

160th
ANNIVERSARY
**BOWIE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

FOUNDERS' DAY
C E L E B R A T I O N

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025, 10 A.M.
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER AUDITORIUM



160th
ANNIVERSARY
**BOWIE STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**FOUNDERS' DAY
CELEBRATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our History.....	2
University Highlights.....	4
Keynote Speaker	5
Program	6
Alma Mater	8
List of Presidents	9
BSU Honor and Professional Societies.....	10
BSU Notable History	11
Founders' Day Committee Members	12
Acknowledgments.....	12

OUR HISTORY

Bowie State University is an outgrowth of a school opened in Baltimore 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 6,300 diverse students, offering 29 undergraduate majors, 20 master's degree programs, 22 specialty certificates and three doctoral 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. 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 number 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 in 1951 and secondary education in 1961 and advanced toward becoming a liberal arts college.



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 student 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 disciplines. In 1995, Bowie State won an 11-year, \$27 million award from the NASA and the 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 as No. 11 among HBCUs. Bowie State's cybersecurity programs are recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance 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.

UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 6,300 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 most comprehensive universities, with expanding academic initiatives and new modern facilities that provide opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and research.

KEY HONORS

- U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2025" ranks Bowie State at No. 11 among the nation's top HBCUs.
- Several of Bowie State University's graduate programs have been acknowledged for their excellence in the U.S. News & World Report's "2025 Best Graduate Schools" rankings.
- The National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security recognize Bowie State's cybersecurity programs as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education.
- The Carnegie Research Activity Classification awarded Bowie State the 'Research College and University' designation in 2025.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

- Natural science students who choose a research track can work with faculty mentors to make breakthroughs in health and medicine.
- The College of Education has partnered with local school districts to launch an initiative that prepares 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 or pursue an upper-division certificate in entrepreneurship, which is open to students in any major. The Entrepreneurship Innovation Center helps students develop the skills and access the resources needed to advance their entrepreneurial ideas.

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, which opened in fall 2024, honors the power of free expression by providing specialized learning environments that inspire innovation across disciplines such as history, language, literature, communications and media studies.
- The Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community is a hub of innovation and home to more than 500 students, designed to nurture their passion for starting 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 is 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 this honor for a student center.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TIFFANY WATSON ('12)

Emmy-Nominated BMORE Lifestyle Host/Correspondent,
FOX45 Digital Team, Comedian

Tiffany "Lady T" Watson appears on FOX45's BMORE Lifestyle, where she is featured in segments such as "Spilling the Tea with Lady T" and "Lemme Tell You." She also serves as their assignment editor and digital content creator, providing commentary on a variety of featured topics. In 2012, Watson earned her degree in communications with a focus on broadcast journalism from Bowie State University. She interned at Hot 99.5's "The Kane Show" and "The Sarah Show" and hosted radio shows on WLLS and WLJK. She continues to create both television and digital content at FOX45.

Watson began her journalism career in 2015 as a reporter for The Prince George's Sentinel. A year later, she became a features and town government reporter for Southern Maryland Newspapers at The Maryland Independent in Charles County, Maryland. During her time there, she won an MDCC Press Association Award in spring 2018.

In addition to her journalism career, Watson was a recurring guest contributor on TMZ Live, where she offered commentary on pop culture, sports, politics and trending topics. Known for her sharp wit and humorous take on current events, she quickly gained recognition for her lively commentary. Watson also earned a master's degree in new media journalism from Full Sail University, graduating as valedictorian and receiving the Advanced Achievement Award. Beyond journalism, she is an actress, model and comedian, having opened for popular comedians such as KevOnStage and Tommy Taylor Jr.



Tiffany "Lady T" Watson ('12)

