



# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

2025

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025  
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2025  
COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025  
AT NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING  
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX

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# PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## **AMINTA H. BREAU, PH.D.**

PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



**Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.** has served as the visionary 10th president of Bowie State University since July 2017. From the beginning of her presidency, she has been committed to building on the legacy and rich history of Maryland's oldest historically Black university. She has initiated a university-wide focus to infuse entrepreneurship education across all disciplines and spearheaded the opening of the Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community in the fall 2021 to provide a hub for student innovation. As president, she is laser focused on ensuring the long-term viability of the institution.

Dr. Breaux is very committed to serving the community, specifically with programs and activities that enrich the lives of children and youth. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association,

the Board of Trustees of the Strada Education Network and the Maryland Corps Program Advisory Board. She is also a member on the Board of Directors for the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce and the University of Maryland Capital Region Health.

Previous leadership appointments include the President Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Governor's P-20 Leadership Council of Maryland.

Her most recent honors include the Washington Business Journal 2025 Power 100 List, The Maryland Daily Record 2025 Power List in Education, 2025 Visit Baltimore Charm City Champion Award, Maryland Black Caucus Foundation's 2024 President's Harriet Tubman Award, the Maryland Daily Record Top 100 Women in 2020 and 2024, The Maryland Daily Record Power List 100 in 2023, the President Joseph R. Biden's Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023, the Maryland Daily Record Influential Marylander in 2021, the Diversity in Business Award, and the Washington Business Journal in 2021. She has also received the Educator of the Year Award from the National Council of Negro Women, the Trailblazer Award from the Bowie Business Innovation Center, in conjunction with Capital One and the Capital City Chapter Links Inc. Leadership Award.

Dr. Breaux previously served as vice president for advancement and vice president of student affairs at Millersville University. Earlier in her career, she held positions at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia and Drexel University. She began her career in higher education as a counselor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Breaux holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Temple University, a master's degree in psychological services in education from the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate in counseling psychology from Temple University. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Institute for Executive Management and the American Association for State Colleges and Universities' Millennium Leadership Institute.

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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### **REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY**

SENIOR PASTOR, ALFRED STREET BAPTIST CHURCH



**Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley** is the senior pastor of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where he serves as the eighth pastor in the church's more than 200-year history. Under Dr. Wesley's visionary leadership, Alfred Street Baptist Church has grown to more than 12,000 members, with weekly viewership exceeding 25,000 people. The church has expanded its reach and ministries while continuing its call to spiritual formation, social justice and community engagement.

A nationally recognized voice for justice, compassion and grace, Dr. Wesley is celebrated for preaching that speaks powerfully to both the heart and conscience. His sermons — including "When the Verdict Hurts," "A Rizpah Response"

and "Tell Your Own Story" — are archived in the National Museum of African American History and Culture and affirmed in national media for their relevance and resonance. In his three decades of preaching, he has led faith-based calls for justice on critical social issues and is widely regarded as a prophetic leader in the contemporary Black church.

Building on that foundation of faith and leadership, Dr. Wesley has guided SEEK, an annual kingdom wide fast that unites more than 25,000 covenant partners in prayer, consecration and the collective pursuit of God's will. His dedication to spiritual development extends especially to young people. He has served thousands of young adults through Alfred Street Baptist Church's Come As You Are ministry and his annual conference, The Convening, where he mentors and pours into the next generation of emerging ministers, preachers and pastors.

Before stepping into ministry, Dr. Wesley's academic journey began in his hometown of Chicago. A graduate of Duke University, he earned his degree in biomedical and electrical engineering, graduating magna cum laude. He left medical school in obedience to his call to ministry, later graduating summa cum laude from the Boston University School of Theology as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar. He earned his Doctor of Ministry in preaching from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and holds multiple honorary doctorates.

Today, his influence extends beyond the pulpit. Dr. Wesley serves on several boards, including the Hampton University School of Religion Board of Visitors, the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Missionary Convention and the Flint Hill School Board of Trustees. He is the former chair of the United Negro College Fund's National Interfaith and Education Initiative and former vice chair of the John Leland Center for Theological Studies. He has also served on the Board of Visitors at Duke Divinity School and the Board of Trustees at Virginia Union University.

