

# 2023-2024

## **BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM (BPEP)**

### Annual Report



# Bowie State University Prison Education Program



**Our mission and mantra is to elevate (ELVT): Educate to Liberate and Vow to Transform the lives of our people and thus all people.**

As Maryland's first historically Black public University, Bowie State University empowers a diverse population of students to reach their potential by providing innovative academic programs and transformational experiences as they prepare for careers, lifelong learning, and civic responsibility. Bowie's Prison Education Program (BPEP) is an extension of our responsibility as an HBCU to empower Black people and other diverse and marginalized groups by not simply providing educational opportunities but an ecosystem of support and a culture of community, social justice, and change.

In 2020, the Department of Education designated Bowie State University as a Second Chance Pell Grant Awardee through their Experimental Site Initiative, which allows incarcerated individuals the opportunity to receive Federal Pell Grants to participate in postsecondary education and training programs. In the spring of 2024, BPEP becomes the first Maryland university to be approved by the Maryland Advisory Committee on Prison Education Programs (MACPEP) to offer a Prison Education Program (PEP) under the newly reinstated federal Pell Grant program. BSU is also the first Historically Black College or University (HBCU) to offer a college program in a Maryland state prison.

## **Co-Directors**

**Anthony Jackson, Ph.D. and  
Charles Adams, Ph.D.**

## **Program Assistant**

**Britany Gatewood, Ph.D.**

## **Site Coordinator**

**Sohn Butts, Ed.D.**



# BPEP's Journey

Each student is enrolled at Bowie State University. All classes offered are credit-bearing courses and are provided onsite at the correctional facility.

We offer professional development, cultural events, and educational programming to bring campus life to our inside students.

Education reduces recidivism, improves public safety, and improves the lives of formerly incarcerated persons, their family members, and communities.



## 2020

The Department of Education designated Bowie State University as a Second Chance Pell Grant Awardee through their Experimental Site Initiative

## 2022

BPEP welcomes our first cohort with nine students in the fall of 2022.

## 2023

BPEP's admits ten students into our second cohort

## 2024

President Breaux visits JCI

BPEP becomes the first Maryland university to be approved by the Maryland Advisory Committee on Prison Education Programs (MACPEP) to offer a Prison Education Program (PEP)

## Bachelor of Science in Sociology

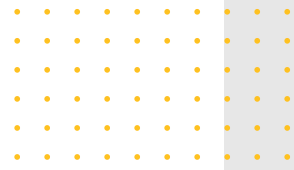
The Bachelor of Science in Sociology is a 120-credit hour degree program that focuses on liberal arts education. Including in the 120 credit hours are 46-47 general education courses (English, Math, Arts/Humanities, Natural Sciences and History), 36 credit hours in Sociology Core Requirements courses and 38 Free Electives. All of the 120 credit hours will be offered at Jessup Correctional Institute as part of the prison education program (note: transfer credits will be accepted from all accredited universities and colleges). All courses are three credits apart from BIOL 101 (4 credits), and all courses will be offered in either 16-week or 8-week formats.

## Entrepreneurship Certificate

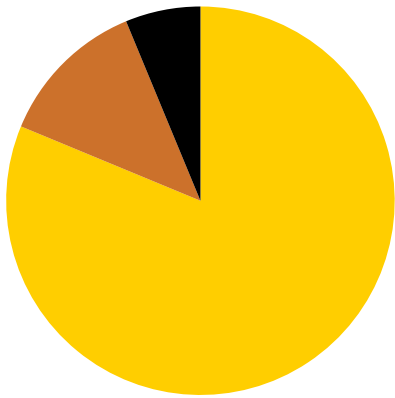
The program will equip students with the fundamental knowledge of what it takes to launch, fund, market, and successfully operate a sustainable social and commercial competitive business/enterprise in the real world or function entrepreneurially in an existing venture. This certificate program is projected to be completed within 1-2 years.

# Participant Demographics

There 15 people within BPEP as of May 30, 2024.

