maryland
B.S. — Ladoke Akintola University of Technology
M.S. — Towson University

Abhishek Sirra
Chantilly, Virginia
B.S. — Aurora’s Scientific Technological & Research Academy

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATH

Yves-Marc Cherilas
Baltimore, Maryland
B.A. — City University of New York, Hunter College

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNET OF THINGS & INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

Ryley Danielle Hinson
Jessup, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Elesha M. Jackson
Elicott City, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

John S. Koroma
Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Oludamilare M. Nwadikwe
Farmers Branch, Texas
B.S. — Bowie State University

Clarence E. Ray
Laurel, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Danielle Stewart
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Bolametiren Cecilia Akinlaja
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Redeemer University

Eric Abdul Dunbar
Woodbridge, Virginia
B.S. — Virginia Union University

Robert Nesta Thomas
Savage, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Tonya Marie Turner
Fort Washington, Maryland
B.A. — Trinity Washington University

Gabrielle L. Christian
Elkridge, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Lauren Shanice Heath
Severn, Maryland
B.A. — University of West Indies

Auzsa L. Hopkins
Olney, Maryland
B.A. — Bowie State University

Camille Michelle Johnson
Baltimore, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Laurel Elaine Morse
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Omotolani Oluwansiloh
Hyattsville, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Linda Nnedinma Orajekwe
Laurel, Maryland
B.A. — Lagos State University

Charles Alexander Rivers*
Minneapolis, MN
B.A. — University of North Florida

Randel R. Williams
Lanham, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Shaneeka Labelle Becton
District Heights, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

*Denotes Summer 2023 Completion
THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Alexis Nicole Branch  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
B.A. — Bennett College

Omari Michael George  
Baltimore, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Jakeya N. Johnson  
College Park, Maryland  
B.S. — Western Governors University

Chiedzio Okwudili Kalu  
Laurel, Maryland  
LL.B. — University of Nigeria Nsukka

Raven Lorien Lott  
Dumfries, Virginia  
B.S. — Christopher Newport University

Crystal McDonald  
Hyattsville, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland Global Campus

Kianna Janai Nicholson  
Nottingham, Maryland  
B.S. — Morgan State University

Angela Jeanne Rouson  
Accokeek, Maryland  
B.S. — Hampton University

Markell Nefertiti Smith  
Owings Mills, Maryland  
B.S. — Towson University

MARTER OF SCIENCE IN MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Ayomide Samuel Awobiyi  
Laurel, Maryland  
B.S. — Babcock University

Leisha K. Hall  
Jessup, Maryland  
M.B.A. — American InterContinental University

B.B.A. — North Carolina Central University

Kenneth Chimezie Nnolim  
Bryans Road, Maryland  
B.S. — Ahmadu Bello University

Samuel Chukwunwike  
Nwului  
Edgewood, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Benin

Boluwatife Teniola Ogunjobi  
Bowie, Maryland  
B.S. — Kwara State University

Adetoyese Emmanuel Olajide  
Springdale, Maryland  
B.S. — Lead City University

Adeyinka Wuraola  
Shokoya-Eleshin  
Bowie, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Lagos

M.S. — Brunel University London

Dennis Nathaniel Wolley Jr.  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
B.S. — Towson University

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Deborah Temitope Aiyegbusi*  
Montgomery Village, Maryland  
B.S. — Frostburg State University

Sarah Victoria Cardenas  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Quionne Chevon Flythe  
Temple Hills, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Vanessa A. Lamison  
White Plains, Maryland  
B.A. — Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

Trey Al Deann McCarden  
Laurel, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Shandra Marica Ridgely*  
Baltimore, Maryland  
B.S. — Morgan State University

Gwinn Alene Spence  
Crownsville, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland University College

Marsha Alethea Spence-Gayles  
New York, New York  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Deborah Temitope Aiyegbusi*  
Montgomery Village, Maryland  
B.S. — Frostburg State University

Sarah Victoria Cardenas  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Quionne Chevon Flythe  
Temple Hills, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Vanessa A. Lamison  
White Plains, Maryland  
B.A. — Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

Trey Al Deann McCarden  
Laurel, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Shandra Marica Ridgely*  
Baltimore, Maryland  
B.S. — Morgan State University

Gwinn Alene Spence  
Crownsville, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland University College

Marsha Alethea Spence-Gayles  
New York, New York  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Deborah Temitope Aiyegbusi*  
Montgomery Village, Maryland  
B.S. — Frostburg State University

Sarah Victoria Cardenas  
Silver Spring, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Quionne Chevon Flythe  
Temple Hills, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University

Vanessa A. Lamison  
White Plains, Maryland  
B.A. — Bloomfield College of Montclair State University

