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VOLUME 1  
ISSUE 9

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

# THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

### Special points of interest >>>

- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- STATE BOARD ACTIONS
- GIVING TUESDAY
- MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS HIGHLIGHT



**MARYLAND CHARITY  
CAMPAIGN 2017**

### "PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

How are we doing? The 2017 Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is well underway, thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

**PROGRESS \$54,690.45**



**MSDE'S GOAL \$65,179.79**

You can *Pledge to Make a Difference* by visiting <http://mcc.maryland.gov/> and following the prompts.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to announce our November 2017 Employee of the Month:

**Paul Katula!**



Paul Katula, November 2017

Paul is an **Education Program Specialist I** for the Planning & Assessment Branch under Doug Strader and Ann Herrmann in the Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability. Paul was nominated by his co-worker as being an "unsung hero" of their team as well as an employee who exemplifies extraordinary service.

**Continue reading below for a recap of all the wonderful things Paul has accomplished!**

Paul has been a positive, creative, engineering force that helped build a new high school item bank to be used for our government and science high school assessments. He routinely provided expertise related to his job responsibilities and shared his diverse skill set to support multiple facets of the high school assessment project

Paul has gone above and beyond his job expectations and assignments. When a project encountered challenges in transitioning more than 3,700 assessment items from an old vendor to a new one,

Paul leveraged his knowledge in computer coding to find a solution.

Paul spent nights and weekends working with the vendor to make sure the assessment items transferred over and were in proper working order. He really helped to keep the project on track!

Paul has developed the foundation needed to get the new assessment program off the ground without any complaints or solicitation of recognition!

**Way-To-Go Paul!**

**[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)**

# State Board Meeting Actions: October 24, 2017



## **The following actions were taken at the October 24, 2017 State Board of Education meeting:**

- Confirmed candidates to participate in the 2017-2018 Fee Incentive Program established for public school teachers seeking certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).
- Approved establishing 750 as the passing score for the current 6<sup>th</sup> grade cohort (2023-2024 graduating cohort) and all subsequent cohorts, and 725 as the passing score for current 7<sup>th</sup> graders and above.
- Approved the updated Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.04.16 Programs in Fine Arts to incorporate the new National Core Arts Standards that focus on the artistic process of creating, presenting, responding and connecting.
- Granted permission to publish amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.07.08 Incentive Program for Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Amendments are necessary to update language to align with the current National Board for Professional Teaching Standards processes.

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

- *Kevin and Leah B. v. Howard County Board of Education – early kindergarten entry – Opinion No. 17-38*
- *Donna Young v. Prince George’s County Board of Education (Young II) – employee termination – Opinion No. 17-39*
- *Yvette Finlay-Gaines v. Montgomery County Board of Education – teacher termination – Opinion No. 17-40*
- *Heather A. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – residency – Order No. OR17-15*
- *Kiona B. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Education – student transfer – Order No. OR17-16*
- *Richard and Julia B. v. Howard County Board of Education – walking route – Order No. OR17-17*
- *Lee Thomassen v. Baltimore County Board of Education – request for reconsideration – Order No. OR17-18*
- *Jatin W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education – magnet program admission – Amended Order No. OR17-14*

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

[http://  
marylandpublicschools.org/  
stateboard/Pages/default.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx)

The next meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 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.



**#GIVINGTUESDAY™**

## **#GivingTuesday** (November 28th, 2017)

Is a global giving and philanthropic initiative that is fueled and spread through the power of social media and collaboration. This day is celebrated on the Tuesday and week following Thanksgiving, and is a follow-up to the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. **#GivingTuesday** kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. On November 28th and throughout the holiday season, join the movement and give - you can volunteer some of your time, make a donation, or give the power of your voice in your local community.

**#GivingTuesday** connects groups of individuals, communities and organizations around the world for one common purpose: to celebrate and encourage giving. **#GivingTuesday** uses the power of social media and the generosity of participants to provide a platform for them to encourage the donation of time, resources and talents to address local, national and global challenges. Since its creation in 2012, **#GivingTuesday** has become a movement that supports giving and philanthropy, especially within your own community. There are several ways to take advantage of and spread the mission of **#GivingTuesday** in your community, visiting the [#GivingTuesday Website](#) can help you find organizations, charities, events and more near you!

You can also donate to over 900 local and Maryland– based charities by participating in this year’s [Maryland Charity Campaign!](#)

This is your time to **GIVE!**

# MSDE

# Safety Section

## Floor Wardens

MSDE is actively recruiting Floor Wardens for all floors. Floor wardens are needed to assist in evacuations and other drills as needed.

You may have seen individuals wearing hi-visibility vests, carrying a radio, and checking areas in the building for people during fire drills. These are the recognized Floor Wardens of MSDE.

Floor Wardens hold the important responsibility of making sure that all staff have evacuated

their assigned floor and gather information to be relayed to first responders and MSDE's regional DGS manager.

If you are able to handle the responsibility and are available for a short training, becoming a Floor Warden might be for you.

Along with receiving training as a Floor Warden, you also receive First Aid, AED, and CPR training covered by MSDE.

These trainings will gain you skills for emergency response as well as provide you the experience of taking responsibly for a section of your work area.

If you have any questions or desire to volunteer to become a Floor Warden,

please contact

Xavier Richards at:

Xavier.Richards1@maryland.gov

Office: 410-767-0004



## Baltimore Safe Walk

### Working Late?

Call a Downtown Safety Guide Escort.