## YVETTE LEWIS



**Yvette Lewis** is a lifelong grassroots activist with a proven record as a Democratic leader, having been an organizer and a prolific fundraiser for the Maryland Democratic Party. She is a passionate believer in the power of learning and inclusive participation and has dedicated her work to creating opportunities for others to engage, lead and grow.

Lewis was first elected chair of the Maryland Democratic Party in 2011 and became the second African American woman to serve in the post. In her first stint, she raised more than \$7 million, ran two statewide coordinated campaigns and pushed to elevate and institutionalize the party's Diversity Leadership Councils.

In 2012, she successfully executed Maryland's delegate selection plan, leading to the election of the most diverse convention delegation in state history. She planned and organized all state party events at the national convention, which encompassed 15 events for more than 300 attendees over a five-day period.

On the national stage, during her first tenure as chair, Lewis was elected secretary of the National Association of State Democratic Chairs and served on the board of the ASDC Voter Co-Op, investing in the voter file program for all state parties. She was the recipient of the first Geneva Jones Award for service and leadership.

In 2019, Lewis was re-elected chair of the Maryland Democratic Party. During her second term, she led the party in a historic state election that included a victory for the first Democratic governor in eight years and the first Black governor in state history, the first immigrant lieutenant governor, the first female comptroller and the first Black attorney general.

While navigating the challenges of a global pandemic, Lewis ran two coordinated campaigns, executed a second delegate selection plan for a national convention and planned and executed a virtual national convention for 125 delegates with appearances by high-level elected officials including Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Congressman Jim Clyburn and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. Lewis raised \$10 million during her return, increasing her total over two terms to more than \$17 million.

On the national stage, Lewis was elected unanimously to be the Eastern Caucus female representative on the DNC Executive Committee. She serves as ASDC chair emeritus and chair of the ASDC Voter Education and Engagement Standing Committee. She is also a member of the DNC Rules and Bylaws Standing Committee.

As an educator, Lewis created **SO THIS IS OPERA**, an interactive artist-in-residence program that has helped thousands of students in eight East Coast states develop a deeper appreciation for opera, earning her the nickname "The Opera Lady." She also writes award-winning children's music, including operas featured on Spotify, and earned a Parent's Choice Award for *So This Is Opera* presents "The Bully Goats Gruff and The Little Red Hen."



### ANSHIA "BRICLYN" CROOMS, M.A. ('05)



**Anshia "Briclyn" Crooms** is the CEO and founder of Briclyn Entertainment Group LLC, a boutique booking and event programming agency. She brings 20 years of experience in the music and entertainment industry to her clients. Crooms earned a master's degree in media studies and film from The New School and a bachelor's degree in communication broadcast journalism from Bowie State University.

Crooms is passionate about creating valuable performance and programming opportunities for her clients. She has successfully booked clients at legendary music venues and festivals domestically and internationally. She also manages and produces festivals, hybrid programs and productions, and negotiates artist contracts, deals and fees.

Crooms is the co-founder of Project Hygiene Inc., a nonprofit organization that supports underprivileged youth by encouraging enhanced health and wellness practices and denouncing bullying. In November 2025, Project Hygiene partnered with the Bowie State University Nutritional Lounge to provide items to sustain the well-being of students challenged with food and hygiene insecurity. In 2021, Crooms initiated the Briclyn Entertainment Endowed Scholarship to support student matriculation.

Crooms is an active member of the DC GRAMMY Chapter of the Recording Academy, where she serves as a 2024–2026 governor, and she is also the co-chair of the Music Business Committee. She is a board member of Creative Nomad LTD and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Crooms' mission is to make a positive impact on the music and entertainment industry and the communities she serves, including her beloved Bowie State University.

# THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

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**AMINTA H. BREAUX, PH.D.**

President, Bowie State University, Presiding

## ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL



## POSTING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps  
Lieutenant Colonel Roger Dominique, U.S. Army  
Department Chair, Military Science



## “THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

by Frances Scott Key  
Bowie State University Concert Choir  
Brandon Felder, Director

## “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson, arranged by Brandon Felder  
Bowie State University Concert Choir



## MOMENTS OF REFLECTION

Dr. Barbara Smith, Mace Bearer and Grand Marshal



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.



## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.  
Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief of Staff



## GREETINGS AND CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

Yvette Lewis

Regent, University System of Maryland

Taniya C. Bannister

President, Senior Class

Lisandra Rodriguez-Cole

Past Parliamentarian, Graduate Student Association



## INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.



## “JESUS BE EXALTED”

by James Cleveland and Brenda Moore, arranged by Brandon Felder  
Bowie State University Concert Choir



# THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

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## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley  
Nationally Renowned Pastor, Alfred Street Baptist Church



## "A QUIET JOURNEY HOME"

by Ayatey Shabazz arranged by Billy Bennett  
Bowie State University Symphonic Band



## RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



## CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Candidates for Degrees presented by  
Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou



## PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Ofosuwa Abiola  
Dean, Graduate School

Dr. Steven Damo  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Mohamed Djerdjouri  
Dean, College of Business

Dr. Rhonda Jeter  
Dean, College of Education

Dr. Cheryl Blackman  
Dean, College of Professional Studies



## BSU4LIFE OATH

Dr. Stephanie Overton Stanard  
President, Bowie State University National Alumni Association



## ALMA MATER

Bowie State University Concert Choir  
Brandon Felder, Director



## RETIRING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps  
LTC Roger Dominique



## ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

# MUSIC

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## ALMA MATER

CHARLOTTE B. ROBINSON

There's a spot in my heart that never grows 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.

(REFRAIN)

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.

(REFRAIN)

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

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening 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.

# DEGREES CONFERRED

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## THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership

Master of Arts

Master of Arts in Teaching

Master of Business Administration

Master of Education

Master of Public Administration

Master of Science

Master of Science in Management Information Systems

Master of Science in Nursing

## THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

The list of candidates for graduation was prepared within the time limits imposed for the printing of the program. Therefore, the list of names is not conclusive. Only those candidates who have met all graduation requirements will be granted a degree.

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### **Elissa Glass Andrade**

"Exploring the Impact of Colorism on Latino/E Teacher Performance Evaluations in a Suburban Public School District in a West Coast State"

### **Mark Anthony Berry Jr.**

"Black Male Resilience: Examining Barriers Influencing the Enrollment, Persistence, Progression and Completion of Black Male Students at a Rural Community College in a Mid-Atlantic State"

### **Matthew Jason Bowerman**

"Navigating Trauma and Identity: A Phenomenological Study of Trauma-Responsive Practices and their Impact on K-12 African-American/Black Educators"

### **Stephanie Disanto Brant**

"Fostering Connection and Commitment: A Mixed Methods Study on Teacher Well-Being, Sense of Belonging, and Retention in Elementary Schools"

### **Elizabeth Grace Chesney**

"Teacher Turnover and the Impact of Conditionally Licensed Teachers: A Quantitative Investigation into Teacher Turnover and the Impact of Conditionally Licensed Teachers in High Poverty Schools within a Mid-Atlantic State"

### **Yolanda Yvette Coleman**

"Navigating Dual Identification: Exploring the Educational Experiences for Early Childhood Students Receiving Both English Language Development and Special Education Services"

### **Michael Joseph Fulson Woytek**

"Beyond Language Barriers: Comparing English Language Learners and Non-English Language Learners Views on Bullying, Victimization and School Staff Intervention"

### **Shaundria Lynnette Gibson**

"Examining the Impact of Racial Disparities on African Americans' Perceptions of Educational Attainment, Economic Mobility and Life Satisfaction"

### **Kimberly Ann Henriquez**

"Finding the Balance: A Quantitative Study on Perceived Supervisor Support and Retention of K-12 Principals"

### **Sapna Hopkins**

"South Asian Underrepresentation in Public School Leadership: A Mid-Atlantic Suburban Case Study"

### **Justin Michael Jenkins**

"Barriers: Promoting Academic Success for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Alumni Students from Five High Schools to Gain Access to Higher Education in a Mid-Atlantic State"

### **Katrina Schontrease Johnson**

"Overcoming Obstacles Yet Failing to Persist: Analyzing the Challenges to the Retention of African American Women Leaders and Faculty Members in Higher Education"