Trey Al Deann McCarden  
Laurel, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Shandra Marica Ridgely*  
Baltimore, Maryland  
B.S. — Morgan State University

Gwinn Alene Spence  
Crownsville, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland University College

Marsha Alethea Spence-Gayles  
New York, New York  
B.S. — Bowie State University

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Catherine T. Romero Barahona  
Gaithersburg, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland Baltimore County

Nyair R. Washington  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University

CHINUA T. ABUBAKAR*  
Fort Washington, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Michelle Renee Vinson  
Clinton, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Chinua T. Abubakar*  
Fort Washington, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Michelle Renee Vinson  
Clinton, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING

Bria Marie Gregg*  
Glenn Dale, Maryland  
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

Alexis Chonte Hawkins*  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland  
B.S. — Bowie State University
THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING
CONTINUED
Matthew Jacob Sapienza *
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

Patrice Jasmine Willis *
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.A. — Ohio Western University

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHER LEADERSHIP
Jasmine Montei Bland
Annapolis, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

Mekrina Carmel Knoll
Hyattsville, Maryland
B.A. — The Catholic University of America

Nicole A. Robinson
Odenton, Maryland
B.S. — University of Delaware

Rachel Dominique Thomas
Suitland, Maryland
M.A. — Tennessee State University
B.S. — Morgan State University

MACUAYL RASHAD BAKER
Baltimore, Maryland
B.A. — Shaw University
M.S. — Tiffin University

PETER CARLTON BELL
Halethorpe, Maryland
B.A. — The University of Oklahoma

MONICA S. CHICA VALDEZ
Hyattsville, Maryland
B.S. — Washington Adventist University

DAIJAH IMANI McMANNUS
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

ELIJAH CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON
Union Bridge, Maryland
B.S. — Towson University

NICHOLAS RODGERS
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Morehouse College

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

KATHY BELCHES-REYNOLDS
Elkridge, Maryland
B.A. — James Madison University

REYONNA JALENE BUCK
Lusby, Maryland
B.S. — Marymount University

ERICA M CRUDUP
White Plains, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

STACEY ANN DANIEL
Owings, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park

VICKIE KELENE HUNT
Waldorf, Maryland
B.S. — Park University

MAIAH JONES
Waldorf, Maryland
B.S. — Bowie State University

MARIA CHRISTINA MARCELLA
Prince Frederick, Maryland
B.A. — Western Governors University

KIM J SBDORNE
La Plata, Maryland
B.S. — State University of New York at New Paltz

MICHELLE DANIELLE TURNER
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland Global Campus
M.A. — Ashford University
M.Ed. — Grand Canyon University

HANNAH H WALKER
Bowie, Maryland
B.S. — Salisbury University
M.Ed. — American College of Education

SHANNA NADINE WILLIAMS-CARR
Columbia, Maryland
B.S. — University of Maryland College Park
M.A. — University of Maryland College Park

*Denotes Summer 2023 Completion
### LATIN HONORS

#### Summa Cum Laude
- Naomi Elle Beach
- Temari L. Brown
- Virginia Carter
- Victoria Payne Chittams
- Briana Briones Colendres
- Jayne Michelle Considine
- Ronald E. Franklin Jr.
- Autumn Mikal Pate
- Chris Geo Aleligay Provido
- Lana R. Scott
- Gina Loren Sirenne
- Corrina Victoria Stevenson
- Yutzilt J. Tapia Vargas
- Hong Ngoc Tran
- Talisa M. Watson

#### Magna Cum Laude
- Daniel Enoch Aboagye
- Jade Anne Aguisingo Aguilar
- Youssef Abdullah Algheliqa
- Faisal Alkhelawi
- Aron Dovid Bishop
- Trondelle Laquan Brooks
- Davon T. Brown
- Diedra Shantelle Campbell
- Joshua W. Carter
- Kandee Antonette Clark
- Jasmyne M'Ychele Crawford
- Victoria A. Garrus
- Anthea Rhonda Glassman
- Terrence J. Griffin
- Cynthia Obiageli Ikeazor
- Carlyle A. Lee
- Dejah M. Miles
- Phyllicia Chevonnone Murray
- Marieme Ndiaye
- Justin Ikechukwu Odum
- Dorchelle Lashawn Parker
- Jocelyn R. Parker
- Steve Landry Pokarm Njoya
- Subhechha Rijal
- Ricardo Deion Simms
- Raven Tyra Stclair
- Brandon J. Thompson
- Isabel Grace Van Valkenburgh
- Sarahi Del Rosario Villaiba-Lopez

