

PROGRESSIONS

The Magazine for Alumni and Friends of Prince George's Community College SUMMER 2017

It's Happening...
HERE!

Building Pathways to
Academic and Career Success

Achieving Leadership in Arts and Culture

Promoting a Welcoming Environment

Advancing Student-centered Support Services

Connecting College and Community

Strengthening Partnerships with Emerging Industries in the County

Campus Way South

Route 202

Staff

Barbara McCreary, program coordinator of Workforce Development and Continuing Education navigates the scaffolding descending from the roof of Lanham Hall during a recent hard-hat site tour of construction and renovation efforts.



PROGRESSIONS



“ Three major capital projects represent the most ambitious expansion and renovation initiative undertaken at the Largo campus since it opened for classes in 1967. ”

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PROGRESSIONS

Summer 2017

Progressions is produced for the alumni and friends of Prince George's Community College by the Office of Institutional Advancement.

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Progressions has been produced by the college for over a decade to highlight the accomplishments, milestones, partnerships, innovative programs and alumni of Prince George's Community College.

ON the Web

The Prince George's Community College  channel is full of insightful videos. Enjoy one today!



"It's Happening Here!"
PGCC Expands the Largo Campus



Queen Anne—Achieving Leadership in Arts and Culture



Lanham Hall—Advancing Student Centered Support Services



Culinary Arts Center—Strengthening Partnerships with Industries in the County



Striving for Extraordinary: A Documentary

it's YOUR TURN

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There is no other place quite like Prince George's Community College.

For nearly six decades we have provided the residents of Prince George's County with a place to learn, grow, and achieve their personal and educational pursuits. We continue to set our sights even higher through our participation in the Pathways Project and the most ambitious transformation of our Largo campus since 1967.

We continuously evolve and expand our programs to support initiatives that will assist us in better educating the leaders of today and tomorrow, and will build on the experiential learning opportunities, and curricula that will equip our students for an ever-changing world, ensuring that Prince George's Community College remains the community's top choice for innovative and high-quality learning opportunities.

In addition to supporting our students, resources are still greatly needed to keep Prince George's Community College competitive by recruiting and retaining award-winning faculty, supporting emerging research opportunities and building new facilities, in which our research and technology can continue to impact the region.

Many minds—unique in perspective but united in purpose—came together to envision the college's new direction as a destination that will help us to transform the lives of the diverse student populations we serve. In our master plan for the Largo campus, we identified specific building projects that needed to be addressed in order to fully support the region's workforce and economic development initiatives, which includes remodeling and expanding the Queen Anne Building, Lanham Hall, and building a brand new Culinary Arts facility.

We are grateful to those of you who share our vision for the future and are helping to bring our vision to life, impacting on the lives of our students as well as the educational life of the community that we serve. I firmly believe there is no greater mission than equal access and opportunity for students, the advancement of education, and educating leaders for tomorrow. Prince George's Community College is committed to student success.

I invite you to rediscover Prince George's Community College, and continue to support us on this worthwhile journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlene M. Duker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Charlene M. Duker

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A New Era of Building and Expansion

The college has begun bold new building and renovation initiatives that will exponentially serve to increase its contributions to the community. Employing innovative thinking, three major capital projects represent the most ambitious expansion and renovation initiative undertaken at the Largo Campus since it opened for classes in 1967. This new era kicked off in June with a groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction for a brand new Culinary Arts Center and the renovation of Lanham Hall and the Queen Anne Building.

As an institution, Prince George's Community College has made student completion its top priority, integrating goals into "Envision Success," the institution's current strategic plan. To achieve these goals, the college must create and maintain a nurturing, and welcoming environment, offering not only first-rate academics and relevant career training, but also comprehensive student support services. The capital projects address each component in a systematic way.

The creation of a new Culinary Arts Center will bring the college's culinary arts program to the main campus from its temporary home in Capitol Heights. The program has experienced tremendous growth, but is limited by its current space and location. With a dedicated facility on campus, the popular program can accommodate greater numbers, incorporate the latest equipment, and integrate fully with other campus activities and services.

The Queen Anne Building, one of the original buildings on the Largo campus, will more than triple in size. Refurbishments will upgrade building systems, implement accessibility requirements, modernize finishes and equipment, provide space for a new dance major, and significantly expand performing arts and media offerings on campus.

Renovations to Lanham Hall will address age-related infrastructure deficiencies, while adding 18,949 GSF of space. The building will provide a central location for the college's Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs, as well as consolidate

various student support programs and services, and expand the Academy of Health Sciences Middle College High School.

The Capital Projects Planning Committee, representing a cross-section of faculty and staff, held a series of visioning sessions to gauge expectations and needs as they relate to each building. Common themes emerged from the sessions, including the importance of engaging stakeholders from within and outside the college community; placing specialized and highly skilled staff members in all the facilities; and private and public funding partnerships for programs and scholarships.

The construction projects directly impacts the county and its residents. President Dr. Charlene M. Dukes noted, "We are always looking for forward-thinking ways to meet the needs of our students and community. The scope of the capital projects demonstrates the broadness of our mission and the extent to which the college serves a vital function in the region. With these initiatives, we will significantly strengthen our ability to provide academic and career programs, outstanding student support services, integrated business and industry solutions, and vibrant arts and culture programming."



It's Happening...
HERE!

QUEEN ANNE RENOVATION AND EXPANSION

Revitalization of the Arts

The campus and Prince George's County will receive a huge boost with the overhaul of the Queen Anne building. More than 135,000 square feet of space will be added to the building as it is transformed from a 1960s structure to an ultra-modern facility.