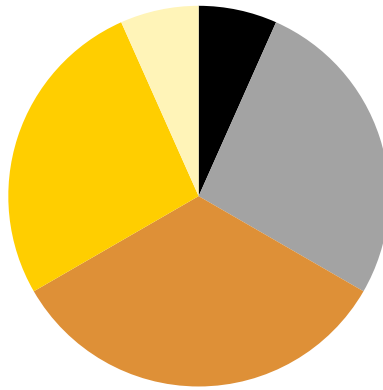


## Race\*



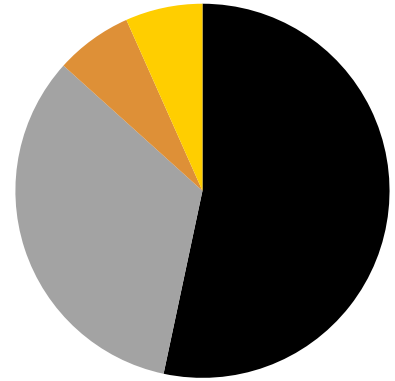
- Black (13)
- White (2)
- Asian (1)

## Age



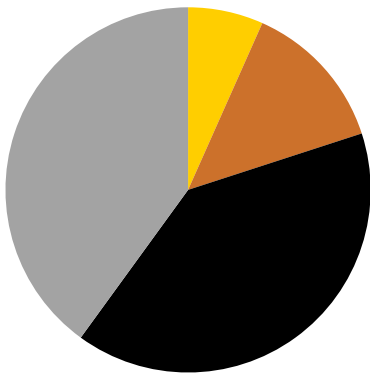
- <30 (1)
- 31-40 (4)
- 41-50 (5)
- 51-60 (4)
- 61+ (1)

## Religion



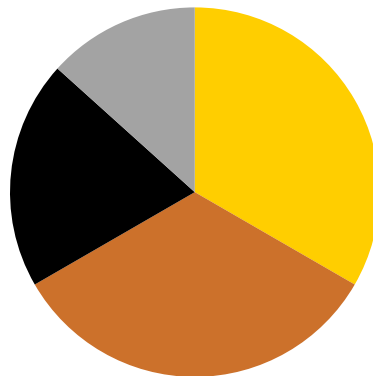
- Christian (8)
- Muslim (5)
- Atheist (1)
- Unknown (1)

## Length of Sentence



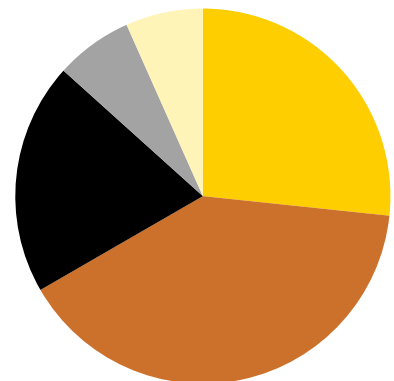
- < 5 years (1)
- 6-10 years (2)
- 11-25 years (6)
- 26+ years (6)

## Number of Children



- 0 (5)
- 1-2 (5)
- 3-4 (3)
- 5+ (2)

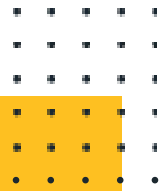
## Hometown



- Washington DC (4)
- Baltimore, MD (6)
- Other Cities Maryland (3)
- Outside of the DMV (1)
- Unknown (1)

\*One participant identified as multiracial, therefore the numbers will be greater than 15.

# Academic Success



Students enrolled in BPEP have a track record of academic success. The retention rates and average GPA of BPEP students exceed that of BSU students overall. The GPA of the BPEP students also exceeds the average GPA of sociology students with a similar class standing.

**Total Classes Taught Since 2022**

**18**

**Total Number of Credits Earned**

**381**

**Average Cumulative GPA**

**3.66**

**Average Class Completion Rate\***

**88%**

**3.91**

**Average Fall 2022 GPA**

**3.75**

**Average Spring 2023 GPA**

**3.62**

**Average Fall 2023 GPA**

**3.65**

**Average Spring 2024 GPA**

\*Two students were released from the facility, therefore they did not complete their classes. Only 1 student was removed due to attendance.

# First University President to Visit JCI

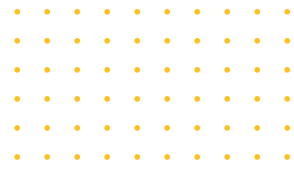


**April 30th**

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux, Bowie State University's 10th President, became the first university president to visit JCI. President Breaux was joined by Maryland's Secretary of Public Safety & Correctional Services, Carolyn Scruggs, Assistant Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Renard E. Brooks, and Director of Educational Programming, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Danielle Cox.



# Letter from BPEP Students to President



Students of Bowie State University  
Jessup Correctional Institution  
Jessup, Maryland 20794-0534

4/30/2024

Dr. Aminta Hawkins Breaux, Ph.D.  
Bowie State University  
1400 Jericho Park Rd  
Bowie, Maryland 20715-9465

Dear Dr. Breaux,

We, the students of Bowie State University at the Jessup Correctional Institution, take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude and admiration for your acuity, your efforts, and your ingenuity concerning scholarship, minority empowerment, and community change. Your labor and leadership enriches lives and expands possibilities. We are truly blessed to be led, inspired, and mentored by someone of your renown.

