



Dear BSU Community,

Earlier today, U.S. News & World Report released its 2027 Best Colleges rankings. As part of our commitment to transparency and keeping the campus community informed, I want to share the results with you directly.

Bowie State University is tied for No. 20 among Historically Black Colleges and Universities, down from No. 11 last year. I recognize the disappointment that many members of our community may feel. We take these results seriously, and we are conducting a thorough review of the ranking data to understand the factors behind this change. It is important to note that we remain a Top 20 HBCU.

Rankings provide a snapshot based on a particular set of measures. They cannot fully capture the educational experience, community impact and student achievement that define Bowie State University. A broader review of the data presents a more balanced picture. Ten years ago, Bowie State was ranked No. 26 among HBCUs, and we remain ahead of where we stood then. More importantly, the work that drives student success continues across our campus today. Demand for a Bowie State education remains strong, with more than 10,000 applications each year for about 1,000 seats in our first-year class. We recently celebrated the largest graduating class in Bowie State history, and our most recent [nursing cohort achieved a 100% NCLEX pass rate](#). [Bowie State is the first HBCU in Maryland to offer a Ph.D. in nursing](#) and now offers a new [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) degree program](#).

Bowie State also continues to earn national recognition from U.S. News and other organizations, including:

- [No. 5 among "Best HBCUs With Online Degrees" by Forbes Advisor for the second consecutive year](#)

- [No. 6 in Maryland among "America's Best Colleges for Women 2026" by Newsweek and Gender Fair](#)
- [No. 7 among public HBCUs in Forbes' inaugural "Top HBCUs" ranking](#)
- Tied for No. 40 among Top Public Schools, Regional Universities North, by U.S. News & World Report, up from No. 43
- Tied for No. 66 among Top Performers on Social Mobility, Regional Universities North, by U.S. News & World Report
- [Veterans Magazine 2026 Top Yellow Ribbon School](#)

As Maryland's oldest Historically Black College and University, Bowie State has transformed lives through education for more than 160 years. Generations of our graduates have gone on to serve as educators, scientists, business leaders, public servants, military officers and health care professionals. Our faculty remain deeply committed to teaching, mentoring and research, and our staff continue to provide the guidance and support that help our students succeed. This ranking does not diminish the work taking place across our campus every day.

Our focus remains on our mission and on the outcomes that matter most to our students: persisting, graduating and building successful careers. As we complete our review, we will identify opportunities to strengthen performance in areas that align with the priorities of our Boldly Forward Strategic Plan, and we will continue to share our progress with you.

I recognize that this news arrives during a year that has already asked a great deal of our campus community. To our faculty and staff, thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to Bowie State University. To our students, thank you for the talent and determination you bring to this campus every day. Your success remains at the center of everything we do.

As we move Boldly Forward, I ask that we remain grounded in our mission and confident in what we can achieve together. Rankings may change from year to year, but our commitment to excellence, opportunity and student success remains constant. We will continue to honor the legacy entrusted to us and build a stronger future for Bowie State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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