The new space will transform programs in music, theatre and mass communications and allow for the addition of musical theatre and dance programs. When complete, the building's highlights will include a renovated 767-seat Hallam Theatre, a 304-seat Proscenium Theatre, a Blackbox Theatre, dance studios, a recital hall, TV and radio stations, instructional theatre and

entertainment technology labs, conference rooms, music rehearsal spaces, and an art gallery. Faculty and staff were involved in the process from the very beginning. They were asked what they envisioned for the new building and continue to be involved in developing programs. The result is a plan for a building that is tailored to the specific needs of the college and the community. "We are really excited to build up our programs and enable students to connect to career paths that are available to them in the region. It is going to make a world of difference," said Brenda Mitchell, executive director of the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.

The work will also create new opportunities for increasing partnerships with the community. While college programs previously had to share one theatre with outside orchestras, dance companies and theatre groups, there will soon be plenty of room for simultaneous events and expanded programming. It is also good news for arts lovers. "There is a misconception that people have to venture into Washington, D.C. to see great theatre," said Ennis Allen, chair of Communications and Theatre Department. "This building will help correct that. I hope it will become a focal point for the county, not just the college."

Highlights

#pgcchere | Prince George's Community College | **QUEEN ANNE**

The Queen Anne renovation and expansion project will transform the curriculums of Music, Theatre, Speech and Mass Communications

- Total Square Footage: 173,618
- Construction Cost: \$74.2 million
- 767-seat renovated Hallam Theatre

- 304-seat Proscenium Theatre
- Conference Spaces
- Art Gallery

CULINARY ARTS CENTER

Feeding Economic and Community Development

The Culinary Arts Program started at Prince George's Community College in 2007. Of all people, Edward Whitfield, culinary center coordinator, can enumerate the many benefits of having a dedicated, purpose-built facility on campus. "We will no longer be at the mercy of various facilities, where at any given time, they can ask us for their space back if they need it. Right now, we have only one hot kitchen and one cold kitchen. With multiple kitchens, we can admit more students and offer additional classes that better fit their schedules," said Whitfield.

The new Culinary Arts Center will feature a working kitchen that will enable students to gain practical training while being

supervised by instructors in a controlled environment. Two production kitchens will support introductory and classical cooking courses. A community kitchen will be open for continuing education and lifestyle courses, such as wine pairing with food or family-friendly healthy cooking. Large cooking presentations by instructors or visiting chefs will take place in the demonstration kitchen.

Logistically, the new building will make life easier for culinary arts students, who currently have to travel from Capitol Heights, Maryland to other college locations to take their non-culinary arts classes. The Largo campus location will offer more parking and Metro accessibility.

All these factors will enable students to graduate more quickly and easily. With the hospitality industry in Prince George's County booming, this is good news for both students and employers.

"We have so many employers calling and requesting workers," said Chef Whitfield. "We try and direct students to the career that is best for them." With the opening of the new Culinary Arts Center, the program will train and educate students to fulfill the needs of employers in every segment of the food service industry. At the same time, the center will offer educational and enriching community programs year-round, highlighting the growing influence of hospitality on contemporary culture.

Highlights

#pgcchere | Prince George's Community College | **CULINARY ARTS CENTER**

The new construction of the Culinary Arts Center will provide a revitalized campus experience for the college and the community, offering support for growing industries in the county

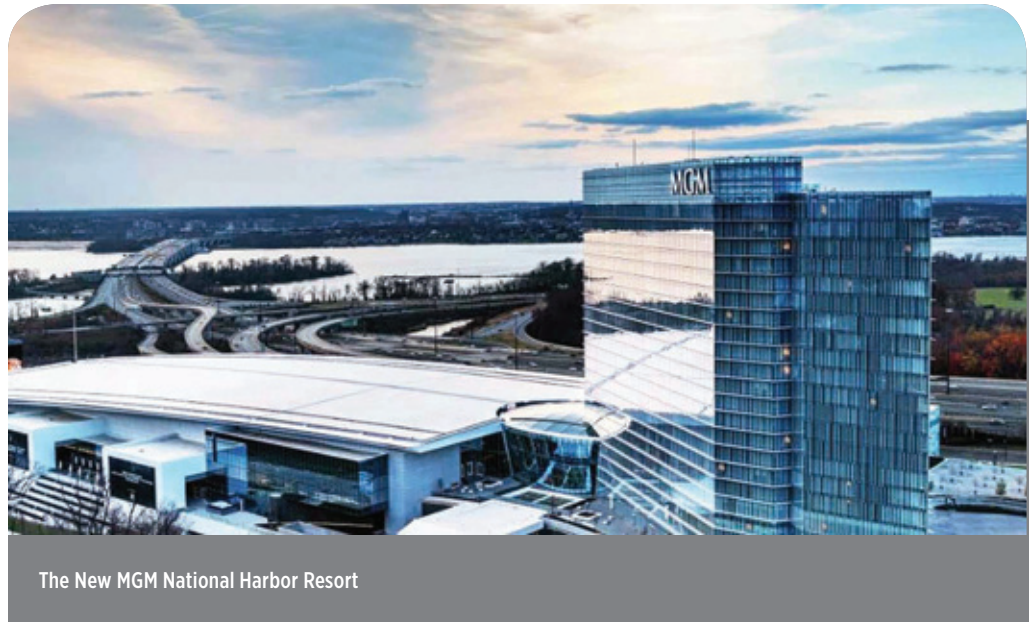
- Total Square Footage: 21,561
- Construction Cost: \$19.5 million
- State-of-the-Art Display Kitchen
- Outdoor Teaching Island & Grill
- Expansive Community Kitchen
- Upscale Event Space

MGM National Harbor Partners with Prince George's Community College

MGM National Harbor, the new luxury destination resort in Prince George's County, has partnered with Prince George's Community College on several innovative initiatives as part of its commitment to corporate social responsibility. Community spirit are integral elements of MGM National Harbor's culture. Its contributions go beyond mere monetary—MGM's partnership shows a dedication to time, talent, labor and spirit and a commitment to diversity.

