Andrea Harrison – Councilmember
Prince George’s County Council

Harrison has represented District 5 on the Prince George’s County Council since 2008. District 5 encompasses Bladensburg, Cheverly, Colmar Manor, Cottage City, Edmonston, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Landover, portions of Lanham, Mitchellville, and portions of unincorporated Bowie and Hyattsville. She chaired the council from 2011 to 2013.

Harrison’s election to office capped 15 years of community service, during which time she was active in her local civic association and worked as constituent services liaison and later deputy chief of staff and policy director in the District 5 Office. As host of the show “Telling Our Story” on CTV, she interviews local leaders on issues of importance to Prince George’s County residents, such as education, health care, economic development and public safety.

Harrison earned her Associate’s degree in Computer Management from Prince George’s Community College and her Bachelor’s degree in Public Policy from Bowie State University.
The Bowie State University Scholars Forums are a series of panel discussions on issues of contemporary interest and enduring importance. Each forum offers participants a platform in which to engage in an intellectual conversation. Our goal is to employ the heart of the university, the College of Arts & Sciences, to create a safe space for scholarly inquiry that broadens our cultural horizons, whets our appetite for research, and contributes to our quest for a just and peaceful world.

Moderated by Dr. Horacio Sierra
Assistant Professor of English

Special thanks to
Dr. Nicholas Creary
Assistant Professor of History

and

Dr. George Acquaah
Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Next Scholars Forum:
April 13, 2016, 3:30-5:00, CLT 102
“Islam 101”

Terry O’Neill - President
National Organization for Women

O’Neill oversees NOW’s multi-issue agenda, which includes: advancing reproductive freedom, promoting diversity and ending racism, stopping violence against women, winning lesbian rights, ensuring economic justice, ending sex discrimination, and achieving constitutional equality for women.

O’Neill’s feminist activism began in the 1990s fighting right-wing extremists in the Deep South, including David Duke. She is a skilled political organizer, having worked on Hillary Clinton’s campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, Barack Obama’s presidential campaign, and the campaign leading to the election of Louisiana’s first woman U.S. senator, Mary Landrieu.

O’Neill earned her B.A. in French from Northwestern University and a law degree from Tulane University.

Joseline Peña-Melynk –
Maryland House Delegate

Peña-Melynk has represented Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties in Maryland’s General Assembly since 2007. She has sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage, expand opportunities for minority businesses, broaden the Maryland Consumer Protection Act, crack down on mortgage fraud, and create state apprenticeship and workforce development programs in our secondary schools and community colleges.

Peña-Melynk served as a defense attorney before becoming a prosecutor in Eric Holder’s United States Attorney’s Office. She also served as a court-appointed advocate for neglected and abused children. She was elected to two terms on the College Park City Council before being elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2006, and being reelected in 2010 and 2014.

Peña-Melynk earned her B.S. in Criminal Justice from Buffalo State College and her law degree at SUNY-Buffalo.