#### Cum Laude
- Bader Aldossary
- Kafayat Omotoke Alejo
- Nnaemeka Princewill Arwaodo
- Lynn D. Battle
- Jaylen C. Blagmon
- Kevin J. Davis
- Sandra N. Ebenki
- Awunngija Fontem Etienendem
- Mikail Sydney Green
- Kyndal C. Griffin
- Lashae D. Jones
- Joshua G. Lindler
- Nincy Martinez
- Keva Malea Carri McCray
- Monica T. Ojetola
- Cesar F. Paredes
- Brian Keith Ross
- Faith Nneka Udah
- Joy Olivia Udah
- Eden Tamene Waka

**GPA Range**
- *Summa Cum Laude*: 3.85 — 4.00
- *Magna Cum Laude*: 3.65 — 3.84
- *Cum Laude*: 3.50 — 3.64

### ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Transfer students who have earned 30-59 semester hours at Bowie State University with a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

- Zoe Jumakae Agunbiade
- Alexis R. Allen
- Miguel Earl Barajas
- Dariela J. Carcamo Urrea
- Kenyan T. Chambers
- Christopher Jaden Clayton
- Daniel Sharay Clemons
- Joshua David Denning
- Khiya Derncott
- Angelique L. Epps
- Raven Goings
- Maria Rubit Guzman
- Aaron Michael Harrison
- Ngulifac Nzefee
- Sonya Michele Odum
- Delante J. Peete
- Kelsey Joanna Reyes
- David M. Velasquez Charnorro
- Joseph Randy Vivens
- Ladawn Williams

This list of Honors and Recognition was compiled as of December 12, 2023.
THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

BACHELOR OF ART IN ENGLISH
Carlyle A. Lee
Churchtown, Maryland
Joseph Randy Vivens
Rockville, Maryland
Alisdair J. Wooddell
Waldorf, Maryland

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FINE ARTS
Nnaemeka Princewill Ariwaodo*
Greenbelt, Maryland
Myles J. Frost
Fort Washington, Maryland
Kelsey Joanna Reyes
Laurel, Maryland
Marcus A. Smith
Parkville, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS
Jariah C. Bartlett
Severn, Maryland
Moinena A. Seisay
Hyattsville, Maryland
Natasha Nicole Wynter
Hagerstown, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY
Seyi K. Akinwale
Laurel, Maryland
David I. Akinyemi
Middle River, Maryland
Annaya Ashanti Andrews
Washington, D.C.
Mikkel Anyangwe Awanda
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Naomi Elle Beach
New Carrollton, Maryland
Cameryn Dubose
Washington, D.C.
India Nichelle Edmondson
Waldorf, Maryland
Lucy O. Ekeh
Catonsville, Maryland
Krystal Monae England
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Zsarya Ford
Waldorf, Maryland
Jacey Tai Lee
Baltimore, Maryland
Aria Celeste Mason
Canton, Maryland
Charles Chukwuemeka Meregini
Annapolis, Maryland
Kamsi F. Nebo*
Silver Spring, Maryland
Osayimwense E. Obahigbon
Silver Spring, Maryland
Angel Alexandria Porter
Rockville, Maryland
Asia S. Pridgen
Temple Hills, Maryland
Chris Geo Alegigay Provido
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Subhechha Rijal
Pasadena, Maryland
Elijah T. Roberts
Glen Burnie, Maryland
Jessica N. Shaw
Fort Washington, Maryland
Gary Shikwa
Laurel, Maryland
Fareedah Temitope Shitta-Bey
Hyattsville, Maryland

BACHELOR OF ART IN COMMUNICATIONS
Devin Simone Hodge
Clinton, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS
Calil P. Brown
Camp Springs, Maryland
Kaleb Chester
Grayson, Georgia
Christopher Jaden Clayton
Montgomery Village, Maryland
Mikayla Jewell Davis
New Haven, Connecticut

Khiya Derricott
Washington, D.C.
Destiny N. Dew
Baltimore, Maryland
Marcquan T. Fenwick Davis
Prince Frederick, Maryland
Gabrielle M. Gentry
Annapolis Junction, Maryland
Kahlil Ngyel Glover
Pikesville, Maryland
Jacqueline Andrea Hammett
Baltimore, Maryland
Aaron Michael Harrison
La Plata, Maryland
Keshaua Johnson*
Bowie, Maryland
Keva Malea Cari McCray
Bowie, Maryland
Dadrian Z. Mikell
Accokeek, Maryland
Dejah M. Miles
Waldorf, Maryland
Andrew O. Oni
Gaithersburg, Maryland
Johnnie L. Palmer Jr.
Baltimore, Maryland
Jalyn J. Parker
Baltimore, Maryland
Rodney J. Patterson
Fort Washington, Maryland
Chandrea F. Purnell
Reisterstown, Maryland
Deon D. Riley
Bowie, Maryland
Anwar Alexis Roache
Glenn Dale, Maryland
Lauren Nicole Stacey
Alexandria, Virginia
Jasney Milan Taylor
Bowie, Maryland
Maya N. Tillman
Upper Marlboro, Maryland
Kamauri A. Winder*
Baltimore, Maryland
Nush Televine Zweh
Randallstown, Maryland