The \$1.4 billion resort is a short distance from Washington, D.C. and features premier amenities such as high-end branded retail, meeting space; and restaurants from renowned local, national and international chefs. As the new Culinary Arts Center takes shape, a major contribution from MGM National Harbor will fund a state-of-the-art culinary display kitchen. The excitement from this contribution is spurring additional interest toward naming opportunities in the new center. Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. executive director Brenda Mitchell called the MGM National Harbor contribution "a lead gift" for the It's Happening Here campaign.

This is not MGM's first endeavor with Prince George's Community College. MGM National Harbor presented a \$100,000 check to the college for a scholarship program in support of the Hospitality Express Course. The 13-week program enabled eligible Prince George's County residents to prepare for jobs in the hospitality industry. In addition, the resort collaborated on the Prince George's Community College Dealer School, a workforce training program, that was launched summer 2016, and has since provided candidates with the



The New MGM National Harbor Resort

skills needed to apply for and attain exciting and rewarding jobs in the resort's casino table games department. "MGM National Harbor table game dealers represent nearly one-third of our workforce," said Logan Gaskill, vice president of Human Resources for MGM National Harbor. "We have a proven workforce partner in Prince George's Community College, and we are excited that this effort led to training many of the employees that are out front with our customers every day."

Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College, said, "The partnership between MGM National Harbor and Prince George's Community College is ground-breaking because we are not only opening even more doors of opportunity to the community, but preparing candidates with the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform at optimal levels upon starting. Knowing that thousands of jobs will be available in the very near future for anyone with the desire to learn a unique industry standard and bolster their professional skills is remarkable," Dr. Dukes said.



Mr. Logan Gaskill, vice president, Human Resources at MGM National Harbor, was appointed to the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors on June 3, 2016.

In his role at MGM, he is responsible for talent acquisition and development, organizational design and effectiveness, employee engagement culture, employee labor relations and employee communications. Mr. Gaskill expressed a desire to work closely with the college on initiatives that will positively impact workforce development in the county. MGM is a strategic partner of the college for scholarships and program support for students in hospitality and culinary arts programs. Prince George's Community College also partners with MGM on the Dealer School to train local residents for the many jobs that are available in the MGM Casino.

LANHAM HALL RENOVATION AND EXPANSION



Student-centered Support Services

After nearly half a century of service, Lanham Hall is undergoing a revamping that will transform and repurpose the building. The project updates an existing 77,249 square feet and adds a 150-seat lecture hall, green roofs, vast glass curtain wall systems, a grand staircase, and a three-story glass enclosure.

Various student support programs and services, currently located throughout the college, will be consolidated on the first floor of the building. Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WDCE) programs spread out across the Largo campus and other locations, will be housed on the second floor, with the Academy of Health Sciences occupying the third floor.

Bringing WDCE programming offices together will improve operations and ensure first-class service for students in an area that relies heavily on flexibility and the ability to

respond quickly to business and industry needs. It advances a goal articulated by Dr. Yvette Snowden, interim vice president for WDCE. “When we look at the growth that’s going on in the county now and what we anticipate coming down the pike, we absolutely want our students at the forefront, positioned with the skill sets and aptitudes that are needed for the modern workplace.”

On the Student Services side, Lanham Hall will serve as what Crystal Smith calls “a student success center.” Ms. Smith, director of Student Academics and Advising, said the college offers a wealth of resources, but they have been scattered around campus, sometimes making it a challenge for students to find. In the new Lanham Hall, students will be able to locate all the resources they need in one place, including academic advising, disability support

services, tutoring, and career and job planning assistance. While other buildings are targeted toward certain academic areas, she said, the Lanham Hall renovation is intentionally designed to take into consideration the needs of all students. “We are trying to make sure it’s a 21st century space, so that when people come in, whether they are a full or part-time degree seeker or here for one course, they feel like it’s theirs.”

Consolidating student support services in a centralized location will allow Prince George’s Community College to reach more students and respond more efficiently and effectively to their needs. The college will welcome students in a contemporary, student-centered facility where they can access a wide range of programs, resources and personal assistance that will help them succeed and complete their goals.

Highlights

#pgcchere | Prince George’s Community College | **LANHAM HALL**

The Lanham Hall renovation and expansion will promote a centralized one-stop location for student support programs and services

- Total Square Footage: 92,404
- Construction Cost: \$32.8 million
- Dynamic Space for the Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George’s Community College
- Home of the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program
- Tutoring Center
- Diverse Male Student Initiatives

Empowering Diverse Male Student Success

As a K–12 teacher and administrator, Brian Hamlin was getting discouraged. He saw what he described as a lot of diverse males falling through the cracks within a system that was ill-equipped to meet their needs. In 2009, wanting to make a career change, he met with Prince George’s Community College president, Dr. Charlene M. Dukes.

The timing was fortuitous. Dr. Dukes was looking for strategies to help minority males enroll in and complete college. As reported in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, the underrepresentation of this population is currently “the worst it has been in the last 30 years.” While Prince George’s Community College is one of the most diverse community colleges in the state, the disparity is still evident, with men making up only 37 percent of the student body.

The result of the meeting was the birth of the Diverse Male Student Initiatives (DMSI), a program designed to empower and engage male students of color to complete their education and achieve success.

