



# SPRING **COMMENCEMENT**

May 23, 2025 | 9 a.m.  
Bowie State University

2025

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

# 2025 SPRING COMMENCEMENT



May 23, 2025 | 9 a.m.  
Bulldog Stadium  
Bowie State University  
Bowie, Maryland

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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President, Bowie State University .....	2
Commencement Speaker .....	3
Regent, University System of Maryland .....	4
Music .....	5
The Order of Exercises.....	6
Degrees Conferred .....	8
The Graduate Program .....	9
DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.....	9
DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP .....	9
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES .....	11
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS .....	11
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION .....	12
COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.....	13
The Undergraduate Program .....	14
LATIN HONORS .....	14
ACADEMIC RECOGNITION .....	15
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES .....	16
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS .....	18
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION .....	19
COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES.....	20
2025 Commissioned Officers.....	23
Academic Commencement Traditions.....	24
University System of Maryland Board of Regents .....	26
Bowie State University Foundation Board of Directors.....	26
Commencement Ceremony Officials .....	28
Commencement Committee.....	28
BSU4LIFE Pledge.....	29
University History .....	30
University Highlights .....	32
History of Presidents .....	33

## PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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



**Aminta H. Breau, 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. Breau is very committed to serving the community, specifically with programs and activities that enrich the lives of children and youth. She serves as chair of 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 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 and the Diversity in Business Award, 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. Breau 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. Breau 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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### **ANGELA ALSOBROOKS**

U.S. SENATOR, STATE OF MARYLAND



**Angela Alsobrooks**, a lifelong Marylander, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2024 after a distinguished career in local government, including roles as a prosecutor and county executive. She has championed public safety, job creation and expanded access to opportunities for working families.

Alsobrooks made history as the youngest and first woman elected Prince George's County State's Attorney. She became the county's first full-time prosecutor focused on domestic violence cases, and as Chief Law Enforcement Officer, she worked to create safer communities. Under her leadership, violent crime dropped by 50 percent. In 2018, Alsobrooks was elected Prince George's County Executive. She honed in on driving up economic opportunity in the County, and within two years, she became one of the top job creators in the entire state.

Her north star has always been the lesson that her great-grandmother taught her — that we all have a responsibility to get off the sidelines, to

go farther and do better. Guided by those words, Alsobrooks has focused on championing working families and fighting for safer communities. She believes no child should grow up on the margins and that everyone deserves a fair chance to succeed. Her leadership reflects a deep, ongoing commitment to equity and opportunity.

Alsobrooks earned degrees from Duke University and the University of Maryland School of Law. She began her legal career clerking in the Howard County and Baltimore City circuit courts before joining the Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office.

## REGENT, UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

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### ANWER HASAN



**Anwer Hasan** has more than 37 years of experience in integrated water and sewer management systems across the U.S., U.K., Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. He leads a team of 130 full-time employees with an annual revenue of \$40 million.

Hasan has overseen various large-scale water and sewer projects, including a \$2.7 billion sanitary sewer replacement system for the city of Baltimore, the largest of his career. His expertise in wastewater treatment plants includes advanced processes such as headworks, enhanced nutrient removal and primary, secondary and tertiary upgrades. Hasan's experience also includes the design and construction management of water treatment facilities, including water intake, transmission lines, pump stations, treatment plants and distribution systems for Loudoun County, Virginia.

Hasan is a former chairman of the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, the Maryland Aviation Administration and the Governor's P-20 Council.



## 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.

# 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 Reserve Officers Training Corps

LTC Roger Dominique, U.S. Army, Department Chair, Military Science



## “THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

by Francis Scott Key

Arranged by Mark Hayes

Bowie State University Concert Choir

Brandon Felder, Director



## “LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

by James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson

Bowie State University Concert Choir

Brandon Felder, Director



## MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou

Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs



## GREETINGS AND CHARGES TO THE GRADUATES

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.

President, Bowie State University

Anwer Hasan

Regent, University System of Maryland

Khaleah Brinson

President, Senior Class

Ephonia Green

President, Graduate Student Association



## VIDEO CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2025

Wes Moore

Governor of Maryland



## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.

