



Dear Bowie State University Community,

As we prepare for [Commencement on Friday, May 22, 2026](#), I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the dedication, care and passion you bring to supporting our students throughout their educational journeys.

Commencement is one of the most meaningful traditions at Bowie State University. It is a celebration of perseverance, achievement and transformation as our students transition from graduates to proud Bowie State alumni. Many of our graduates have reached this milestone while balancing significant personal, financial, professional and family responsibilities. Their accomplishments reflect not only their determination and resilience but also the strength of the faculty, staff, families, mentors and supporters who have encouraged them along the way.

This week, I encourage our campus community to join us in celebrating the Class of 2026 and sharing in the inspiring stories of [our graduates and their success](#).

I also recognize that this celebratory week follows Friday's [Budget Forum](#), where many members of our community shared thoughtful feedback, concerns and questions regarding the university's financial outlook and the difficult decisions ahead. Across the country, colleges and universities are grappling with enrollment declines, rising operational costs and budget reductions that are leading to difficult decisions impacting many individuals dedicated to higher education and student success. I want to acknowledge the uncertainty and anxiety these conversations may create, particularly for those who may be impacted by budget-related decisions in the coming fiscal year.

These moments are never easy, and I remain committed to approaching this work with transparency, care and respect for every member of our campus community. I deeply value the engagement and feedback shared during our forums and listening sessions throughout the year. I encourage continued participation through our shared governance processes, including the University Council, Faculty Senate, Staff Council and standing committees such as the Fiscal Affairs Committee. These shared governance groups are essential as we work together to navigate challenges and identify solutions that support the long-term strength and sustainability of our institution.

Even during periods of challenge, we must not lose sight of the extraordinary accomplishments happening across our university. Bowie State University continues to rise because of the resilience, excellence and unwavering commitment of this campus community. Our faculty teach, mentor, research and innovate in ways that shape future leaders. Our staff support students with compassion and dedication. Our students demonstrate perseverance and achievement at the highest levels. Together, these collective contributions remain the true measure of our institution and our impact.

As we celebrate our graduates this week, let us also reaffirm the mission, values and legacy that have defined Bowie State University for more than 160 years and continue to position our institution as a leader in HBCU excellence.

Thank you for all you do in service to Bowie State University and our students. I look forward to celebrating our students' achievements with you at Commencement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aminta H. Breaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aminta" being the most prominent.

**Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.**

President

Bowie State University



