



# **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 & Professional Societies.....	10
BSU Notable History.....	12
Founders' Day Committee Members.....	13
Acknowledgments.....	13

# OUR HISTORY

---

Bowie State is an outgrowth of a school that opened in Baltimore, Maryland, on Jan. 9, 1865, by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities to Black citizens. From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university, offering 30-plus 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 a 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 Jan. 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 an 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.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



## **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.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

---

## LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 5,900 students with a rigorous curriculum and supportive resources that help them remain competitive in a changing world. The university continues to advance as one of the nation's top comprehensive institutions, with growing academic programs and modern facilities that support innovative teaching, learning and research.

### KEY HONORS

- U.S. News & World Report's "Best Colleges 2026" ranks Bowie State at No. 11 among the nation's top HBCUs.
- The Carnegie Research Activity Classification awarded Bowie State the 'Research College and University' designation in 2025.
- Bowie State University's education and public administration programs have been acknowledged for their excellence in the U.S. News & World Report "2026 Best Graduate Schools" rankings.
- The National Security Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognize Bowie State's cybersecurity programs as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education.
- Military Times "Best for Vets 2025" ranks Bowie State University at No. 4 in Maryland.

### EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & 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 located at an HBCU.

### 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 & Nursing includes research and instructional laboratories, flexible classrooms, a nursing simulation wing and a fully enclosed greenhouse.
- The Fine & 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.

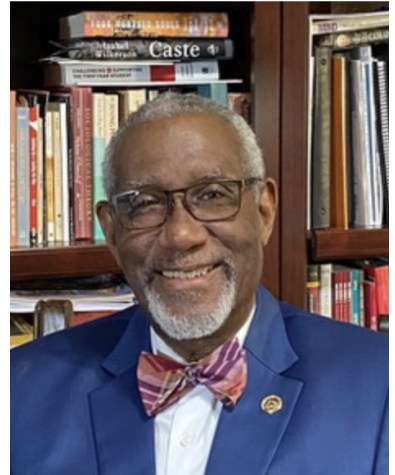
[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

---

### DR. ROLAND B. SMITH

Dr. Roland B. Smith Jr. is the founder and CEO of Roland B. Smith Jr. Consulting LLC, which he established in 2021 after retiring from Rice University. At Rice, he served as associate provost for diversity and inclusion and adjunct professor of sociology, where he taught ethnographic research methods and mentored students. He also led the development of the Multicultural Center and coordinated the Mellon Mays Fellowship program. Before joining Rice, Dr. Smith held leadership roles at the University of Notre Dame as executive assistant to the president, associate professor of sociology, and founding director of the Center for Educational Opportunity.



Dr. Roland B. Smith

Dr. Smith has dedicated his career to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education. He chaired the American Association for Higher Education Black Caucus, guiding its evolution into the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, and became its first charter president. In recognition of his leadership, the association renamed its Leadership Award in his honor, with Dr. Smith as the first recipient. He has also received the Rice University Blueprint for Excellence Legacy Award, the Award of Excellence from Bowie State University, and the Harvard Alumni Association Alumni Award.

Dr. Smith continues to serve on the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education board and has held leadership roles with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston. His past community service includes serving as board chair of the Education Foundation of Harris County and the LifeGift Organ Donation Center. He serves on the boards of Bowie State University, Indiana University and Harvard University, and he co-chaired Harvard's Graduate Schools Committee.

Dr. Smith was born in Washington, D.C., and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Sociology from Bowie State University, a Master of Public Administration from Indiana University and a Doctor of Education from Harvard University. He brings a lifelong commitment to mentoring and leadership to Bowie State University's Founders' Day.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# PROGRAM

---

## LEGACY & HONOR

<b>Prelude</b> .....	University Symphonic Band Billy Bennett, Director
<b>Posting of Colors</b> .....	Bowie State University Army ROTC LTC Roger Dominique, Commander
<b>“The Star-Spangled Banner”</b> .....	Performed by Francis Scott Key arr. Mark Hayes Bowie State University Choir Brandon Felder, Director
<b>“Lift Every Voice and Sing”</b> .....	Performed by Johnson & Johnson arr. Brandon Felder Bowie State University Choir Brandon Felder, Director
<b>Moment of Centering</b> .....	Allissa Barnes Senate Member at Large, Student Government Association
<b>Land Acknowledgment</b> .....	Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D. President, Bowie State University
<b>Opening Remarks</b> .....	Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D. President, Bowie State University
<b>Greetings</b> .....	Jade Ward President, Student Government Association  Srinivasa Kranthi Kiran Kolachina Finance Director, Graduate Student Association  Carla Henry Hopkins Director of Alumni Engagement & Stewardship, Philanthropic Engagement
<b>Bowie State University History Fact</b> .....	Steve Stephens II Philanthropy Officer, Philanthropic Engagement
<b>In Memoriam</b> .....	Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D. President, Bowie State University
<b>“Trust Me/Total Praise”</b> .....	Performed by Richard Smallwood Bowie State University Choir Brandon Felder, Director
<b>Introduction of Speaker</b> .....	Srinivasa Kranthi Kiran Kolachina Finance Director, Graduate Student Association
<b>Special Performance</b> .....	Performed by <b>“Stand Up”</b> Toni Trinette Williams, Junior Dance Major TT Williams & Prof. Shawn Short, Choreographers