Executive Vice President, General Counsel & Chief of Staff



## “THE BEST DAY WHEN YOU BELIEVE”

Bowie State University Concert Choir & Bowie State University Concert Band

Brandon Felder, Director, Bowie State University Concert Choir

Billy Bennett, Director, Bowie State University Concert Band



# THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

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## INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.



## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

The Honorable Angela Alsobrooks  
U.S. Senator



## PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

Aminta H. Breaux, Ph.D.



## “REPHRYGERATION”

by Todd Stalter  
Bowie State University Concert Band  
Michael Simmons Jr., Assistant Director



## RECOGNITION OF HONOR GRADUATES

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou



## CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou



## PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Janet Guyden, Interim Dean, Graduate School  
Dr. George Acquah, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Regina Tawah, Acting Dean, College of Business  
Dr. Rhonda Jeter, Dean, College of Education  
Dr. Cheryl Blackman, Dean, College of Professional Studies



## BSU4LIFE OATH

Carla Henry Hopkins  
Director, Alumni Engagement and Stewardship



## ALMA MATER

The Bowie State University Concert Choir  
Brandon Felder, Director



## RETIRING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army Reserve Officers Training Corps  
LTC Roger Dominique



## ACADEMIC RECESSIONAL

# DEGREES CONFERRED

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## THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

**Doctor of Science in Computer Science**

**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 Information Systems and Sciences**

**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 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 SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

### **Staphord Eliphace Bengesi**

"Enhanced Parkinson's Disease Detection Using Hybrid Deep Learning and Transformer Model"

### **Ruth Abidemi Olusegun**

"Enhancing Blockchain Network Security With a Pre-Trained Tabular Transformer Using IFS-TabPFN Framework"

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## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### **Cheryl Yiannakis Bachmann**

"The Influence of Instructional Leadership on Teacher Effectiveness"

### **Alana Janine Barnes**

"School Belonging and School Counselor Support: A Correlational Study Examining Academic and Behavioral Outcomes of Black High School Students"

### **Megan Linn Borga**

"Foundations for the Future: Effective Strategies to Support Early Career Teachers' Retention in a Rural Mid-Atlantic School System"

### **Crystal Lanette Brown**

"Black Girls in Pursuit of STEM: A Qualitative Study on the Perceptions of Black Girls with STEM Aspirations on Secondary Mathematics Experiences"

### **Zoraida Esther Brown**

"The Impact of Teacher Qualifications on the Math Achievement Test Scores of Black and Brown Students in High-Poverty Urban Elementary Schools in a Mid-Atlantic School District in the United States"

### **Jessica Laura Clough**

"The Influence of Dual Enrollment on College Preparedness: A Rural View of SAT/PSAT Outcomes, High School Algebra 1 Performance and College Remediation Considering Gender, Ethnicity and Socio-Economic Differences"

### **Tracee Vonne Marie Daniels-Senghor**

"Navigating Our 'Cranes in the Sky': Exploring the Effects of the Quarter-Life Crisis on the Experiences of Black Millennial Women Graduates Transitioning from College to Career Through Qualitative Methods"

### **Jamila Walker Denney**

"An Exploration of the Influence of Race and Socioeconomic Status on the Likelihood of Enrollment in Advanced Placement Coursework"

### **Kijuan Dante Felder**

"Unsafe by Design: A Critical Analysis of How Inequitable State Funding Systems Devalue the Lives of Impoverished Students in Economically Disadvantaged School Districts in the Northeastern Region of the United States"

### **Bramdatt Goolsarran**

"Relationship Between School Leaders' Support and Teachers' Integration of Generative AI Technology"

### **Alynnne Lusike Hanson**

"A Correlational Study of the Relationship Between Achievement, Evaluator Ratings and Student Feedback Around Perception of Engagement in the Classroom Setting"

### **Rodney Anthony Harrison Jr.**

"A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Investigation of How Racial Affinity Groups Support Black Male Elementary School Teachers' Professional Growth, Development and Retention in Education"

### **LaShaunda N. Haynes**

"The Impact of Principal Leadership Styles on Organizational Culture in PreK-12 Urban Public Schools"

### **Tamara Kisha Hewlett**

"The Impact of Structured Literacy on the Language and Reading Proficiency of Emergent Multilingual Learners: A Close Examination of the Relationship Between Foundational Skills Instruction and Comprehension Outcomes"