Mr. Hamlin worked with former vice president for Student Affairs, Dr. Tyjaun Lee, to build DMSI from the ground up. The two-year program emphasizes three principles: academic achievement; leadership and character development; and career and entrepreneurship readiness. Activities throughout the year include weekly workshops, one-on-one mentoring, dedicated academic advising, and social events. The program culminates in a dinner where participants have a chance to present their personal five-year plans in a friendly competition, dressed as their future selves. Among the program’s many successes is Adam Alston. Mr. Alston made the decision to pursue a college education while still incarcerated, realizing it was the key to moving forward with his life. He enrolled soon after being released, and within the first year had a 4.0 and was the DMSI



Program Manager of DMSI, Brian Hamlin, facilitates a discussion with diverse males of Prince George’s Community College.

valedictorian. “We just wrap our arms around the young men, show them that we love them and want them to be successful beyond Prince George’s Community College. We will give them all the resources they need and let them be aggressive about pursuing their dreams and goals and we are seeing student success.” said Hamlin. Diverse Male Student Initiatives (DMSI) was the subject of a feature-length documentary “Striving for the Extraordinary” which

The documentary also won PGCC-TV a 2017 Telly Award in the Educational Institution category. You can view “Striving for the Extraordinary” on the college’s YouTube channel.



chronicled a year in the experiences of male students in the DMSI program and has been recognized by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) with two District 1 Medallion Awards. The documentary was produced and directed by Prince George’s Community College-TV’s Angela Mathis and Marshall Johnson who served as associate producer and editor. “It was a monumental project,” said Angela Mathis, who directed the film. “Great things are happening on this campus, but the larger community might not be aware of it. Here’s a wonderful example to show them what’s going on with people’s lives,” said Mathis.

DMSI Fast Facts

- Two-year program
- Serves 75–100 students annually
- First year: framing self-identity, setting goals, strengthening work ethic, and articulating principles and beliefs
- Second year: leadership development, internships, college visits, and preparing to graduate and move on

An internal study found that:

- DMSI participants were retained at a far greater percentage than any of the other demographic groups examined
- Moderately and highly involved DMSI participants surpassed the student body as a whole on every measure of academic success

Celebrating Prince George's Community College

The Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. hosted nearly 700 guests at its 8th biennial Partners for Success Awards Dinner (PFS) on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center. At this event, the Foundation recognized entities that demonstrated a shared responsibility for advancing education in the county, state, and region. The honorees were: the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington for their 20-year commitment to student development and scholarships; CareFirst

BlueCross BlueShield, for their support of improving the quality of frontline healthcare professionals through state-of-the-art learning experiences; Prince George's County Public Schools, for their partnership on innovative student support initiatives such as the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College; and the United Way of the National Capital Area for their dedication toward building strong communities with such initiatives as the Veterans Services and Financial Empowerment Centers at Prince George's Community College.

The presenting sponsor for PFS was MGM Resorts, National Harbor, the company responsible for bringing the first luxury gaming resort experience to the region by way of a new \$1.4 billion property. During his remarks, Logan Gaskill, vice president of Human Resources at MGM, National Harbor and member of the PGCC Foundation's Board of Directors, stated, "The PGCC-MGM partnership is critical to our success in hiring the talent we need to operate a world-class entertainment destination in Prince George's County."



Partners for Success Awards Dinner

During the dinner, the video, *It's Happening Here*, produced by Comcast, was debuted. The video featured PGCC faculty, staff, and students sharing highlights of the many ways they think the three capital projects on the Largo campus of Prince George's Community College—the renovations of Lanham Hall, the Queen Anne Building, and a brand new Culinary Arts Center—will impact the college and surrounding areas. To view the video, go to <https://www.pgcc.edu/itshappeninghere> or watch it on the college's cable channels (Verizon-Channel 44/Comcast-Channel 75).

Dr. Dukes also revealed the Twitter handle, #pgcchere, which was used during the event to engage stakeholders. Guests live tweeted their congratulations and well wishes to the college and its honorees throughout the evening.

“The PGCC-MGM partnership is critical to our success in hiring the talent we need to operate a world-class entertainment destination in Prince George's County.”

Logan Gaskill
vice president of Human Resources,
MGM, National Harbor



Haden A. Land with Apartment and Office Building Association honoree Peggy A. Jeffers, executive vice president and Dr. Carlise J. Harris



Haden A. Land and Prince George's County Public Schools honoree Dr. Kevin Maxwell, chief executive officer



CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield honoree Maria Harris Tildon, senior vice president of Public Policy and Community Affairs and Dr. Carlise J. Harris



Staff of presenting sponsor MGM National Harbor support the Partners for Success Awards dinner



Logan Gaskill, vice president of Human Resources, MGM National Harbor and Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



Students promote the It's Happening Here hashtag #pgcchere



United Way of the National Capital Region honoree Rosie Allen-Herring, president and chief executive officer is joined by Dr. Carlise J. Harris and Dr. Charlene M. Dukes



Samuel J. Parker, PGCC Board of Trustee member, and the Honorable Rushern Baker, Prince George's County Executive with Ardania and Linwood Williams, Business Leadership Council members



“We are excited that the county has recognized that providing access to higher education is a priority and that the college is critical in helping to meet that need.”

Charlene M. Dukes, *president*
Prince George's Community College

On May 25, 2017, members of the Prince George's County Council unanimously passed its \$8.3 billion dollar budget for fiscal year 2018 that included \$1.7 million to support a new Promise Scholarship Program. The program will serve recent county high school graduates who enroll at Prince George's Community College (PGCC). By making a promise that college tuition will be free for qualified residents, the concept has proven to change the conversation, and therefore the culture, about college attendance at both the individual and institutional levels. When properly designed and implemented, Promise Programs unify the community in pursuit of a common goal—the future success of their youth (Campaign for Free College Tuition, 2016)

“These funds represent a real breakthrough in addressing the challenges that many of our high school-aged residents in Prince George's County are facing when considering how they will fund their higher education pursuits,” said Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College. “We are excited that the county has recognized that providing access to higher education is a priority and that the college is critical in helping to meet that need.”