Madam President, you are the embodiment of Black Academic Excellence; the epitome of African American intellectual prowess. It is the rare case that passion, philanthropy, poise, and purpose are found in one Godly vessel, however, you beautifully display all these attributes in all that you do and represent. Your leadership is nothing short of aspirational, your actions are nothing short of transformative, your legacy is nothing short of historic. Your example ignites our spirit and fortifies our resolve to contribute to the world with academic distinction just as you have. The thought of you causes us to aim high and to aspire to success. As a beacon of light and service, your life's work elucidates the power of the educational paradigm and serves as a testament to Dubois's thesis of the talented tenth. Your unwavering commitment to the principles of entrepreneurship, equal opportunity, and higher learning speak loudly of your desire for the true liberation and emancipation of all people.

Your influence as an academician, trail blazer, and community change agent leaves an indelible mark on each of us, kindling our ambition to follow in your footsteps. You show the true meaning of leadership, not only by your scholarly accomplishments, but more importantly by the way you tirelessly serve as a vanguard of entrepreneurship, minority leadership, and economic advancement. Your demonstration of intellectual rigor and heartfelt commitment to

the HBCU experience not only informs our academic pursuits but also shapes our personal convictions. You have empowered us to see beyond the books, to understand the real life implications of benevolence, scholarship, and social justice, and to constantly strive for a more just and equitable world.

We are incredibly thankful for your tireless service, sage insight, and invaluable contributions to this program and to Bowie State University at large. We implore you to maintain your connection with us, and we hope to have the honor of hosting you anytime you wish to share your wisdom, insight, and vision.

Once again, we extend our deepest appreciation to you, Madam President, for the phenomenal example you have set. Your strength and dedication motivate us to strive for greatness. You have our utmost respect and admiration.

With Warm Regards,

Antwon Limberry

On behalf of the Students of Bowie State University @JCI

Cohort I

Muhain Adam

Jermain Williams

Lundes Cartwright

Lamont Jackson

Timothy Hawkins

Cohort II

James Dixon

Ancil Hamrick

Jason Allen

Devin Wooten

Lawrence Trolan

Willondon Pettiford

Jamel Martin

Rashid Holbrook

Donnell Gilliam

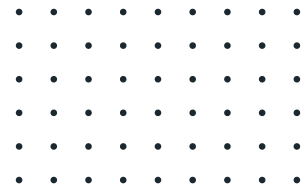
Students of Bowie State University

Students of Bowie State University

This letter was read and presented to President Breaux during her visit. Antwon Limberry, a BPEP student, read the letter at the event.

# Bowie State Comes to JCI

Throughout the year, BPBP has welcomed staff, students, and guest speakers to JCI. Our goal is to bring the Bulldog culture behind the walls.



## Black History Month 2024

This year's 2nd Annual Black History Month Event theme was "Defending the Past, Uplifting the Future." On Tuesday, February 28th, from 2:00 to 5:00, five faculty members and five undergraduate students from campus were present. They performed spoken word, singing, poetry reading, and inspirational speeches.



## Women's History Month Panel

To celebrate Women's History Month, BPEP hosted a panel! Within this panel, Sydni Turner (BPEP Adjunct and Non-Profit Leader), Alisha Small (Business Owner and Directly Impacted), and moderator Dr. Gatewood spoke about their experience of being a Black woman in society and how that has impacted the trajectory of their lives and careers.

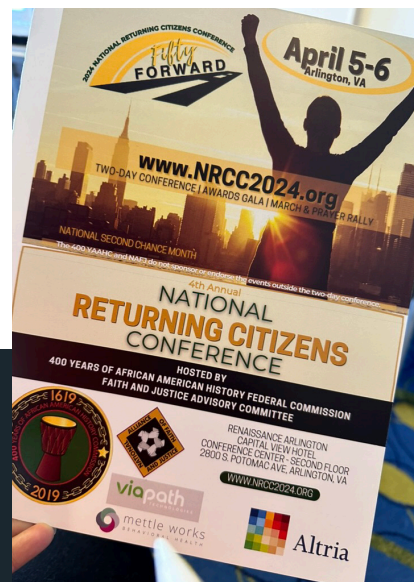


## Professional Etiquette with the Career Center

Rosetta Price from Bowie's Career Center spoke to BPEP students about Professional Development and etiquette in the workplace. This allowed students to ask about workplace culture and tips for reentering the workforce.



# BPEP in the Community



## National Returning Citizens Conference

Dr. Adams was a panel member on radical pedagogy for incarcerated students.