### **Brandon Lee Hufnagel**

"Targeted Professional Development for Teachers May be the Key to Removing Barriers to Gifted Education Access for Minority Students"

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## DOCTOR OF EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### **Devon Leigh Jenkins**

"A Quantitative Analysis of the Impact of District Attendance Policies on Mitigating Chronic Absenteeism in Rural Mid-Atlantic Public High Schools"

### **Kelly Joyce Koerner**

"Strategies of Equity-Minded Leaders to Promote Equitable Practices Through Reflection and Feedback to Teachers to Improve Student Achievement"

### **Steve Little**

"Examining the Impact of Students' Participation and Students' Non-Participation in Extracurricular Activities and After-School Programs and their Academic Performance in Algebra, Reading and Personal Growth in an Urban High School from the Perspectives of Mentors and Coaches Facilitating Extracurricular Activities"

### **Natasha Jean Mathis**

"Unveiling the Impact of the Underrepresentation of Black Male Students in K-12 Gifted and Talented Programs and Advanced Placement Courses: Gatekeeper Referral Practices and Teacher Created Barriers to Access"

### **Jaime Nee'Cel Mercer**

"Exploring the Phenomenology of the First Year of College for Black Women at HBCUs"

### **Sherilyn Rene Moses**

"Intersectional Perspectives on the Reading Achievement Gap: A Comparative Study of African American Students' Performance on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program for English Language Arts and Literacy Assessment"

### **Megan Harrington Murphy**

"Building Inclusive Excellence: Elementary General Educator Preparedness, Philosophies and Experiences in Shaping the Conditions of Inclusive Classrooms"

### **Candace Sheree Nicholson**

"Measuring the Impact: A Study Examining i-Ready Reading's Effectiveness in Promoting Reading Achievement"

### **Caren Rebecca Barnes Saunders**

"Unlocking Potential: Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment Courses as Catalysts for Equity in Rural Mid-Atlantic"

### **Scott Michael Showalter**

"Team Sports: Participation and Suicidal Thoughts, Suicide Plans and Suicide Attempts Among Adolescents"

### **Keith Devaul Still**

"Name, Image and Likeness: Does Revenue-Generating Sports Impact Academic Performance of Black Males in Secondary Education? Black Males are Involved in Both Revenue-Generating and Non-Revenue-Generating Sports"

### **Sheree Monique Tilley**

"Former HBCU Campus Queens Evaluate Their Leadership and Mentorship Experience Post-Graduation: A Qualitative Phenomenological Study"

### **Jennifer Irene Upperco**

"The Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Shortage: Examining Teacher Perceptions in a Rural Area in a Mid-Atlantic State"

### **Victoria Elaine Maria Valdes**

"Improving Student Outcomes by Providing Evidence-Based Interventions for Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Focus on a Sense of Belonging, Academic Achievement, and Attendance"

### **Shanita Denise Walker**

"An Analysis of College Choice: First-Generation African-American Students Choosing Between Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Predominantly White Institutions"

### **Ashley Marie White**

"Efficacy in Education: Cultivating Strong Teacher Self-Efficacy in Non-Tenured and Veteran Teachers Through the Lens of School Leadership in a Mid-Atlantic Urban School District"

### **Loretta Anita Woods**

"Teacher Burnout in a Mid-Atlantic School District"

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

Richard G. Afari  
Olabode Alfred Ajishe  
Sirak Ayele Chamiso  
Jada Alexis Danner  
Akif Muhtasim  
Princessa Paul Mwafongo  
Adedeji Emmanuel Oludayo  
Temitope Joshua Oyemade  
Charles Xavier Rice

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

Cierra Lynette Gamble

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

John Curtis Simmons III

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

Janaan-Arie A. Akinmurele  
Patience Asafu Adjaye

Chrissiah Christine Bromfield

Gene M. Carson

Geoff Abueg Dominguez

Ayotomiwa Fashola

Donnel Nathaniel Forehand

Aaron De'Von Gray

Movado M. Gray

Keshaune Johnson

Agi Fatou Mboob

Laura Napoleon

Eric Faulkner Z. Scott II

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## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### **MASTER OF BUSINESS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Guy Christian Agnant  
Latyrah Beasley  
Jaquai Bell  
Youssef Benin  
Dyamond Denise Blackman-Buckle  
John Alexander Briscoe Jr.  
Anthony Brian Cole  
Audrey Tonia Cole  
Yonatan Bekele Hilegabriel  
Hasan A. Mosley  
Destiny A. Paul  
Kemari S. Sligh  
Barbara J. Terry  
Kiara Alexis Williams