Call **410-802-9631** up to 20 minutes before your departure.

Provide the supervisor on call the location that you will be leaving from, your name, and the location you are going to.

Two safety escorts will meet you

in the lobby and walk with you to your destination.

If you have a car in a garage or lot, the safety escort service will walk with you to your car.

There is no cost for this service provided by the Downtown Baltimore Partnership.

Please note this service is not available on State Holidays and is limited to the Downtown Management District. 106 blocks within the core of Downtown.

This service is available 7 days a week and runs until 9:00 PM.

**410-802-9631**

### Winter 2018 MSDE Emergency Condition Information

1. Use the department of Budget and management website:  
<http://dbm.maryland.gov/employees/Pages/WeatherRel.aspx>
2. You can follow on Twitter:  
<https://twitter.com/MdStateClosing>
3. Receive text messages by texting "Follow MdStateClosing" to 40404. To stop receiving updates text "Leave MdStateClosing" to 40404. Message rates apply.
4. Dial MSDE Headquarters: 1-877-230-1391. This is a toll-free call.

# Strengthening Education in Maryland

MSDE's Accomplishment Highlights January-June 2017

ACCOMPLISHMENTS | JANUARY - JUNE 2017

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## SUSTAINED STRENGTH

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has the core belief that all children benefit from a quality education. We provide **strong leadership, strategic resources, and policy guidance** to our local schools as they prepare our students for success beyond graduation.

Every child deserves exceptional schools and teachers, regardless of age, background, or learning styles. As we work toward that goal, MSDE provides Maryland's school systems and educators with a wide range of services, including student assessment, liaison to governmental bodies, professional development of teachers and administrators, childcare licensing services and educator certification, to name a few. Through **strong leadership, wise stewardship, and collaborative innovation**, we are providing the resources, support, and evidence-based solutions needed by local school systems and the educators we serve.

Together, we are helping each and every Maryland student fulfill his or her potential.

PREPARING **STRONGER** WORLD-CLASS STUDENTS

# 27th Annual Teacher of the Year Gala •

## Joshua Carroll Named Maryland Teacher of the Year!



In October, MSDE held its 27th Annual Teacher of the Year Gala. Dr. Karen Salmon announced the **2017-2018 Maryland Teacher of the Year, Joshua Carroll!**

Mr. Carroll, a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) teacher at Anne Arundel County's South River High School, has taught in Anne Arundel County for 18 years and has spent his career teaching at the high school level.



The event was held at Martin's West in Baltimore and attracted scores of educators and dignitaries such as Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Former Senator Paul Sarbanes, State Board member Dr. Michele Guyton, and representatives from all 24 local school systems! The gala recognized the numerous accomplishments of all 24 local teachers of the year!

Mr. Carroll succeeds Athanasia (Sia) Kyriakakos, an Art teacher at Mergenthaler Vocational Technical Senior High School in Baltimore City, who was the 2016-2017 Maryland Teacher of the Year and a finalist for National Teacher of the Year.



**Congratulations to Joshua and all our Teachers of the Year!**

# MSDE CLASSIFIEDS



## WHAT'S NEW?

### Say Hello >>>

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

**Taryn Barber**, Teacher APC (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Keontay Beaman**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region III/Severn Street)

**Michelle Brounson**, Management Associate (Division of Career and College Readiness)

**Nancy Cahlink-Seidler**, Staff Specialist III (Division of Early Childhood Education)

**Rhiana Cooper**, Office Secretary II (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Michael Deans**, HR Officer I (Office of Human Resources)

**Richelda Divina**, Teacher APC +60 (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Ciara Dortch**, Financial Compliance Auditor II (Audit Office)

**Gregg Ford**, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

**Nancy Garcia**, Staff Specialist II (Division of Early Childhood Development)

**Shea Gibbs**, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Dwight Hargrave-Bey**, Teacher APC +30 (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Elizabeth Masonis**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS Region II/Linthicum)

**Janice Miller-Redd**, Teacher (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Lydia Naper**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region I/Westminster)

**Matthew Pennsylv**, Teacher APC (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Leah Renzi**, Education Program Supervisor (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

**Jackie Resh**, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**Nacole Russ**, Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist II (MSDE/DORS/Region II/Salisbury)

**Alisha Scrivens**, Teacher SPC (Juvenile Services Education Program)

**LaTanya Taylor**, Human Services Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood Education)

**Martha Torchen**, Education Program Specialist II (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

**Kimberly Walker**, Office Secretary III (Juvenile Services Education Program)

## CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

### Tips & Survey Highlights!

## Be neutral

You should not offer opinions or introduce your own biases into any conversation. Always take a neutral stance on issues, but empathize with the customer's needs. Taking a neutral stance will allow you to more effectively solve problems in an efficient manner.

## Be honest

Always be honest with the customer. Never lie, guess or make up an answer. If the customer's problem is beyond your competence level, politely explain that you will transfer the caller to an employee who can better address their needs.

## Customer Service Survey Highlights!

"The leadership and staff of MSDE Special Education Programs has, as always, been quick to respond to questions and concerns. They have an open mind and consider proposals from the local level. Not only do they have a wealth of information they are willing to share, they are able to provide resources beyond MSDE staff as appropriate. They are open and transparent in all settings. It is truly a blessing to work with each and every one of them both in the Part B and Part C Arenas!"

### Best Wishes! >>>

*Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!*

**Linda Murel**, Management Associate (Division of Educator Effectiveness)