The proposal to create the program originated from legislation stemming from a response to Maryland House Bill 1087, introduced by the Honorable Alonzo Washington, Delegate, District 22. A 16-member task force was convened to study the feasibility of creating the program and provided a recommendation



that it be implemented as a “last-dollar” program, meaning that any funds students receive would cover the costs associated with tuition and mandatory fees that remain after applying all financial resources.

Promise Programs have proven to increase enrollment in public school systems and higher education institutions. These programs bridge the existing education and wage gaps for minority, low-income and first generation students, helping students to present themselves as winning candidates and ensure they are equipped to handle the new challenges four-year institutions and the workforce throw at them.

“Many students feel as though they have an ultimatum where they either are making a living or paying for their education,” said Antonio Morrell, former-president, Student Governance Association at Prince George's Community College.

The implementation of a Promise Scholarship is an opportunity for county stakeholders to work together to achieve desirable economic and social benefits. Oftentimes, students who know what they want to do, only choose their career field because they aren't

aware of other options. The Promise Scholarship Program is beneficial in that it will help students begin conscious and active self-reflection and questioning, which evidence suggests is an important first step. Students in this program will create clear career goals to aim for throughout their education. It's a crucial step that leads students to the career they desire and helps them achieve academic and career success along the way.

“Every stakeholder has a role in making a difference in our community. Investing in education, particularly scholarships for community college students, is something we can all do to impact the workplace, economy and quality of life in Prince George's County,” said Larry R. Spriggs, chair, Philanthropy Committee, Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.

Prince George's County is among the first five jurisdictions in the state of Maryland to implement a Promise Program and could be added to a list of early adopters of some form of debt-free community college education nationwide.

A 3D Approach—Earn a Bachelor’s Degree for \$10K or less

College affordability is a major obstacle facing many high school students and families. To address this issue head-on, the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) and Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) announced a pilot scholarship program that will allow high-achieving Prince George’s County high school students to earn a bachelor’s degree from UMUC for \$10,000 or less, with minimal student loan debt. For some students, the degree could be free.

Students in the Prince George’s 3D Scholarship Program will begin an academic pathway that produces well-educated graduates, addresses

college affordability, and supports a regional workforce that will respond to the needs of the community. The job market can be complex and difficult to navigate. Students often don’t know what options are open to them. Deciding on a career early plays a major role in a students’ academic and professional success.

Maryland Senator Jim Rosapepe (D-College Park), a former member of the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, who proposed the program to UMUC and Prince George’s Community College stated, “By combining early college credits with online college courses, this new program is a big step toward raising high

school standards and cutting college costs for Prince George’s students. In addition, Kevin M. Maxwell, chief executive officer, Prince George’s County Public Schools expressed, “I am thrilled that our students can take part in this exciting opportunity, This pilot will allow more students to achieve their dream of earning a college degree at an affordable cost.”

“The Prince George’s 3D Scholarship Program will provide students with an exceptional opportunity to complete high school diplomas, associate degrees, and baccalaureate degrees right here in Prince George’s County. Studies show that students with well-founded critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication

skills are far more likely to hold higher level positions, are more likely to be promoted and make considerably more money.

Earning their degrees early has the advantage of encouraging students to think “outside the box” in a critical way.

Prince George’s Community College is excited to be a part of a bold partnership with Prince George’s County Public Schools and the University of Maryland University College.” said Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George’s Community College. The first cohort of scholars for the Prince George’s 3D Scholars Program is expected to start fall 2017.

Scholarship pays Tribute to Nursing Alumna

Nurses are pivotal to the care of their patients, especially those in intensive care. In 1969, Marilyn Elizabeth Suggs enrolled in the nursing program at Prince George’s Community College. In 1972, she received her associate’s degree and passed the State of Maryland licensing requirements to be certified as a Registered Nurse (RN). As a single mother of five children, a college education was essential to find employment and lay the foundation to provide for and raise her family. After a five-year battle with cancer, Marilyn Elizabeth Suggs died in 1999. Moved by the care their mother provided to others in the intensive care unit, her children established a scholarship for nurses at

Prince George’s Community College. “We felt obliged to honor our mother by helping other single parents trying to raise children and obtain a college education, specifically in the field of nursing,” said Lewis C. Powell, her son and president of Antiok Holdings, Inc.

The Marilyn Elizabeth Suggs Memorial Nursing Scholarship provides financial assistance to a student who meets the established criteria to pursue an Associate of Arts degree in nursing at Prince George’s Community College.



Siblings create the Marilyn Elizabeth Suggs Memorial Nursing Scholarship in honor of their mother, a dedicated nursing professional. Left to right, Robin Hawkins and C. Lewis Powell, president, Antiok Holdings, Inc.

An Accessible, Positive and Supportive Environment

For Prince George's Community College, it's not about getting students in the door, but creating a welcoming environment for them when they arrive and the many constituencies who share the college's vision. Many initiatives are currently built around assisting students and stakeholders to develop a sense of community on campus. Prince George's Community College is



Dr. Charlene M. Dukes leaves an indelible mark on the last beam placed in the Queen Anne Building.

fine-tuning its programming using the concept of guided pathways in education. Programs, support services, and instructional approaches will be redesigned and re-aligned to help students clarify their goals, choose and enter pathways that will achieve those goals and master knowledge and skills that will enable them to advance in the labor market and successfully pursue further education.

Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College, is the most highly-visible individual on campus and a champion of the welcoming environment that thrives at the college. She has mastered the art of balancing leadership with a great sense of humor—something her faculty, staff and students appreciate. “We know that creating a successful learning environment is about more than just transferring knowledge. It's also about meeting needs by updating infrastructure.” said Dr. Dukes.