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### Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Oluwabusolami E. Adara
  Bowie, Maryland
- DaSean Jordan Best
  Clinton, Maryland
- Aron Dovid Bishop
  Elkridge, Maryland
- Trondelle Laquan Brooks
  Prince Frederick, Maryland
- Kenyan T. Chambers
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Joseph Michael U. De Castro
  Oxon Hill, Maryland
- Malaika D. Dixon
  Beltsville, Maryland
- Kqion D. Funderburk
  Hyattsville, Maryland
- Chikezie Franklin Igwebuike
  Bowie, Maryland
- Iyanna C. Jones
  Canyon Country, California
- Joseph A. Keller III
  Capitol Heights, Maryland
- Jared Edwin Kouadio
  Bowie, Maryland
- Isata Feremusu Mansaray
  New Carrollton, Maryland
- Oluwagbemisola J. Oluwagbire
  Bowie, Maryland
- Michael Korankye Osei Effah
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Tyree Rayquan Scott
  Baltimore, Maryland
- Adeola Adeoye Sonoiik
  Gambrills, Maryland
- KennyPride Agwenji Toh
  Silver Spring, Maryland
- Dimitri Waddell
  Laurel, Maryland
- Jacqueline T. Ware
  Temple Hills, Maryland
- Olivia Watts*
  Fort Washington, Maryland
- Marcus D. Williams
  Accokeek, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in Computer Technology
- Morenike Joyce Abegunde*
  Ellicott City, Maryland
- Kafayat Omotoke Alejo
  Bowie, Maryland
- Emmanuel O. Baiyewu*
  Bowie, Maryland
- Geremy Darnell Boyd
  Clinton, Maryland
- Diedra Shantelle Campbell
  Capitol Heights, Maryland
- Malik Cobbs
  Accokeek, Maryland
- Emmanuel Ayomide Essel*
  Bowie, Maryland
- Awunngija Fontem Etiendem
  Laurel, Maryland
- Robert A. Fuabah
  Springdale, Maryland
- Kyndal C. Griffin
  Severn, Maryland
- Ali J. Hairston
  Middle River, Maryland
- Oluseun O. Kolade
  Gwynn Oak, Maryland
- Angela P. Latson
  Bowie, Maryland
- Christian K. Lewis
  Owings Mills, Maryland
- John Francis Belcina Paja
  Bowie, Maryland
- Cesar F. Paredes
  Hyattsville, Maryland
- Autumn Mikal Pate
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Tommar Hugh Phillip
  Hyattsville, Maryland
- Steve Landry Pokam Njoya
  Bowie, Maryland
- Porsha Rochelle Porter
  Clinton, Maryland
- Ricardo Deion Simms
  Capitol Heights, Maryland
- Morgan Ashley Smith
  Edgewater, Maryland
- Jeremy Ikowen Udoka
  Lanham, Maryland
- Anthony D. Williams Jr.
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in Government
- Melody Mariah Arrington*
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in History
- Shaquana Renee Bradley
  Savannah, Georgia
- Cameron Levon Carney
  Temple Hills, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Cordell B. Battle
  Waldorf, Maryland
- Joshua David Denning
  Bowie, Maryland
- Sandra N. Ebenki*
  Bowie, Maryland
- Ngulefac Nzeffe
  New Carrollton, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in Theatre
- Dawn E. Belton
  Temple Hills, Maryland
- Grace Michelle Pugh
  Fort Washington, Maryland
- Jared Shamberger
  Waldorf, Maryland
- Daniel Lamar Young*
  Bowie, Maryland

### Bachelor of Science in Visual Communication & Digital Media Arts
- Myles B. Anderson
  Lanham, Maryland
- Davon T. Brown
  Washington, D.C.
- Gabrielle S. Brown
  Upper Marlboro, Maryland
- Jamarie A. Bush
  Great Mills, Maryland
- Joshua W. Carter
  Bowie, Maryland

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### THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

#### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN VISUAL COMMUNICATION & DIGITAL MEDIA ARTS**

*Continued*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briana Briones Colendres</td>
<td>Laurel, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmyne M’Ychele Crawford</td>
<td>Randallstown, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakya Alexandria Duff</td>
<td>Seat Pleasant, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payton J. Dunbar</td>
<td>Glenn Dale, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas Andrew Hanson Jr.</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayah L. Henderson</td>
<td>Severn, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shane F. Massey Jr.</td>
<td>Felton, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrakhan Muhammad</td>
<td>Capitol Heights, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giovanni Eduardo Osorio Vivar</td>
<td>Riverdale, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jocelyn R. Parker</td>
<td>Catonsville, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Isaac Sharpe</td>
<td>Laurel, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raven Tyra St. Clair</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgan T. Stewart</td>
<td>Owings Mills, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yutzilt J. Tapia Vargas</td>
<td>Hyattsville, Maryland</td>
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*Denotes Summer 2023 Completion*