### **Marquita Kennedy**

"A Quantitative Study on Retention of Teachers from Veteran Teachers' Perspectives Post-Pandemic"

### **Serenity Linnea Moore**

"Onboarding to Create a Hire-to-Retire Culture: Uncovering the Impact of Belonging on New Marginalized Central Services Employees"

### **Sherilyn Rene Moses\***

"Unraveling the Reading Achievement Gap: A Comparative Study of African American and Latinx Students' Reading Performance on the DIBELS Composite Scores from 2021-2024"

### **Michelle Elise Phillips**

"Where Are They? Recruiting Teachers of Color in Rural Mid-Atlantic School Districts"

### **Sharonda Lynnette Scott**

"Are Teachers in Crisis? Examining the Impact of Job Demands and Burnout on the Well-being and Attrition of Special Educators in a Mid-Atlantic State"

### **Marquetta Renee Singleton**

"Where Race, Gender and School Leadership Collide: The Lived Experiences of Black Women Principals in a Mid-Atlantic School District"

### **Diedra A. Smalls-Screws**

"High School Teachers' Perspectives on Professional Development and the Impact on Teacher Performance in an Urban School District"

### **Angeline Anneliese Willen Rivello**

"Accountability and Restoration: A Study of Traditional Disciplinary Consequences on High School Students Living on the Eastern Shore of Maryland"

### **Khanny Yang**

"Technology Leadership of Principals in a Large Mid-Atlantic School District"

\*Denotes Summer 2025 Completion

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH**

Modhy Alotaibi  
Sherena Renee Willford

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Leon Ajayi-Porter  
Samaria Monet Barnes  
Lakesha Chanell  
Blackmon-Wallace  
Christopher Jaden Clayton  
Shaska Davis  
Zonnique D. Howell  
Troy Jerome Spencer

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED AND COMPUTATIONAL MATHEMATICS**

Shameha Jannat Etu

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Adewale Francis Ajibade  
Varun Kumar Reddy Dodda  
Andre Gavin Herron II  
Edith Clemence Jiokeg Bogni  
Samuel Frank Lee  
Starfranklyn Obieze Olivers  
Roxan Chioma Rockefeller

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNET OF THINGS & INTERNET TECHNOLOGY**

Richard Anthony Baptiste\*  
Jordan Marley Bright\*  
Lisa L. Jing\*  
Jaylen Bre'Ann Moody

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## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Kwabena Asare  
Jade M. Brace\*  
Jordan Edward Conn\*  
Signe Elizabeth McDonald

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

Adrienne D. Clarke  
Abimbola Adeola Falana  
Ashia A. Moore  
Lisandra Rodriguez-Cole  
Aramide Davina Sanya-Alogba

### **MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Clayton Alexander Rawlinson

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS & SCIENCES**

Taiwo Araf Abubakar  
Chinedu Austin Adaba  
Bolatiwa Adejoro  
Jeleel Adekunle Agbedina  
Jada Olivia Bright

Dominick Dorrel Grigsby  
Sylvester Theophilus Nettey  
Ahuine Precious Okoeguale\*  
Patricia Iziegbe Okpebholo  
Adedamola Haastrup  
Oluwafemi  
Ifeanyi Chibuike Osigwe  
Marissa Nicole Peterson  
Shaquetta Erealle Phillips  
Nithisha Ponnala  
Bridget Sefa-Boakye

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\*Denotes Summer 2025 Completion

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

Jessica Renee Butts\*  
Maria Gabriela Aguirre Elizalde  
Moriah Somua Asante  
Alexander Bharucha  
Niya N. Cook\*  
Dorcas Lisa Dickson  
Alexis Gloria King  
Brett Andrew Lacey  
Kim Antoinette Lee-Thomas\*  
Ophelia Estelle Lewis  
Kristina Alexis Little  
Jonathan A. Romero  
Hilda Gonzalez Talley  
Daniel E. Tayong

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**

Joshua J. Bishop  
Ira Jamal Branch  
Olabisi Adebola Eniade  
Lorena E. Gonzalez Ticas  
Raymond Warren Jefferies  
Airel Kasandra Miller  
Sidney Michelle Richards  
D'Era Ross  
Alyssa Joan Sciannella  
Emily Rose Shunn  
Letisha Anyango Vincent  
Andre Earl Walker  
Janay Wells

