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VOLUME 1

ISSUE 20



MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT

THE MSDE

# PULSE

### Special points of interest >>>

- STATE BOARD ACTIONS
- FAREWELL, JAMES ABRAMS
- NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

## WE WANT YOU!!!!!!

Have an event, suggestion, idea or photo you'd like to see in the next edition of **THE**

**PULSE**? Send us your ideas—

We are always looking for new and exciting pieces to add and your idea could be featured!

Please note that all information must be submitted no later than the **10th of each month**, please plan ahead for any time sensitive materials!

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to announce our March 2019 Employee of the Month:

### James Abrams

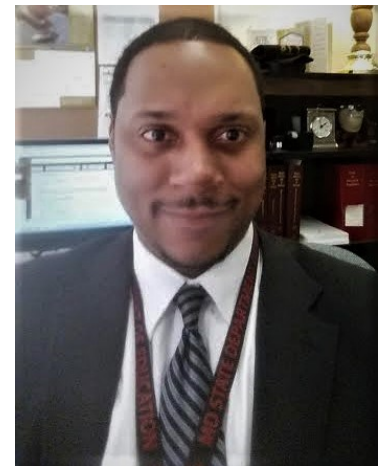
James Abrams is the Chief of Employee Relations in the Office of Human Resources. James was nominated by his Supervisor Steven Serra. Below is a summary of the nomination for James and why he was selected for this award:

James performs a very difficult job and does it extremely well. Outstandingly well! James handles his work with patience, grace and composure, and he is an exceptional Employee Relations Chief dealing with the large variety of employee relations issues related to performance management, discipline, grievances and policy interpretation.

His enthusiasm and energy towards his work are much appreciated!

James is to be commended on his on-going efforts to monitor Workday, which has evolved since October 2014...monitoring Timekeeping, Leave Accounting and Personnel Transactions, and he continues to work with his team to run the appropriate Workday Reports and to diagnose and handle time and payroll issues whenever necessary, and to diffuse very sensitive situations involving employee pay.

James is a great representative of OHR and MSDE when communicating to leadership and employees regarding our roles. James provides excellent supervision to his Employee relations section staff, in his efforts to use their strengths and work on developing growth areas, while making the staff feel valued and appreciated.



James Abrams

March 2019 Employee of the Month

As a member of the Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Rewards and Recognition, he has contributed his time and energies towards a variety of initiatives to help build the culture and climate during times of rapid changes in MSDE. In addition to assisting with the Winter Wonderland Holiday Luncheons and other activities such as the EOM program which he coordinates, he is instrumental in executing the Annual Employee Service Awards.

James is a great person. He treats others with respect and compassion. James' last day at MSDE was March 1st! We would like to wish him well in all of his future endeavors. He will be missed!



## KUDOS ON THE CAMPAIGN!

### *THE MARYLAND COLLEGE APPLICATION CAMPAIGN SETS A NEW RECORD*

My name is Melissa Caperton and I direct the American College Application Campaign (ACAC), a partner of the Maryland College Application Campaign. We were thrilled to hear from our colleague leading Maryland's campaign, Michelle Daley (Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy), that Maryland had a record breaking initiative this past fall. Congratulations!

I want to express our sincere gratitude and recognition for all you did to support our partners at the Maryland College Application Campaign during the 2019 college application season. Maryland has been a leader in the national ACAC network, engaging all students, including unaccompanied homeless youth, foster care youth, students with disabilities, students in the juvenile education system, and home school students in planning for life beyond high school.

We commend you for your incredible efforts and can't wait to see what you accomplish in fall 2019. The students of Maryland are fortunate to have such wonderful advocates working on their behalf. We know the future is bright when we engage all students in planning for a successful future.

The MCAC is a statewide effort, held each fall, aimed at increasing post-secondary access through the dissemination of ideas, development of practices, and technical assistance for implementation of college application campaign events. The purpose of the MCAC is to help high school seniors navigate post-secondary admissions process, and to ensure each participating high school senior submits at least one admission application.

Thank you again for your commitment and support of the Maryland College Application Campaign!

## *MSDE CELEBRATES NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH*



[National Nutrition Month](#) is an annual nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign, celebrated each year during the month of March, focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

### Key Messages:

- Discover the benefits of a healthy eating style.
- Choose foods and drinks that are good for your health.
- Include a variety of healthful foods from all of the food groups on a regular basis.
- Select healthier options when eating away from home.
- Be mindful of portion sizes. Eat and drink the amount that's right for you
- Keep it simple. Eating right doesn't have to be complicated.
- Make food safety part of your everyday routine.
- Help to reduce food waste by considering the foods you have on hand before buying more at the store.
- Find activities that you enjoy and be physically active most days of the week.
- Consult the nutrition experts. Registered Dietitian Nutritionists can provide sound, easy-to-follow personalized nutrition advice to meet your lifestyle, preferences and health-related needs.

MSDE proudly celebrates National Nutrition Month through placing the spotlight on our Summer Meals and Afterschool Meals Programs! Have a program you'd like to highlight? Tell us about it! Use **#MDAfterschoolMeals** or **#SummerMealsMD** in your posts on social media or tag @MdPublicSchools! We will also be offering an assortment of fresh fruits and snacks every Friday in the Baltimore Street Lobby! Be sure to stop by!