## BPEP Informational

BPEP held an informational meeting for faculty and staff who were interested in learning more about the program and how to get involved. Dr. Jackson, Dr. Gatewood, and BPEP adjuncts spoke about their experience in the program.



**BSU PRISON EDUCATION PROGRAM (BPEP) INFORMATIONAL**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BPEP AND HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!**

Did you know we had incarcerated students at BSU? If not, come learn about BPEP! Hear from current staff and professors about their experiences teaching behind the wall and learn how you can be apart of this transformative experience.

**April 26, 2024**  
12 PM to 1:30 PM  
Beacon Room

A light lunch will be provided.

Join virtually on Teams:  
Meeting ID: 284 800 703 250  
Passcode: tXzATb

# \$202,000 Granted!

## \$200,000

BPEP was awarded the Adobe Foundation's Social Justice Initiative Grant to help enhance infrastructure, invest in faculty development, and increase our student's career skills.



# Adobe Foundation

## \$2,000

During the National Returning Citizens Conference, a Golf Tournament was held to raise money for BPEP and its efforts. \$2,000 was raised from this event.



## Recognition for Collaboration

BPEP received recognition from Bowie State University's Career Development Office for our collaboration. This token of appreciation was given at the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Luncheon.



## In the Press...

Below are links where BPEP was highlighted in the press during this academic year.



- [Inmates at Maryland prison grateful for second chance to further their education](#) | WTOP
- [College behind bars: How a Md. university and maximum security prison work toward change](#) | WTOP
- [From a prison cell to a college degree: Second Chance program now at Bowie State University](#) | WTOP
- [BSU Offers College Degree Program For Incarcerated Citizens](#) | HBCU Buzz
- [Bowie State University Expands Inmate Degree Program](#) | HBCU Buzz
- [‘I’m not the sum total of my mistakes:’ Bowie State expands program allowing inmates to earn degrees](#) | NBC4 Washington
- [HBCU Offering a College Education to Maryland Inmates](#) | NBC4 Washington
- [Why a Maryland HBCU started a college degree program for men in prison](#) | The Baltimore Banner
- [Bowie State University Is Maryland’s First HBCU To Offer College Courses To Incarcerated Individuals — But It Needs Assistance](#) | Afro Tech, Yahoo Finance
- [Bowie State, Jessup Correctional Institute team up to help inmates earn degrees](#) | CBS News
- [Bowie State Becomes 1st HBCU In Maryland To Offer Degree Program To Inmates](#) | The Patch
- [Bowie State offers college education program for inmates at Jessup Correctional Institution](#) | Capital Gazette & Baltimore Sun
- [Advocates at historically Black universities work to expand prison-to-college pipeline](#) | Andscape
- [Maryland HBCU Offers Incarcerated Students College Degrees](#) | Best Colleges
- [How HBCU Bowie State’s Degree Program Incarcerated Men is Changing Lives](#) | Black Enterprise
- [Starting a Program for Incarcerated Students](#) | The Chronicle of Higher Education
- [Bowie State offers job training, degree to incarcerated students](#) | The Bowie Sun
- [University System of Maryland helps expand state's prison education program](#) | CBS News
- [Bowie State Is First HBCU To Offer Study Program To Inmates In Maryland](#) | Yahoo News
- [New Agreement to Offer Higher Education Access in All Maryland Prisons](#) | Best Colleges
- [BSU Offers College Degree Program for Incarcerated Citizens at Jessup](#) | HBCU Connect
- [Bowie State University Begins a Bachelor’s Degree Program at a State Prison in Maryland](#) | The Journal of Blacks In Higher Education
- [Bowie Offers Undergraduate Degree To Incarcerated Marylanders](#) | National Newspaper Publishing Association
- [Bowie State's Program Prepares Incarcerated Men To Earn College Degrees](#) | The Quintessential Gentleman
- [Bowie State University launches study programs for inmates in Maryland](#) | Clutch Points



## Looking Towards the Future

Bowie State University Prison Education Program will welcome its third cohort in the fall of 2024. Classrooms will be upgraded with new technology to better aid our students in their matriculation. This includes laptops, equipment for virtual learning, and updated equipment for professors. BPEP will also welcome new professors to our program to meet the needs of our growing program.

## Contact Us :



Bowie State University  
Bowie's Prison Education Program  
14000 Jericho Park Road  
Bowie, MD 20715-9465

We currently hold classes in Jessup Correctional Facility  
**7805 House of Correction Rd, Jessup, MD 20794**



Email Address  
**[bpep@bowiestate.edu](mailto:bpep@bowiestate.edu)**



Web Address  
**[tinyurl.com/BPEPMaryland](http://tinyurl.com/BPEPMaryland)**