The transformation of the Largo campus through the renovation and expansion of the Queen Anne Building and Lanham Hall and the new Culinary Arts Center is sparking a new energy. These construction projects are part of the college's institutional strategy to create a welcoming environment for students and community stakeholders. “It is exciting to have work underway on our new buildings,” says Brenda Mitchell, executive director, Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. “but these are more than just buildings, they are opportunities for growth and new capabilities to establish new traditions, expanded curriculum offerings and the opportunity for increased community partnerships.”

For this reason, the Capital Projects Committee hosted a series of focused community roundtable discussions pertaining to the three construction projects with a purpose to connect the mission and vision of the college with the perspectives and expectations of community stakeholders, as they pertain to the new construction projects. Members of the community were able to voice their suggestions for creating community awareness based on a set of guided questions.

The transformation of the Largo campus through the renovation and expansion of the Queen Anne Building and Lanham Hall and the new Culinary Arts Center is sparking a new energy.

Recently, the community was also invited to participate in a Topping Off Ceremony, marking the symbolic completion of the structural phase of the Queen Anne building. Faculty, staff, students and community partners were thrilled to sign the last beam that was affixed to the new facility. “Residing in the heart of Prince George's County, it is important that the community be involved in the changes taking place.” said Dena Wilson, assistant director of Development.

With a reputation for caring for its students, Prince George's Community College is implementing ground-breaking programs that will advance the college academically, and have community-level impact. With the right support and an encouraging, welcoming environment, new pathways of achievement and opportunity exist for not only students, but for the residents of the county, state and region.



Larry Spriggs

Business Leader, College Advocate

On the evening of Jan. 31st the Business Leadership Council (BLC) and the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. hosted an exclusive networking social at Soft-Con Enterprises, Inc., in Hyattsville, MD. The Business Leadership Council (BLC) chair and CEO of Soft-Con Enterprises, Inc., Larry Spriggs shared the goals of the council. "We want to support the college in whatever its endeavors are as it relates to the student body and the community." He also voiced the concern that many of the social gaps between employers and new employees become "inhibitors" to a young professional's success in the work place and that the Student Employment Readiness Program (SERP), funded by the BLC, helps to close this gap. Dr. Charlene Dukes echoed Mr. Spriggs regarding the importance of

soft skills in the workplace and noted that it is through SERP, enabled by the Business Leadership Council, that students can build on soft skills through interactions with county business owners, so that they acquire the emotional intelligence needed to navigate the professional landscape.

What was special that night was that two new business leaders in Prince George's County—Toya Jackson (Lord & Mitchell, Inc.) and Jeremy Newkirk (Go Virtual Green) were moved to join the Business Leadership Council shortly after Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc., chair, Haden Land spoke on the existing partnership between the BLC and Prince



George's Community College. "Joining the BLC is a great way to support the growth of the county by advancing philanthropy of higher education and workforce development," said Mr. Land. Ms. Jackson looks forward to learning more

about the college and how she can contribute. Mr. Newkirk stated, "Hopefully, Go Virtual Green could possibly tie in our services or our presence here in the county with some of the efforts that the college is undertaking."



The final beam is lifted into place during the college's "Topping Off" ceremony.



» Top Right Photo: PGCC Foundation Board Members attended the Topping Off Ceremony. Left to right, Larry R. Spriggs, president of Soft-Con Enterprises, Inc.; Brenda Mitchell, executive director of the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc.; Timothy J. Adams, president/CEO of SA-Tech, Inc.; Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president of Prince George's Community College; and Jeff A. McFarland, CEO of McFarland Consulting Group
 » Bottom Right Photo: Faculty, staff, students and community partners gaze expectantly as the last steel beam is hoisted into position.

FY2018 Grants Aim to Provide Impact and Sustainability



Marshall A. Johnson, Jr. accepts the Impact Grant Award for FY2018 for the PGCC-TV SportsNest UNISSET & NewTek Virtual Set Editor.

Impact Grant Awards

Each year the Prince George's Community College Foundation awards Impact Grants to Prince George's Community College (PGCC) faculty and staff to implement new initiatives that support the strategic goals of the college and promote strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders. The FY2018 Impact Grants were awarded as follows:

Student Support Services—Supplemental Instruction (\$10,000)

Purpose: To reduce the achievement gap by helping students meet the demands of academic college level coursework. The supplemental instruction will strengthen connections with the academic departments and promote integrated planning, fiscal stability and the efficient use of resources, all with the goal of promoting student success by assisting students to succeed and graduate.

PGCC-TV SportsNest UNISSET & NewTek Virtual Set Editor (\$10,000)

Purpose: To expand PGCC-TV's production capacity, allowing for seven unique set looks for use during on-camera broadcasts. This initiative will enable cost savings that result from the elimination of the investment in multiple stage backgrounds and props while providing teaching and learning components that expose students to real-world usage of technology to create virtual sets.

Owl Athletic Basketball Broadcasts Live for First Time

Owl Athletics men's and women's basketball games are now being broadcast live, thanks in part to a fiscal year 2017 Impact Grant from the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. The Impact Grant was awarded to PGCC-TV to implement a new initiative that supports the strategic goals of the college. Pitting the Owls against Hagerstown Community College, the very first game broadcast on January 18, 2017, included the women tipping off at 5 p.m. and the men at 7 p.m.

"The live broadcast has emerged as a viable way for our athletics department to attract a larger audience," said Brenda Mitchell, executive director of the Prince George's Community College Foundation, Inc. Even more so now as the Owl Men's

Basketball team earned their 4th win this season as the Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference Champions with a 63–62 victory over Baltimore City Community College.