PROGRAM

LEGACY AND HONOR

Prelude	Bowie State University Concert Band Billy Bennett, Director
Posting of Colors	Bowie State University ARMY ROTC LTC Roger Dominique, Commander
"The Star-Spangled Banner"	Performed by Francis Scott Key arr. Mark Hayes Bowie State University Concert Choir Brandon Felder, Director
"Lift Every Voice and Sing"	Performed by Johnson & Johnson Charles Miller, Tenor arr. Brandon Felder and Bowie State University Concert Choir Brandon Felder, Director
Moment of Centering	Kamal Epps Election Chair, Student Government Association
Presiding Officer	Dr. Aminta H. Breaux President, Bowie State University
Greetings	Tierra Parker Election Chair, Student Government Association Devin Cash Vice President, Graduate Student Association Carla Henry Hopkins Director of Alumni Engagement and Stewardship, Philanthropic Engagement
Bowie State University History Fact	Shari Hathaway Fleming Planned Giving Officer, Philanthropic Engagement
In Memoriam	Dr. Aminta H. Breaux President, Bowie State University
Solo Selection	Performed by "Make Them Hear You" Elijah C. Taylor, Baritone From Ragtime, S. Flaherty and L. Ahrens
Introduction of Speaker	Ephonia Green Vice President, Graduate Student Association
Keynote Speaker	Tiffany Watson Emmy-nominated BMore Lifestyle Host/Correspondent, FOX45 Digital Team, Comedian
Musical Selection	Performed by "After the Cake Walk" Bowie State University Concert Band Billy Bennett, Director

PROGRAM

Acknowledgments Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou
Fall 2024 Dean's List Honorees Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

"We Gather Here Together / Hallowed Be Thy Name" Performed by
Madrigal arr. A. Emmett and K. Knight Bowie State University Concert Choir
Brandon Felder, Director

Closing Remarks Kayla Lowery
Vice President, Student Government Association

Alma Mater Performed by
Bowie State University Concert Choir

Retiring of Colors Bowie State University Army ROTC
LTC Roger Dominique, Commander

Postlude Bowie State University Concert Band
Billy Bennett, Director



ALMA MATER

by Charlotte B. Robinson

There's a spot in my heart that never goes 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

(Chorus)

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.

(Chorus)

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

by James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning 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.

HISTORY OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Mr. Leonard Waterman
*Principal, 1865–1866 | 14. Dr. Rufus L. Barfield
President, 1978–1982 |
| 2. Mr. H.F. Hartwell
*Principal, 1866–1869 | 15. Ms. Marcellina Brooks
Acting President,
Jan. 1983–Sept. 1983 |
| 3. Mr. P. J. Doran
*Principal, 1869–1870 | 16. Dr. James Lyons Sr.
President, 1983–1992 |
| 4. Mrs. Anne Coore
*Principal, 1870–1872 | 17. Dr. Harold Delany
Interim President, 1992–1993 |
| 5. Professor M. H. Newell
*Principal, 1872–1893 | 18. Dr. Nathanael Pollard
President, 1993–1999 |
| 6. Professor Alexander Chaplain
*Principal, 1893–1893 | 19. Dr. Wendell Holloway
Interim President, 1999–2000 |
| 7. Mr. George Harrison
*Principal, 1893–1911 | 20. Dr. Calvin W. Lowe
President, 2000–2006 |
| 8. Dr. Don Speed Smith Goodloe
*Principal, 1911–1921 | 21. Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey
Interim President,
July 1–Aug. 31, 2006 |
| 9. Dr. Leonidas S. James
*Principal, 1921–1938
President, 1938–1941 | 22. Dr. Mickey L. Burnim
President, 2006–2017 |
| 10. Dr. Joseph Alexander Wiseman
Interim President, 1941–1942 | 23. Dr. Aminta H. Breaux
President, 2017–Present |
| 11. Dr. William Edward Henry
President, 1942–1967 | |
| 12. Dr. Samuel Lloyd Myers
President, 1967–1977 | |
| 13. Mr. Edmund C. Mester
Interim President, 1977–1978

(Mester fell ill in December 1977, and the board appointed Ms. Carolyn Reid-Wallace to temporarily lead the university until May 1978. She did not hold the formal presidential title.) | |

* The university's leaders were formerly referred to as principals and were designated presidents in 1938.

BSU HONOR AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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- Bowie State University Honors Program — Dr. Monika Gross, Director
- Alpha Chi Honor Society (Multi-Disciplinary) — Dr. Kim Evelyn, Sponsor and Dr. Sabah Uddin, Co-Sponsor
- Alpha Kappa Mu (University-Wide)
- Golden Key International Honour Society (Multi-Disciplinary) — Dr. Ayanna Lynch, Primary Advisor
- Sigma Alpha Pi (Multi-Disciplinary)
- Chi Alpha Sigma (Athletics) — Dr. Marie Brown, Advisor

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: Dr. George Acquaaah, Dean

- Alpha Psi Omega (National Theatre Honor Society)
- Lambda Pi Eta (National Communications Honor Society) — Dr. Otis Thomas, Advisor
- Phi Alpha Theta (History) — Dr. Tamara Brown, Advisor
- Pi Sigma Alpha, (Political Science) — Dr. Benjamin Arah, Advisor
- Phi Sigma (Biology) — Tyesha N. Burks, Ph.D., Advisor
- Sigma Tau Delta (International Honor Society for English) — Dr. Horacio Sierra and Prof. Nicole Wilson, Advisors