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

Jennifer Esther Constanza  
Shaynah Lanae Ford  
Ephonia Marie Green  
Tiffany Greene

Mishkka Deanna-Lynne Murphy

Distany Brianna Nguasong

Rashidat A. Shittu

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

Daniel Enoch Aboagye  
Oreoluwa Adisa  
Robin Akoto  
Oluwafemi Emmanuel Alao  
Joseph Koshie Ashley Osuzoka  
LaNiya Tschantre Boyd  
Chimdi Onyekachi Ego-Osuala  
Ogochukwu Anulika Henry-Halliday  
Felicia Ayoola Ilori  
Chiemela Uzunma Kalu  
Lord Joshua Nyame  
Taiwo Jelilat Oladipupo  
Oluwabusayo Israel Omotosho  
Teah Afolabi Peters  
Kimberly Richards  
Umaru Sillah  
Modupe Elizabeth Temidayo

### **MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

Gabriel Acevero  
Antoinette Latrece Battle  
Kenya B. Baylor  
Telicia M. Farmer  
Britney Krystle Guillory  
Simona Francine Jones  
Michaela Alyse Logan  
Tanya G. Machuca  
Cecil Curtis Miles  
Sarah Elizabeth Moore  
Monique Rene Nelson  
Chukwunonso Alexander Onwuachu  
Nush Televine Zweh

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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

Daniel Oluwafifunmi Akinribade  
Aseyah Jade Alexander  
Glory George  
Angel Marie Jackson  
Tenia Lanae Jordan  
Jennifer Ortiz  
Destiney Rosie Peyton  
Alaina Nicole Portser  
Brenda Ramirez Hernandez  
Jhanae Yvette Swann  
Naeshia Shaudae Watson

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

Ceirra Alayne Dixon  
Vashti Hoyte-Smith  
Diana M. Lugo  
Latifah Antwantte Silvera

### **MASTER OF EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

Morgan A. Powell  
Christian A. Rowe  
Devin Jamaal Sanders

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

Kristin A. Abernathy  
Lillian Ako Ahenkorah  
Kyshaun Darnell Bradford  
Jada Alaina Brown  
Ariana Benita Coleman  
Peyton L. Dilworth  
Erynne Camille Dixon  
Brianna C. Grant  
Nadia Shani Jackson  
Giovania Marie Gabrielle Jones  
Simonica Rodrigues Mendes

Andre Bernard Moore  
Rhoda A. Oluwalana  
Asia Sharell Quick  
Taylor Torian Scott

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

Cesar Malaluan Fortuna  
Takira E. Gittens  
Juduan Sarita Miles  
Michelle Renee Morrison  
Laura Saenger O'Leary  
Elizabeth Connolly Richardson  
Alicia Waitsman  
Da'Sai Monae Walker

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

Tyra Imone Bonner  
Jordan Sharps  
Joanna Catherine Smith  
Raenelle Mary Taylor  
Talisha Nicole Thurston

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY**

Julissa Crystal Alvarez  
Cambria Miles  
Shaiyann Vashae Palmore  
Morgan Faye-Marie Pennick  
Jordyn Alexandra Pierce

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

Dana Leigh Plater

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

Oghogho Joycelyne Aibangbee  
Morenike Kikelomo Ajayi  
Kameron Alexander Arey  
Stephanie Genevieve Bateky  
Joy I. Bodede  
Angela Rebecca Bowling  
Sherla C. Cannon  
Chanel V. Chambers  
Imani Jenay Davis  
Kim C. Gerald  
Donald Peron Hamilton  
Brianna Joelle Kiesel-Acker  
Patrice Lynnette Lincoln  
Richa B. Misra  
Yemisi Adeola Osofero  
Trey Pugh  
Iman Shammet  
Abu Bakarr Sillah  
Zyshonne Small  
Ashley Alexanora Smith  
Judy Ann Stanley  
Gareith Leeland Swanigan  
Annarose Nchombowo Tita  
Candrisse Elaine Watkins