The Impact Grant was designed to encourage collaboration and this project has given students the opportunity to gain an in-depth look into the programs the Mass Communications Department has to offer. Students orchestrated the majority of the on-air, play-by-play sports commentary and technical tasks on the first broadcast. "The college is extremely proud of the tremendous work of our students," said Marshall Johnson, Jr., coordinator of PGCC-TV. "We are excited about this broadcast, and are exploring long-term options to broadcast more events."

The Impact Grant Award Program is made possible through unrestricted gifts from faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Prince George's Community College.



View Live Games on these channels:

- Verizon channel 44
- Comcast channel 75 and HD 995
- pgccowls.com
- PGCC Owls Front Row (mobile app)

SunTrust Foundation Awards United Way of the National Capital Area with \$250K to Support the College's Financial Empowerment Center



L-R: United Way NCA president and CEO, Rosie Allen-Herring, joined by Dr. Charlene M. Dukes, president, Prince George's Community College were awarded SunTrust Foundation's largest, single market grant by Daniel O'Neill, president and CEO of SunTrust Banks Greater Washington and Maryland division.

The SunTrust Foundation recently awarded a \$250,000 grant to United Way of the National Capital Area (United Way NCA), to assist District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia area residents with access to critical financial services, counsel and support. The award is the largest single grant awarded by the SunTrust Foundation to a single market and will support the United Way NCA's Financial Empowerment Center located at Prince George's Community College on the Largo Campus.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the SunTrust Foundation in partnering with us to help deliver critical financial services to thousands of our neighbors in communities throughout the metro area," said Rosie Allen-Herring, president and CEO, United Way NCA. "This grant will allow us to offer even more low and moderate income individuals an opportunity to access free financial assistance ranging from one-on-one financial coaching to free tax preparations through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and credit counseling. Through community partnerships such as this supportive grant

awarded by the SunTrust Foundation, we will be able to put families and individuals throughout our area on track to achieve financial stability and independence around the region."

The Financial Empowerment Center at Prince George's Community College is the first of several centers United Way NCA plans to open across the region. These funds will help support programs such as credit counseling, budget management, housing counseling, financial workshops and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). The VITA program provides low to moderate income families throughout the region access to free tax preparation assistance to file their tax returns, maximize their available tax refunds, and gain access to the Earned Income Tax Credit.

"Helping build strong communities is a fundamental part of our organization, and we are honored to partner with United Way NCA to help fund the Financial Empowerment Center," said Dan O'Neill, president and CEO of SunTrust Bank's Greater Washington and Maryland Division.

The Financial Empowerment Center

is located in the Center for Advanced Technology, Room 102 on the Largo campus.

Hours of Operation

Monday and Thursday

— 12 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

— 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Financial Empowerment Center also offers one-on-one financial coaching for individuals and small businesses. By recognizing financial goals, residents can create action plans towards decreasing debt, improving credit ratings and moving towards a business vision on sound financial footing. "Our plan is to help families do more than just survive, we will do more than that, we will help them thrive!" said Ms. Allen-Herring.



LaDonna M. Smith

LaDonna M. Smith is no stranger to business or success. An alum of Prince George's Community College, she is the owner of Philatonia Productions and Fire and Words Publishing. Ms. Smith stated that Prince George's Community College made all the difference in her life because of the networking and opportunities she

gained. She attributes the college with helping to get her foot into doors that may have otherwise been closed. A self-published author, Ms. Smith attributes her creativity to being encouraged to "improve and progress" at Prince George's Community College. Ms. Smith acquired the Baltimore Pearls Semi-Pro Basketball team and

developed them into the PG Valor Basketball Team —Prince George's County's first Professional Basketball Team. The team played their inaugural season in 2016

ending #2 in their division. Ms. Smith is working to make the team a branch of the American Basketball Association League.

...I am forever grateful and have a special place in my heart for Prince George's Community College...

—LaDonna M. Smith

Shirley Hayden

An alumna of the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program at Prince George's Community College, Ms. Hayden cites the program at the college as being a major factor in preparing her to be successful when she was ready to transfer to the University of Maryland. Her most memorable experience was interviewing a Washington Wizards coach as part of her Hillman Entrepreneurs business plan



course. She credits that experience in shaping her presentation skills today. Ms. Hayden is the creator of

The Unique Seat, an innovative leisure seating system.

Ms. Hayden came up with the idea for The Unique Seat when visiting the beach with her family and InventionHome worked closely with QVC to land Ms. Hayden a license agreement with a major manufacturer of beach and backyard furniture. She has been featured on American Dreams on the Home Shopping Network.

...Prince George's Community College helped me navigate higher education as a non-traditional age student...

—Shirley Hayden

Jeremy Newkirk



Jeremy Newkirk grew up in rural Wallace, North Carolina knowing that higher educa-

tion would be the key to helping him obtain wealth in a thriving community. An alum of Prince George's Community College, he remembers that the counselors and teachers were always helpful and informative, changing his outlook on learning. Prince George's Community College was his launching pad to success. Mr. Newkirk is the Founder of BeOfficial Management Group and creator

of GoVirtualGreen.com and GoVirtualGreen.org

...it changed my whole life and passion for learning...

—Jeremy Newkirk

Mr. Newkirk's goal is to discover and help guide the experiences of highly intelligent individuals who are willing to invest

in themselves, maintain a winning attitude, and demonstrate the hunger needed to determine their own destiny. He is giving back as a member of the Business Leadership Council at Prince George's Community College, with a desire to help the college further develop advance technology and STEM curriculum for youth.

Alumni Reunion Notes

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Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program

Hillman Entrepreneurs alumni from Prince George's Community College, Montgomery College and the University of Maryland College Park are invited to participate in the 10th Anniversary activities.