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

**MARYLAND AFTERSCHOOL MEALS PROGRAM**

#MDAFTERSCHOOLMEALS

MSDE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE

NO KID HUNGRY

USDA and MSDE are equal opportunity providers. Interested organizations or programs should contact MSDE at 410-767-0199. For more information visit: [md.nokidhungry.org](http://md.nokidhungry.org)

# State Board Meeting Actions: February 26, 2019

## **The following actions were taken at the February 26, 2019 State Board of Education meeting:**

- Recognized Brian Quinn, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher at East Silver Spring Elementary School in Montgomery County, as Maryland's 2018-2019 Milken National Educator.
- Consensus for the Department to move forward with finalizing draft regulatory language for future in-state pathways to obtain an educator certificate in Maryland. This language is aligned to the MSDE's comprehensive plan to increase the rigor and accountability of educator certification and teacher preparation programs in Maryland.
- Agreed to further amend regulations under Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.04.07 *Gifted and Talented Education* based on comments received during the public comment period. The additional amendments will be published again for public comment.
- Approved Garrett County Public Schools' conditional waiver to open school on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as a snow make-up day, if needed, for the 2018-2019 school year.
- Approved Allegany County Public Schools' waiver to open school on April 22<sup>nd</sup> as a snow make-up day for the 2018-2019 school year.

## **The following Opinions and Orders were rendered:**

- *Frederick Classical Charter School, Inc. v. Frederick County Board of Education* – request for reconsideration – Opinion No. 19-08
- *Latin Schools of America, LLC v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – request for reconsideration – Opinion No. 19-09
- *Samuel R. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education* – grade promotion – Opinion No. 19-10

## **Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:**

<http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx>

All State Board of Education meetings are held at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.



**2018-2019 Milken Award Winner, Brian Quinn, and members of the State Board.**

**In Case You Missed It >>> This month in photos**

# Maryland First Lady Yumi Hogan's Spring 2019 Art Display

First Lady Yumi Hogan once again hosted a variety of talented student artists at the House of Delegates Gallery Space in Annapolis this month as part of the First Lady's Spring Student Art Exhibition. Middle and high school students from across Maryland participated in the event, spanning across almost every Maryland County. During the opening reception for the exhibition, these student artists were recognized for their tremendous talents and achievements in fine arts, and an award ceremony was held for each student that received a first place entry in their school level.



The event attracted scores of artists, educators and dignitaries, including State Superintendent Dr. Salmon, who met with students and praised their talents, while learning about the creative process behind these unique works of art. Dr. Salmon shared the important role fine art plays in our daily lives as Marylanders while addressing the large crowd. Students were also treated to encouraging and uplifting remarks from MSDE's Coordinator of Fine Arts, Alysia Lee.

Maryland's First Lady, Yumi Hogan is an accomplished artist and advocate herself, and holds these events regularly as a way of not only drawing attention to the importance of art education, but as a way to elevate art and art education programs throughout the state. We look forward to this display each Fall and Spring!

[For more pictures, follow this link!](#)



# MSDE CLASSIFIEDS



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Say Hello >>>

Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!

**Crystal Achuo**, Academic CRD Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Tiara Brice**, Office Clerk II (MSDE/DORS/Headquarters/Facilities Department)

**Shantel Closson**, Child Care Licensing Specialist Trainee (Division of Early Childhood)

**Jasmine Dabney**, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region III/Eastern Baltimore County)

**Michele Finlayson**, School Guidance Counselor (Juvenile Services Education)

**David Freese**, Program Manager IV (Interagency Commission on School Construction)

**Lindsey Goodrich**, Special Education Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Nikita Goradia**, Staff Specialist III (Office of School, Community and Nutrition Programs)

**Tammy Hall**, Academic Science Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Brooke Hill**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region V/Towson Office)

**David Hanauer**, Administrative Officer III (Division of Early Childhood)

**Cortina Johnson**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region I/Frederick)

**Sarah Kennedy**, V.R. Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

**Leslie Mason**, Academic Substitute Teacher (Juvenile Services Education)

**Niketha McKenzie**, Library Media Specialist (Juvenile Services Education)

**Gifty Quarshie**, Education Program Specialist I (MD Center for School Safety)

**Tykeisha Royal**, Office Secretary II (Division of Early Childhood)

**Ocie Rush**, School Guidance Counselor (Juvenile Services Education)

**Heather Sauers**, Education Program Specialist II (Division of Curriculum, Instructional Improvement & Professional Learning)

**Michael Sendak**, Physician. Program Specialist (MSDE/DORS/Disability Determination Services)

## CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

### Tips For Answering the Telephone >>>

Whether at home or at work, we are ALWAYS on the phone. No matter your role here at MSDE, proper telephone etiquette is a critical part of delivering exceptional customer service. Follow these useful tips to set a positive tone for the interaction and creating a good first impression:

- ⇒ Answer calls promptly. As a general rule, telephones should be answered within three rings and not answered by an automated phone system during regular business hours.
- ⇒ Complete conversations with others before picking up the telephone.
- ⇒ Never eat, drink, or chew gum while on the phone.
- ⇒ Greet the caller and identify yourself and your Division and/or Branch. This is a courtesy that serves to personalize the customer service experience.
- ⇒ Ask how you can assist the caller. Ex-ample: "Good afternoon; this is Mary Jones in the Office of the Superintendent. How may I help you today?"
- ⇒ Avoid jargon and acronyms.

### Best Wishes! >>>

Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!

**Dennis Phillips**, V.R. Specialist I (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Leonardtown)

**Lou Anne Poff**, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region I/Westminster)