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

### **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

Ebenezer Oluranti Abiona

Fatima Sajoh Barrie

Madava Gunnala

Nina Josee Diane N. Nyateng

Kaleya Rene Rose

Patrice Denee Williams

Alana Alexis Wright-Burton



# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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## LATIN HONORS

Summa Cum Laude 3.85 – 4.00 Magna Cum Laude 3.65 – 3.84 Cum Laude 3.50 – 3.64

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Saidah O. Adams-Murray	Anayah Shaday Everett	Alexis Akunna Osueke	Rene Lynn Stewart
Christopher Charles Ambrico	Raiven Chrysalia Everett	Donell Rajahn Pettus	Kevin V. Stith Jr.
Meghan Marie Anderson	Gerara Ford	Evelyn Joyce Prenatt	Kevin Anthony Timmons
Jennifer Leigh Bast	Stacey Sherell Izevbogie	Laura Cecilia Reyes Canales	Roxana Yamileth Torres-Blanco
Larry Donnell Baucum	Adrian L. Magno	Jared Lawrence Robinson	Gregory Ulric Walters
Nicholas A. Davis	Olivia Mohan	Ashlee A. Robinson	Devin Lee Young
Aisling Faith Elgesem	Chayla D. Ortiz	Danny G. Smith Jr.	

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Osrick De Guzman Abitria	Christelle Francios	Christian Z. Moore	Caylin Ramyah Snow
Carli N. Alderman	Genesis G. Grant	Justin Louis Morrisey	Ebony M. Stewart
Solange Anani	Dyon Taniel Hawkins	Jasmine Denise Obasogie	Ciara Danielle Taylor
Bezejouh Ateawung	Britney Maria Helena Holloway	Okwudindu Ogbuji Emmanuel	Tiffany Fidelia Tossou
Ja'Nieyah Misherre Avila	Raaqwell-Kofi O. Idawa	Kamila S. Palacios	Jalen N. Wallace
Autumn Taliyah Barrett	Amanda Maggie Jagdeo	Ke'asya A. Pittman	Kayla R. Wallace
Carrie Lucille Bird	Ernestine K. Jones	Shiann Proctor	D'Mani Washington
Tyree J. Black	Lynette J. Jones	Sydney M. Rivas	Mariah Cheyenne Watters
Jasmine J. Blanco Ventura	Faith Mimigbou Kouassi	Noelani T Roberts	Khalif M. Welch
Ceara Brittingham	Yilake Asmamaw Mengstie	Angelica Rachelle Robinson	Aiyana Lanae Wise
Tonya Campbell	Bianca E. Moore	Notori Marie Robinson-Anding	Lori-Ann Alicia Wynter

### CUM LAUDE

Tomilola Boluwatife Afere	Aaliyah Brianna Dugger	Cayla Michelle Lambert	Kynia J. Singletary
Betheal Alem	Ashanti M. Dupree	Christal Melanie Lawson	Oluwabusolami Oyinkansola
Alexsia Dominique Andrews	Sydney Edmond	Bruce Anthony Metoyer	Soyemi
Xavier Nathaniel	Angelo C. Foster	Arian R. Moore	Sequoia T. Spriggs
Ashton-Adderley	Oluwabukolami L. Gbadeyan	Briana Elisa Morton	Paola St. Juste
Jenaya Amber Bell	Kayla Grange	Skylar R. Murphy	Isaiah Mitchell Stover
Janai Nicole Benton	Myles Langston Greene	Chante Renee Newsome	Aissata Sofia Oceane Sy
Maya S. Boomer	Aaliyah Lanay Hill	Vivi Nguyen	Shakira Catalina Tabarez
Sydney Keasia Brutus	Oluwafeyikemi Ipaye	Mekhi Warren Price	Tonyka Renee Thomas
Imani Burke	Ibiyemi Ebunoluwa James	Toluwalope I. Sadiku	Kevin Nathaniel Thompson II
Saliyah A. Colding	Destiny D. Jorgensen	Nahdia Aatiya Sanford	Jacobie E. Thornton
Aniya Sade Cooper	J'Adore Dior Jumper	Tina Margaret Schmitt	Anthoniet A. Uwazuruonye
Tyra M. Davis	Marie Kanu	Deidra E. Senessie	Kayla Delphine Willis
Mayla Tyra Dodson	Rosemarie Mariatu Kpaka	Jaylan Dalonte Sims	

This list of Honors and Recognition compiled as of May 7, 2025.