David and Suzanne Hillman have given back to the community that has brought them success through the Hillman Family Foundation. Likewise, the Hillman alumni would like to highlight the contributions they have made to the economic success of their county, state and region through The Hillman Entrepreneurs Video Project, started by Shauntia White and others from the Hillman Entrepreneurs alumni class. The Hillman Entrepreneurs Video Project will share the stories of 25 ordinary Hillman Entrepreneurs doing extraordinary things after graduation. "Ultimately, we are looking to put together an enjoyable showcase for attendees honoring the Hillmans for their financial investment over the last decade," says Ms. White.

Hillman Entrepreneurs Alumni

If you are interested in participating in the Hillman Entrepreneurs anniversary activities, contact Ruth Lewis at 301-546-0700 for more information.

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AOBA Celebrates 20th Anniversary and Reconnects Alumni

Apartment and Office Building Association Scholars and alumni came from far and wide to reconnect with fellow AOBA alumni, mentors and friends during an Alumni Panel Discussion to increase awareness of the partnership and the impact it has had on students and Prince George's Community College.

The anniversary festivities kicked off on Thursday, June 21, 2016, with a panel discussion featuring past AOBA scholars, current students and mentors with several additional activities scheduled during the year. The celebration continued at the Partners for Success Awards Dinner on October 19, 2016, as The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) was recognized for their advocacy and community service as the leading membership organization representing commercial and multi-family residential real estate in the Washington, DC area and their shared vision for access to education.

Calling All AOBA Alumni

AOBA scholars are encouraged to give back to the program that gave so much to them through funding, internships and mentoring. Consider making a gift in support of Prince George's Community College today at

www.pgcc.edu/go/foundation

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Nursing Program 50th Reunion Slated for 2018

Graduates of the Nursing program at Prince George's Community College are part of a professional community of distinguished nursing leaders who hold positions in hospitals, specialty clinics, health system administration, academia, research, government agencies, and public health organizations.

Our Prince George's Community College nursing graduates are making a powerful impact on health care in our region.

Our Nursing Family

If you are interested in participating in the Nursing Program's 50th Anniversary planning committee, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at alumni@pgcc.edu for more information.



Alonia Sharps

For more than 40 years and countless transformed students later, Alonia C. Sharps has witnessed firsthand the dynamic growth of Prince George's Community College. Alonia Sharps began her career in higher education in 1969 at Bowie State University. She came to Prince George's Community College in 1977 as the director of Financial Aid, later held the position of dean of Enrollment Management, assistant to the President, and finally as the Chief of Staff for Prince George's Community College. Ms. Sharps has been recognized for her commitment to Prince George's Community College, furthering the programs, facilities, and opportunities at the college, "If you cut

me, I am sure I will bleed Prince George's Community College," Ms. Sharps has said.

Prince George's Community College has changed in many ways since she became chief of staff—and is still rapidly evolving in the face of new challenges. Among the most momentous changes since Sharps' commission, was the inauguration of the first female president of the college, Dr. Charlene M. Dukes.

Alonia's previous appointments include the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union where she has been on the Board of Directors for over 10 years, serving as Board Secretary and a member of the Supervisory Committee.

"Every day is a challenge and every person we encounter presents an adventure that keeps us on our toes and anxious to see what the next day will bring."

As for retirement, Ms. Sharps plans to travel, shop, participate in fine dining, and without a doubt, continue working towards advancing Prince George's Community College.

The Prince George's Community College Foundation is grateful for supporters like Ms. Alonia C. Sharps

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

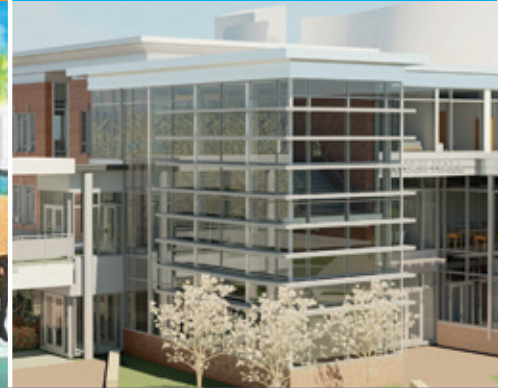
• CULINARY ARTS •



• QUEEN ANNE •



• LANHAM HALL •



Pathways to Success Brick Program

Be a part of an exciting new era of expanded opportunities for students and the community. Through the *Pathways to Success* brick program, friends, alumni, students, staff, faculty and businesses can create a lasting memory in honor of a family member, retiree, workgroup, business, student group, loved one, friend, or professor—the possibilities are endless.

Personalized engraved bricks will pave the courtyards of the newly renovated and expanded **Lanham Hall** and the **Queen Anne Building**, and the brand new **Culinary Arts Center**. The courtyards of these facilities will reflect a myriad of partnerships as well as the individual and family milestones that make success “happen.”

Prince George’s Community College is committed to creating an environment in which students can thrive. Your support of the *Pathways to Success* brick program will enable more access to education by increasing scholarships available to students and enhancing academic, workforce development and student support programs and services. Expanding *Pathways to Success* is a **win-win** for all!

Successful students bring their education and skills to the workforce and contribute to the vitality of their communities.

www.pgcc.edu/go/foundation



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Proceeds benefit PGCC scholarships

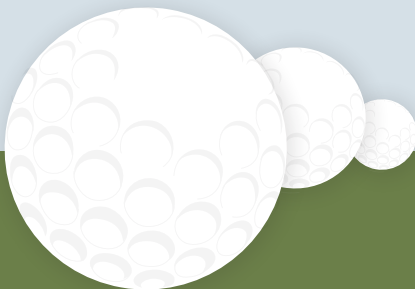


**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Thursday, September 7, 2017

OAK CREEK GOLF CLUB

600 Bowieville Manor Lane
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774



For more information:
301-546-0858 or
foundation@pgcc.edu