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Enoch Aboagye</td>
<td>Alexandria, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yousef Abdullah Alghelija</td>
<td>Frederick, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky D. Aliping</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faisal Alkhelaiwi</td>
<td>Fairfax, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olujuwon O. Ayo-Omobo</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habayattu Zainab Bah</td>
<td>Greenbelt, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brenda Hope Bain</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dalitso Ezekiel Banda</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan Rodney Barnes</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn D. Battle*</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenia L. Best</td>
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<tr>
<td>Breon Louis Boatwright</td>
<td>Waldorf, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elijah Jeremiah Bobo</td>
<td>Laurel, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desiray Latrice Bowie*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evin Teara Brown</td>
<td>Lanham, Maryland</td>
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<td>Janeen Patrice Brown</td>
<td>Bryans Road, Maryland</td>
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<td>Amand Faye Burroughs</td>
<td>Crofton, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Immanuel Butts</td>
<td>Fort Washington, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony T. Carpenter</td>
<td>Reisterstown, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin J. Davis*</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tanaysia A. Deeds*</td>
<td>Glen Burnie, Maryland</td>
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<td>Aminata Nyara Dione</td>
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<td>Chanice Joanne Dominique*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony Doucet*</td>
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<td>Javon L. Down*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mekhi T. Downs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyre Fernandez</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kitijarith Daleja Foster</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>Victoria A Garus</td>
<td>Windsor Mill, Maryland</td>
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<td>Derricka L. George</td>
<td>District Heights, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Khiron Grasty*</td>
<td>Aston, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monet Alisa Hammond*</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brandon D. Harris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Hill</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kourtney Hill*</td>
<td>Jessup, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sir Jarmor Anthony Hodge</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
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<td>Antuan Terrell Jemerson</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
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<td>Aaron James Johnson</td>
<td>Reisterstown, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher B. Jones</td>
<td>Upper Marlboro, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cierra Jones*</td>
<td>Fort Washington, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nylasia Lanai Kelly*</td>
<td>Leonardtown, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Monet Lewis</td>
<td>Lexington Park, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin L. Makle</td>
<td>Finksburg, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyriq Medley*</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ga’Nyah Kierra Minor</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Malik Murray</td>
<td>Waldorf, Maryland</td>
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<td>Peeler Salisha Lee Peeler</td>
<td>Temple Hills, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawn Dale Porter</td>
<td>Baltimore, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaliyah Olivia Nicole Rice*</td>
<td>Essex, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin Alexis Rivera</td>
<td>Capitol Heights, Maryland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Antonia N. Rocke  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Hong Ngoc Tran  
Washington, D.C.

Josiah C. Weekes*  
Randallstown, Maryland

Bryan A. Saravia  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

David M. Velasquez Chamorro*  
Silver Spring, Maryland

Kamynah Alexandria West  
Washington, D.C.

Jibril Carlos-Al Scott  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Eden Tamene Waka  
Odenton, Maryland

Najah K. White  
Randallstown, Maryland

Ryana Y. Slowe  
Bowie, Maryland

Jerry C. Watkins Jr.  
Baltimore, Maryland

Tramaine L. Whitehead  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Shayla Sherrelle Stephens  
Bowie, Maryland

Talisa M. Watson  
Bowie, Maryland

Justin E. Williams Jr.  
College Park, Maryland

Merci Thompson*  
Great Mills, Maryland

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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Victoya Payne Chittams  
Mount Rainier, Maryland

Trinity Renee Minus  
Staten Island, New York

Thomas Austin St. Clair  
Gaithersburg, Maryland

Lana R. Scott*  
Gwynn Oak, Maryland

Sandra L. White  
Washington, D.C.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Jade Anne Aguisingo Aguilar  
Bowie, Maryland

Elysha Frederique Anderson*  
Accokeek, Maryland

Naima Lashawn Butler  
Hyattsville, Maryland

Virginia Carter  
Hyattsville, Maryland

Jayne Michelle Considine*  
Elkridge, Maryland

Anthea Rhonda Glassman*  
Columbia, Maryland

Jamira Bridgette Lee  
Gwynn Oak, Maryland

Rebeca N. Martinez  
Riverdale, Maryland

Gina Loren Sirene *  
New Windsor, Maryland

Phylicia Chevonne Murray*  
Ellicott City, Maryland

Marieme Ndiaye*  
Bowie, Maryland

Destiny Simone Owens  
Baltimore, Maryland

Unique S. Redwine*  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Brooke H. Sauderson*  
Laurel, Maryland