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS: Dr. Regina Tawah, Interim Dean

- American Marketing Association — Dr. Tia Young, Advisor
- Delta Mu Delta (Business) — Dr. Minnette Bumpus, Advisor
- Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honor Society) — Dr. Thaddee Badibanga, Advisor
- Pi Alpha Alpha National Honor Society (Public Administration) — Dr. Deborah Bailey, Advisor
- BSU National Association of Black Accountants — Dr. Satina Williams, Advisor
- Management Information Systems — Professor Tony Yorkman
- Finance and Economics Club — Dr. Sunando Sengupta, Advisor
- Graduate Association of Student Public Administrators — Dr. Deborah Bailey, Advisor
- Toastmasters International — Dr. Granville Sawyer, Advisor
- Women in Business — Prof. Gwendolyn Gurily, Advisor

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: Dr. Rhonda Jeter, Dean

- Chi Sigma Iota (International Honor Society for Counseling) — *Dr. Jake Johnson, Advisor*
- Kappa Delta Pi (International Honor Society for Education) — *Dr. Constance E. Brooks, Advisor*
- Maryland State Education Association (Education Club) — *Prof. Barbara Smith, Advisor*
- Student Adlerian Society (Department of Counseling) — *Dr. Cubie Bragg, Advisor*
- African Psychology Student Association — *Dr. Otis Williams III, Advisor*

BSU HONOR AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES: Dr. Cheryl Blackman, Dean

- Tau Upsilon Alpha (Child & Adolescent Studies) — Dr. Kim Barnett, Advisor
- Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice) — Dr. Charles Adams, Advisor
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology) — Dr. D. Elliott Parris, Advisor
- Chi Eta Phi (Nursing) — Debra Coppedge, Advisor
- Phi Alpha (Social Work) — Dr. Tina Jordan, Advisor
- Psi Chi (International Honor Society in Psychology) — Dr. Erica Hernandez, Advisor
- Social Work — Prof. Vivian Shannon Ramsey, Advisor
- Student Nursing Association — Dr. Cordelia Obizoba, Advisor

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NOTABLE HISTORY

Beatrice O. Pitts-Payne

Beatrice O. Pitts-Payne, once recognized as Bowie State University’s “Oldest Living Alumna,” was a distinguished educator and lifelong supporter of her community. She was born in Baltimore County on April 16, 1909, and passed away at the age of 106 on August 5, 2015. Affectionately known as “Bea-Bea” among family and friends, she is celebrated for her dedication to education and her invaluable contributions to Bowie State University.

In June 2024, the Bowie State University Archives received a small collection from her niece and goddaughter, LeVerne Wallace. The collection includes Bowie State memorabilia, correspondence, plaques, certificates and awards, materials from the BSU Alumni Association, newspapers, photographs, commencement materials, her bachelor’s degree, high school diploma, and many other artifacts.

Pitts-Payne’s life was filled with joy, accomplishments, and impressive achievements. She has served as a dedicated educator for nearly 40 years, shaping the lives of countless students. Her time at Bowie State Normal School was a highlight of her life and laid the foundation for the remarkable woman she would become. After graduating from Bowie High School in 1923, she completed her two-year teaching certificate in 1926, beginning the legacy that would later make her a distinguished alumna of Bowie State University.

Among her numerous achievements, Pitts-Payne served as the second national alumni president from 1942–1946, became a life member of the BSUNAA and the Baltimore City Alumni Association, held membership in Zeta Phi Beta, Alpha Zeta Chapter, had extensive involvement in political and civic engagements, and was the 2008 BSU Grand Marshal of the Homecoming Parade.

The Thurgood Marshall Library’s Special Collections & Archives Department is thrilled to present the B. Payne Collection through a dedicated page on the LibGuide, highlighting her legacy and promoting the collection as a valuable research resource. Today, on what would have been her 116th birthday, we celebrate Pitts-Payne’s life and contributions. Through this collection, we honor Beatrice O. Pitts-Payne for her lasting contributions of time, talent and treasure to Bowie State University.

FOUNDERS' DAY COMMITTEE 2025

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, General Chair	Scott Grimes
Regina Ali	Carla Henry Hopkins
Frances Ampah	Erica Johnson
Juliana Twum Ampofoah	Tanya Jones
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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