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

---

# PROGRAM

---

**Keynote Speaker** ..... Dr. Roland B. Smith Jr.  
Founder & CEO of Roland B. Smith Jr. Consulting LLC

**“Wake Up Suite”** ..... Performed by  
Arr. by Michael Simmons Jr. University Symphonic Band

**Acknowledgments** ..... Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou  
**Fall 2025 Dean’s List Honorees** Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

**“All Things Working”** ..... Performed by  
Larry D. Vaughn II Bowie State University Choir  
Brandon Felder, Director

**Closing Remarks** ..... Chanel Knight  
Vice President, Student Government Association

**Alma Mater** ..... Performed by  
Bowie State University Choir

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

**Postlude** ..... University Symphonic Band  
Billy Bennett, Director



[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## **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.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# HISTORY OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

---

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

(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.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# BSU HONOR & PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

---

## BSU HONOR & PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

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

## COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES: Dr. Steven Damo, Dean

- Alpha Psi Omega, National Theatre Honor Society
- Lambda Pi Eta (National Communications Honor Society) — Prof. Talisha Dunn-Square, 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 — Dr. Kim Evelyn, Advisor

## DEPARTMENT OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS:

- National Honor Society of Dance Arts — Jennifer Dorsey, Faculty Advisor
- Psi Rho Alpha Visual and Performing Arts Honor Society — Tewodross M. Williams, Faculty Advisor
- Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority — Billy Bennett, Faculty Advisor

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS: Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri, Dean

- 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 — Prof. 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

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

## BSU HONOR & PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

---

### **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION: Dr. Rhonda Jeter, Dean**

- Chi Sigma Iota (International Honor Society for Counseling) — Dr. Maraja Humphrey & Dr. Kimberly Mills, Advisors
- Kappa Delta Pi (International Honor Society for Education) — Dr. Lynne Long, Advisor
- Bowie State Education Association (BSEA) A Campus Chapter of the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) — Dr. Barbara Smith, Advisor
- Student Adlerian Society (Department of Counseling) — Dr. Cubie Bragg, Advisor
- African Psychology Student Association — Dr. Otis Williams III, Advisor

### **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) — Dr. Birthale Archie, Advisor
- Phi Alpha (Social Work) — Dr. Darius Gwynn, Advisor
- Psi Chi (International Honor Society in Psychology) — Dr. Ayanna Lynch, Advisor
- Social Work Club — Dr. Michelle Sermon, Advisor
- Student Nursing Association — Dr. Celicia Little, Advisor
- Global Learning Club — Prof. Vivian Shannon-Ramsey, Advisor
- Sign Language Club — Dr. Emory Perkins, Advisor

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY NOTABLE HISTORY

## William T. Dorsey

---

The Dorsey Educational Fund Inc. is a Maryland-based 501(c)(3) public charity founded by Bowie State University alumni William T. Dorsey and Dr. George Crawford. We honored Dr. Crawford's contributions during Founders' Day 2024, and now we honor William T. Dorsey, the organization's namesake, for his contributions of time, talent and treasure to Bowie State University.

Dorsey, a 1925 graduate of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School at Bowie (now Bowie State University), was a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. and an original inductee into the Alumni Sports Hall of Fame. Dorsey understood the challenges of obtaining a college education, and he dreamed of establishing a fund to assist students pursuing higher education. With Dr. Crawford's help, Dorsey incorporated the organization in Maryland, made its first major donation and secured tax-exempt status to encourage others to contribute.

Through the support of family, friends, members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., the fund's board of directors and the community at large, the Dorsey Educational Fund Inc. has established and continues to fund endowments at Bowie State University, Coppin State University and Morgan State University. Its endowed scholarship at Bowie State provides ongoing financial support to students, while the fund's signature pre-Valentine's Day jazz brunch brings together alumni and the broader community to champion higher education.

Today, we honor William T. Dorsey for his service, dedication to education and lasting contributions to Bowie State University. His life is a symbol of success, and his legacy is one we all strive to uphold.

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

---

## FOUNDERS' DAY COMMITTEE 2026

---

Regina Ali	Kelley Greene
Frances Ampah	Scott Grimes
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou	Carla Hopkins
Billy Bennett	Erica Johnson
Rebecca Blevins	Tanya Jones
Thomasina Boardley	Morgan Melissa
Dr. Cubie Bragg	Kenechi Orji
Stacie Burgess	Montrose Robinson
Dr. Tyesha Burks	Emily Slayton
Yvette Caldwell	Dr. Barbara Smith
Devin Cash	Dr. Otis Thomas
DeShaun Douglas	Charles Uguomore
Brandon Felder	Jade Ward
David Fisher	Annette Wedderburn
Shari Fleming	
Edward Good	
Candance Greene	

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

BSU Army ROTC  
BSU-TV  
Conference & Event Services  
Department of Fine & Performing Arts  
Office of Marketing & Communications  
Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)