Martha Gisel Torres-Gutierrez  
Columbia, Maryland

Ladawn Williams*  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Gylon B. Blagmon  
Waldorf, Maryland

Jalen Walters*  
Bowie, Maryland

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT

Anthea Rhonda Glassman*  
Columbia, Maryland

Cameron Jyaire Chesley  
Fort Washington, Maryland

Tyron George Ferguson  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Eljhon M. Ward  
Silver Spring, Maryland

Brian C. West Jr.  
Oxon Hill, Maryland

Jhondis Michelle  
Jessup, Maryland

Meshawn Latta *  
Jessup, Maryland

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### THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

#### COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Axaya’Catl Hernandez-Tapia</td>
<td>Bladensburg, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tekoe E. Jennette</td>
<td>Morningside, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashunti D. Jordan</td>
<td>Gwynn Oak, Maryland</td>
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<td>Mahouda Kamara</td>
<td>Hughesville, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua G. Lindler</td>
<td>Accokeek, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iesha Sophia Marks</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<td>Jasmine Nicole McKnight</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deja Miller</td>
<td>College Park, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alannah Cierra Milstead</td>
<td>Indian Head, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belinda Lisa Moreno Anderson</td>
<td>Lexington Park, Maryland</td>
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<td>Montre Rajon Nicho</td>
<td>Bowie, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorchelle Lashawn Parker</td>
<td>Waldorf, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Delante J. Peete</td>
<td>Greenbelt, Maryland</td>
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<td>Brian Keith Ross</td>
<td>Glen Burnie, Maryland</td>
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<td>Tarun N. Sahdeo</td>
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<td>Accokeek, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rashina Erica Watson</td>
<td>New Carrollton, Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Samuel Webb</td>
<td>Gwynn Oak, Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalia Patricia Williams</td>
<td>Clinton, Maryland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CHILD & ADOLESCENT STUDIES
| Nia K. Belasco         | Bedford Hills, New York             |
| Courtney Renee Bennett | Washington, D.C.                    |
| Temari L. Brown        | Waldorf, Maryland                   |
| Jesutomisin T. Fekoya* | Laurel, Maryland                    |
| Mikail Sydney Green    | Upper Marlboro, Maryland            |
| Robyn A. Howard*       | Temple Hills, Maryland              |
| Lashae D. Jones        | Bowie, Maryland                     |
| Jada T. Lindsey-Swanson| Waldorf, Maryland                   |
| Nafiah I. Muhammad     | Glen Burnie, Maryland               |
| Sonya Michele Odum     | Hanover, Maryland                   |
| Akilah Richards        | Stone Mountain, Georgia             |
| Jordan Domonique Sterling | Lanham, Maryland                  |
| Asia M. Stokes         | Clarksburg, Maryland                |
| BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING
| Kafayat Damilola Adesakin | Upper Marlboro, Maryland          |
| Bobola Lawrence Ayleka | Laurel, Maryland                    |
| Afia G. Badu           | Lexington Park, Maryland            |
| Bria Monae Battle      | Clinton, Maryland                   |
| Tayla A. Collick       | Baltimore, Maryland                 |
| Hannah Peninah Paras Dayrit | Bowie, Maryland                |
| Joy C. Ezinneh         | Hyattsville, Maryland               |
| Ashley Briana Graham   | Bowie, Maryland                     |
| Destiny N. Leggette    | Baltimore, Maryland                 |
| Ihuoma I. Nwachukwu    | Hyattsville, Maryland               |
| Nkwadochukwu E. Nwachukwu | Hyattsville, Maryland            |
| Chinyere Helen Obasi   | Windsor Mill, Maryland              |
| Laura Virginie Pierrelus| Silver Spring, Maryland            |
| Mmekula E. Tucker*     | Silver Spring, Maryland             |

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Faith Nneka Udah  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Joy Olivia Udah  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Frank M. Uzoma  
Bowie, Maryland

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Dajhah M. Curtis  
Essex, Maryland

TiNya A. Dozier  
Queenstown, Maryland

Tiffany Kamira Green  
Baltimore, Maryland

Jewell L. Greene  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Terrence J. Griffin  
White Plains, Maryland

Ayanna Jackson-Williams  
Crofton, Maryland

Aniya N. Johnson  
Bowie, Maryland

Jaylen Alexis Johnson  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Eva Mariah L. Jones  
Silver Spring, Maryland

Kareem R. Kelsick  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Seanice L. Lyons*  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Nincy Martinez  
Lanham, Maryland