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING**

Laeyonna Cheyenne  
Blackstone\*  
Christopher Marcellous  
Ceophas\*  
Kayla M. Cohen\*  
Joshua W. Cooper\*  
Brustina D. Dillard\*  
Devin Odell Gilliam  
Donald Peron Hamilton  
Amy Lane Hippen\*  
Anthony Lawrence Lenhardt\*  
Demario Anthawn Moore\*  
Danielle Rogers  
Edward I. Ryans  
Quanise Alexis Wooten\*

### **MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING EDUCATION**

Cesar Malaluan Fortuna  
Cassandra Albers Neda\*  
Nedra Garcia Sellman\*  
Kourtnei Lafae Sims\*

### **MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHER LEADERSHIP**

Neinhadiyato L. Barry  
Virginia Carter  
Ebriah Swenson  
Leighton Earl Williams

### **MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING**

Adam David Cornell  
Shafeqah Mini'imah Mordecai  
Anisha Nicole Thompson  
Tamesha D. Woods

### **MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Neelover Alhedai\*  
Krystin Ashley Flamer\*  
Lindsee Chantal Clark Harrell  
Benjamin James Head\*  
Sheila Devonne Jones Wagner\*  
Angela Marie Mayo  
Janelle Larae Smith\*  
Karla Vanessa Vanegas-Cueva\*

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\*Denotes Summer 2025 Completion

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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## LATIN HONORS

### Summa Cum Laude

Berellyn Ceniza Alberca  
Kaila R. Banks  
Praise Ifeoma Ben  
Ingris M. Cuellar Pineda  
Estefany Luisa Diaz  
Joel Boateng Duah  
Diana E. Francisco  
Yaminah Kendi Gill  
Zachary Deangelo Goldring  
Rebeca Dalila Guzman  
Justus D. Harris  
Janaye Ruth Monroe  
Serena Isioma Nwosisi  
Zina Fenay Oliver  
Sheri Ann Paris  
Evelyn Joyce Prenatt  
Angelo C. Price-Estrada  
Torrodjae D. Somerville

### Magna Cum Laude

Tobiloba Olasubomi Ayodeji  
Zamaria Danae Bethea  
Reginald Melvin Black  
Jayla R. Bowen  
Ceara Brittingham  
Lauren Nicole Burriss  
Tammy Daniels  
Idris Aliyu Daninna  
Janiya Linnay Davis  
Jayda Adalia Des Vignes  
Brynne Diane Jachimowicz  
Ulises Alexander Juarez Servellon  
J'Adore Dior Jumper  
Rayshon Tremain Lawrence, II  
Payton A. Love  
Rosaura Martinez  
Kiara Moore  
Deborah I. Odi  
Tolulope David Oreles  
Allen Oluwatimilehin Orimoloye  
Jasmine Renee Payton  
Aniyah D. Pettaway  
Mary Grace Pabunan Tamonan  
Destiny Louise Thomas  
Anisa J. Watson  
Jasmine Wigglesworth  
Jennifer Aba Yawson

### Cum Laude

Sindy C. Acevedo  
Amanda N. Addo  
Matthew Akinmolayan  
Alpha A. Bah  
Janae Aniya Channer  
Jakai Andre Cruel  
Aliya S. Evans  
Autumn K. Ford  
Alaysia Amira Ford  
Genesis G. Grant  
Adria Joi Harris  
Queen R. Harris  
Bryanna D. Hurst  
Mohamed Dauda Jalloh  
Mahoghany A. Johnson  
Cayla Michelle Lambert  
Christal Melanie Lawson  
Jasmine Moinque McNair  
Jadyn Olivia McNeil  
Tracy Lavarne Muhammad  
Lauryn Anaya Price  
Michaela Ulonda Tibbs  
Estrella Alejandra  
Vazquez-Placido  
Brittany M. Woodard

Summa Cum Laude 3.85 — 4.00

Magna Cum Laude 3.65 — 3.84

Cum Laude 3.50 — 3.64

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## ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Transfer students who have earned 30-59 semester hours at  
Bowie State University with a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