Cekiya M. McIver  
Accokeek, Maryland

Monica T. Ojetola*  
Bowie, Maryland

Catherine Sanchez  
Glen Burnie, Maryland

Aniya L. Shanks  
Fort Washington, Maryland

Corrina Victoria Stevenson  
Carrollton, Virginia

Kyla-Renee Still  
Bear, Delaware

Isabel Grace Van Valkenburgh  
Bowie, Maryland

Mykayla A. Wall  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Aymiah D. Williams*  
Bowie, Maryland

Brittany S. Yearwood  
Columbia, Maryland

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

Alexis R. Allen  
Bowie, Maryland

Cheyanne M. Armstead  
Elkridge, Maryland

Brooke S. Bratton  
Baltimore, Maryland

Jalen Maurice Britt  
Waldorf, Maryland

Samirah A. Brockington  
Baltimore, Maryland

Angelique L. Epps  
Bowie, Maryland

Michelle Estenor  
Waldorf, Maryland

Imonni M. Johnson  
Odenton, Maryland

Louis Francis Johnson*  
Bowie, Maryland

Samaiya S. Johnson*  
Lanham, Maryland

Elijah R. Lane  
Bryans Road, Maryland

Taylor D. Minzie  
Valley Stream, New York

Tamra R. Rogers  
Bowie, Maryland

Alia Reve Smalls  
Laurel, Maryland

Sarahi Del Rosario  
Villa Air Force Base, South Dakota

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ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

THE MEDALLION

The ceremonial medallion offers a unique opportunity to honor the presiding president and the former presidents of the university. The chain designed for Bowie State University, an institution rich in tradition, depicts the university’s heritage in intricate detail. Inscribed on each banner of the chain are the former president’s name and term of office, while the center banner features the name of the university’s current president.

Each presidential banner that makes up the chain is one and three-eighths inches. The Bowie State University medallion includes the university seal which is three and one-eighth inches in diameter and surrounded by a decorative bezel.
THE MACE & ACADEMIC REGALIA

THE MACE

The mace, introduced in twelfth-century France by Philip II and in England by Richard I, was designed as an emblem signifying the authority of state officials, sergeants-at-arms, royal bodyguards and ecclesiastical dignitaries. It has been adopted for its symbolism by colleges and universities in the United States and is traditionally borne in academic processions by the faculty marshal.

The Bowie State University mace stands 50 inches tall and contains design details that represent the rich legacy of the institution’s history and pay homage to its alma mater. The tapered mahogany staff bears seven, gold-plated engraved banners that designate major epochs in the school’s history and changes in its name.

The staff supports an eight-inch brass flame that sits atop a four-sided base, with each side displaying a three-inch, gold-plated medallion. One side of the base features a medallion with the university seal — the opposing side depicts a replica of the African Baptist Chapel on Saratoga Street in Baltimore, where the original school was founded in 1865. The other two medallions bear the words, “Flame of Faith” and “Torch of Truth,” echoed in the alma mater. The lyrics carry the hope that Bowie State will continue to serve generations of students for years to come.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The custom of wearing academic dress can be traced to the Middle Ages when scholars were also clerics and wore the costume of their monastic order. The hood originally was a cowl attached to the gown, which could be slipped over the head for warmth. The originally round cap later became the square mortarboard commonly seen today.

Under contemporary rules of protocol, only holders of the doctorate may wear the four-sided, six-sided, or eight-sided velvet tam. The gown worn varies according to the degree earned. The bachelor’s gown, for example, is worn closed and can be distinguished from the rest by its long pointed sleeves. The master’s gown is designed to be worn open, with slits at the elbow of the sleeves to accommodate the arms. The doctor’s gown, also worn open, has full, bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal bars stitched across the upper arm. A velvet panel that is stitched down the front edges is draped around the neck.

The doctor’s hood is four feet long, of fuller shape, and rounded at the base. The hood is bordered with velvet, the color of which typically indicates the field of study in which the wearer’s degree was earned: dark blue for philosophy, light blue for education, orange for engineering, gold/yellow for science, green for medicine, salmon pink for public health, purple for law, white for arts and letters, etc. The silk lining of the hood carries the colors of the institution that granted the degree. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood symbolic of the highest degree are worn.
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY CABINET

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux  
President

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.  
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BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCERS

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Bowie State University is an outgrowth of a school opened in Baltimore, Maryland, by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities that the state failed to provide for its black citizens. From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university with more than 6,200 diverse students, offering 27 undergraduate majors and 35 master’s, doctoral and advanced certification programs in a broad range of disciplines. Bowie State University continues to build on its legacy of providing access to high-quality education.

FOUNDING OF THE FIRST SCHOOL

The Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People was organized in 1864 by 46 men, comprised of businessmen, lawyers, clergymen and Quakers, committed to opening schools to educate the state’s newly emancipated citizens. One of those men was Joseph M. Cushing, an outspoken champion for the education of the black population. As chairman of the Educational Committee for Maryland’s Constitutional Convention in 1864, Cushing chastised the committee’s refusal to fund schools for black people: “There will come a time when this state will be forced by public opinion to provide means for educating our colored population.”

The association opened its first Baltimore school, School #1, on January 9, 1865, in the African Baptist Church in Crane’s Building on the corner of Calvert and Saratoga Streets. The school offered courses in the elements of education, and courses to train teachers were added in 1866. The facility was woefully inadequate. In 1867, with the aid of the Freedmen’s Bureau, the Quakers of England and others, the Baltimore Association purchased and renovated the Old Friends Meeting House at the corner of Saratoga and Courtland Streets to house the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers.

MOVE TO BOWIE

After repeated petitions from the Baltimore Normal School trustees, the state legislature authorized the Board of Education to assume control of the school in 1908 and redesignated it as State Normal School No. 3, finally fulfilling the dream of Cushing and the Baltimore Association. By 1910, the state decided to relocate the school to Bowie, Maryland, purchasing a 187-acre tract formerly known as Jericho Farm dating to 1716. The school opened at the new location in 1911 with about 60 students and Don Speed Smith Goodloe as the first black man to head the school as principal. In 1914, its name changed to the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie.

Under President Leonidas James, the school began a two-year professional curriculum in teacher education in 1925, which expanded to a three-year program in 1931. A four-year program to train elementary school teachers was introduced in 1935, and the school was renamed the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie.

Teacher education continued to expand under the 25-year tenure of President William Henry. The institution established programs to train teachers for junior high school (1951) and secondary education (1961) and advanced toward becoming a liberal arts college.
UNIVERSITY HISTORY

TRANSITION TO A STATE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

The Maryland State Legislature authorized the College to become Bowie State College in 1963, following the establishment of a liberal arts program. New majors in English, history and general social science were added, expanding offerings beyond teacher education.

Under President Samuel Myers, the college established its first graduate degree program, offering the Master of Education in 1969. The first director of the graduate division was Dr. J. Alexander Wiseman, a graduate of the Maryland Teachers College at Bowie and the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree from the University of Maryland, College Park.

EMERGENCE AS A COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY

In 1988, Bowie State College became Bowie State University, under President James Lyons, reflecting significant growth in academic programs, enrollment and community service. On the same day, the university also became one of the member institutions of the newly formed University System of Maryland.

Bowie State University gained recognition as a leader in the education of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. In 1995, Bowie State won an 11-year, $27 million award from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration/National Science Foundation, becoming one of only six national Model Institutions for Excellence in STEM.

TODAY'S BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

Bowie State University ranks among the nation’s top comprehensive universities, cultivating next-generation leaders by providing opportunities for students to discover their strengths through focused academic experiences and opportunities to tackle real-world problems.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Bowie State among the top 16 Historically Black Colleges and Universities and among the top 10 public HBCUs. Bowie State’s cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

Now more than ever, Bowie State University is committed to preparing students for success in a highly technological, global society.
LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 6,000 students with a rigorous curriculum and the support they need to find their strengths and prepare to compete in a changing world. The university has made great strides on the path to becoming one of the nation’s top comprehensive universities, with expanding academic initiatives and modern facilities that provide opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and research.

KEY HONORS

• U.S. News & World Report ranks Bowie State in the top 20 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), one of the most innovative schools in the nation and a leader in advancing social mobility of its students.

• Bowie State’s cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security.

• The College of Education has maintained continuous accreditation of its professional teacher programs since 1954. The college has also received national recognition for the quality of its partnerships with local schools that place student interns.

FIRST-CLASS TEACHING & RESEARCH

• Undergraduate natural sciences students who choose a research track work with faculty mentors to find breakthroughs in health and medicine.

• By partnering with local school districts, the College of Education has launched initiatives to prepare more students to become certified educators.

• The Bowie Business Innovation Center, a partnership with the city of Bowie, is Maryland’s only business incubator at an HBCU. Students interested in starting a business can enroll in the new entrepreneurship and small business management program and get support from the Entrepreneurship Innovation Center.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

• The Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community is a hub of innovation and home to 500+ students, designed to nurture their passion to start a business.

• The Center for Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Nursing includes research and instructional laboratories, flexible classrooms, a nursing simulation wing and a fully enclosed greenhouse.

• The Fine and Performing Arts Center has the distinction of being an All-Steinway facility, featuring only Steinway pianos in both practice and performance spaces.

• The Student Center received LEED Gold certification for its environmentally sustainable design, making Bowie State the first HBCU to receive that honor for a student center.