Taniya Danae Boykin  
Alexis Nicole Brittingham  
Tiffany Bruce  
Kasia Ariana Coleman  
Lebvi Sosas Constantino  
Jayla L. Cypress

Timbite Ephrem  
Roxana Elizabeth Hernandez  
Brittany Rose Jefferson  
Jose Juan Linaco Acosta  
Melanie Arely Mendoza  
Mary Shehu

Jarne Lorine Smith  
Jakeria Renae Spriggs  
Onyinyechi Ugochi Ugbaja  
Nasir Devon Williams  
LaTreil Taysaun Wimberly

This list of Honors and Recognition was compiled as of December 3, 2025.

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# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH**

Berellyn Ceniza Alberca  
Bryanna D. Hurst  
Skyy Nyesha Jefferson  
Quincy Amir Julien\*  
Mary Elizabeth Roberts

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FINE ARTS**

Lakeisha Thompson  
Autumn G. Arrendell  
Nylah Treasur Jackson\*  
Geffrey L. Love Jr.  
Marthaniel Orael Roberts Jr.  
Daniel Nathan Ross

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT**

Ahmed F. Shaban\*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOLOGY**

Alexandria Deasha Davis  
Janiya Linnay Davis  
Joel Boateng Duah  
Autumn K. Ford  
Andria Gadson\*  
Zachary Deangelo Goldring  
Sydnee Dinorah Green  
Jevon Christopher Hamilton  
Mikayla Delaney Ibrahim  
Meagan Heavyn-Janae' Jackson  
Taylor Allison Lewis  
Claudia Lucas  
Sania Lungren-Nedd  
Adrianna Malloy  
Kevin Scott McNeil  
Jewel I. Mitchell  
Janaye Ruth Monroe  
Janan Nuriyyah Muhammad  
Brandon J. Onwukwe\*  
Allen Oluwatimilehin  
Orimoloye\*  
Izaiah Porter  
Destiny Denise Ryles  
Skye L. Simms  
Rhyian B. Singleton  
Sean Walker

Noel Welday  
Jazmyn L. White  
Summyr Amadi Williams

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS**

Amanda N. Addo  
Zamaria Danae Bethea  
Aaron M. Boyd\*  
Austin Nasier Carver  
Elijah Amon Davis\*  
Timbite Ephrem  
Bernadette Fonkoue  
Alfred L. Johnson III  
Tania D. Jones  
Annika Lauren Jones\*  
Kalayia Middleton  
Kiara Moore  
Taye Anthony Nelson  
Oluwatomisin Odutayo  
Natalya G. Rones  
Brande Monae Saunders  
William A. Simelton  
Jarne Lorine Smith  
Jakeria Renae Spriggs  
Nasir Devon Williams  
Corey S. Woods

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

Anna N. Afoakwah  
Matthew Akinmolayan  
Alldrick A. Amavie  
Tobiloba Olasubomi Ayodeji  
Praise Ifeoma Ben  
Miles Ronald Brown  
Donovan T. Faucette  
Jawan L. Foster  
Julie Rebecca Francois  
Mohamed Dauda Jalloh  
Unisa I. Jalloh  
Dwayne A. Kerr  
Xavier Frederique Bryant Medy  
Melanie Nzaou Nziengui  
Stephanie Ogechi Onyekwere  
D'Marqco Xavier Rodgers  
Cedric Ekoue Videglah  
Isaiah A. Washington  
Jordan L. Williams

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY**

Israel O. Akintomide  
Prince Oti Appiah  
Alpha A. Bah  
Mamadu S. Bah  
Leon Simon Bathersfield  
Miles Isaiah Blanc  
Tyshon Lamontrell Brown  
DeAndre William Brown\*  
Essence Aliyah Caldwell  
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Angelo C. Price-Estrada

Danyelle Melita Tolliver

Alexander M. Word

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Juan Melendez

Megan A. Shirley

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Keisha Brown

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Justus D. Harris

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Whitney Suzette Watson

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Jamal Jacob Carr

Raquel Serena James

Nigel Lewis Jenkins

Mackenzie Daneen Kearney

Mariah A. Kennedy

Jared C. King

Cayla Michelle Lambert

Mujahid J. Muhammad

Mardline Cadet Prevot

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Noah A. Fitzgerald

Julian Flemons

Yaminah Kendi Gill

Shaquanda Renee Goss

Janee Rose Gravenhise

Aniya D. Greenleaf

Chyia L. Hamilton

Kayla Ayanna Hester

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## COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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Serenity Coit  
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Bailey Lynice Wallace  
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### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

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### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIAL WORK**

Christina S. Jean-Jacques  
Tyla De'Shaun Johnson  
Alexandra Erin Minor

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## THE MEDALLION



The ceremonial medallion offers a unique opportunity to honor the presiding president and the former presidents of the university. The chain designed for Bowie State University, an institution rich in tradition, depicts the university's heritage in intricate detail. Inscribed on each banner of the chain are the former president's name and term of office, while the center banner features the name of the university's current president.

Each presidential banner that makes up the chain is one and three-eighths inches. The Bowie State University medallion includes the university seal which is three and one-eighth inches in diameter and surrounded by a decorative bezel.

## THE MACE & ACADEMIC REGALIA

### THE MACE

The mace, introduced in twelfth-century France by Philip II and in England by Richard I, was designed as an emblem signifying the authority of state officials, sergeants-at-arms, royal bodyguards and ecclesiastical dignitaries. It has been adopted for its symbolism by colleges and universities in the United States and is traditionally borne in academic processions by the faculty marshal.

The Bowie State University mace stands 50 inches tall and contains design details that represent the rich legacy of the institution's history and pay homage to its alma mater. The tapered mahogany staff bears seven, gold-plated engraved banners that designate major epochs in the school's history and changes in its name.

The staff supports an eight-inch brass flame that sits atop a four-sided base, with each side displaying a three-inch, gold-plated medallion. One side of the base features a medallion with the university seal — the opposing side depicts a replica of the African Baptist Chapel on Saratoga Street in Baltimore, where the original school was founded in 1865. The other two medallions bear the words, "Flame of Faith" and "Torch of Truth," echoed in the alma mater. The lyrics carry the hope that Bowie State will continue to serve generations of students for years to come.



### ACADEMIC REGALIA

The custom of wearing academic dress can be traced to the Middle Ages when scholars were also clerics and wore the costume of their monastic order. The hood originally was a cowl attached to the gown, which could be slipped over the head for warmth. The originally round cap later became the square mortarboard commonly seen today.

Under contemporary rules of protocol, only holders of the doctorate may wear the four-sided, six-sided, or eight-sided velvet tam. The gown worn varies according to the degree earned. The bachelor's gown, for example, is worn closed and can be distinguished from the rest by its long pointed sleeves. The master's gown is designed to be worn open, with slits at the elbow of the sleeves to accommodate the arms. The doctor's gown, also worn open, has full, bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal bars stitched across the upper arm. A velvet panel that is stitched down the front edges is draped around the neck.

The doctor's hood is four feet long, of fuller shape, and rounded at the base. The hood is bordered with velvet, the color of which typically indicates the field of study in which the wearer's degree was earned: dark blue for philosophy, light blue for education, orange for engineering, gold/yellow for science, green for medicine, salmon pink for public health, purple for law, white for arts and letters, etc. The silk lining of the hood carries the colors of the institution that granted the degree. If more than one degree is held, the gown and hood symbolic of the highest degree are worn.

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# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## UNIVERSITY 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 at 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 by Baltimore Normal School trustees, the state legislature authorized the Board of Education to assume control of the school in 1908 and redesignated it the 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 back to 1716. The school opened at the new location in 1911 with about 60 students and Don Speed Smith Goodloe as the first Black 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 for secondary education in 1961, advancing toward becoming a liberal arts college.

## UNIVERSITY HISTORY

### 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 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 among the top 11 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.

Bowie State University remains 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 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 2025" ranks Bowie State at No. 11 among the nation's top HBCUs, solidifying Bowie State as one of the top 5 public HBCUs in the country.
- The Carnegie Research Activity Classification awarded Bowie State the 'Research College and University' designation in 2025.
- 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 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 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 located 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 of 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.



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