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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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.

Givauni Romaine Armstrong  
Juniorine Deronchelle  
Azobou Tsafack  
Michal Dunica Belle  
Bethelihem Getnet Berihun  
Ryan Christian Rae Bernard  
Alexis Nicole Brittingham  
Jordan Farrell Bryant  
Shon C. Buffaloe-Henderson  
Rayah Noel Burge  
Darrion Jamal Cannon  
Nia L. Carey-Proctor

Roxelena Thomas A.  
Butler Cefaratti  
Johannes Paolo  
Caballero Chavez  
Kiara Ariel Cohen-Etheridge  
Delmar D. Davis III  
Brian W. Epps Jr.  
Emmanuelle Fleurimont  
Yaminah Kendi Gill  
Daniela Guzman  
Craig Allen Handon Jr.  
Thomas R. Hendershot

Lawrence Aaron  
Robert Highsmith  
Brynne Diane Jachimowicz  
Kendall Elaine Jackson  
Maurice Laviet Jackson  
Kandi Cherri Kennedy  
Angeles Teresa Luna  
Melanie Nicole Marceron  
Javon Tyler Page  
Kurphina Raisa Parry  
Makayla A. Preston  
Jasmine T. Roberts

Kia Cerisse Robinson  
Sharif Donte Scales  
Brianna P. Singleton-Phillips  
Cameron Michael Smith  
Adonis Soul  
Michelle Aleeta Summers  
Johann Eve Dela Cruz Sy  
Erik Lee Tillman-Smith  
Ashley Vazquez Ramos  
Sidni Marie Vernon Andrews  
Ciara Nicole Willett  
Nicholas S. Wilson

This list of Honors and Recognition compiled as of May 7, 2025.

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

Kayla Allen  
Xavier Nathaniel Ashton-Adderley  
Jade Tyree Bynum  
Nicholas A. Davis  
Quincy Amir Julien  
Isiah J. Sewell

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ENGLISH**

Patrick-Ramil S. Aseberos  
Imani Burke  
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## ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

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### THE MEDALLION



The ceremonial chain is being worn by an increasing number of leaders in higher education. The chain designed for Bowie State University, an institution rich in tradition, is one that depicts the university's heritage.

The ceremonial medallion offers a unique opportunity to honor the presiding president and the former presidents of the university. The Bowie State University medallion includes the university seal, which is three and one-eighth inches in diameter surrounded by a decorative bezel. Each presidential banner that makes up the chain is one and three-eighths inches. Each banner is inscribed with each former president's name and term of office.

# ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

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## THE MACE AND 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, reimagined in 2018 and first used during the inauguration of Dr. Breaux, 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 University 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 robes of their monastic order. The hood originally was a cowl attached to the gown, which could be slipped over the head for warmth. The cap, originally round, 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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### UNIVERSITY GRAND MARSHAL

Dr. Shirelle F. Briscoe

### UNIVERSITY MARSHALS

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Jennifer Dorsey  
Dr. Chimdimma Esimai

Dr. Keiths Hicks  
Dr. Jared Moffett  
Dr. Emory Perkins

Rosetta Price  
Dr. Daryl Stone  
Dr. Sharon Wilks

### UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCERS

Mary Ogan  
Dr. Latifa Zoulagh

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## BSU4LIFE PLEDGE

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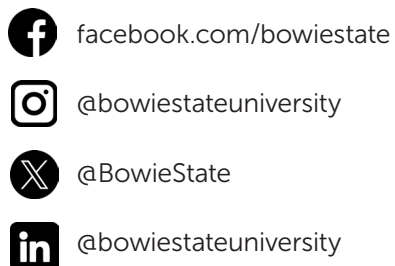
Joining the Bowie State University alumni community links us to a proud legacy that has existed for 160 years. This legacy is marked by the achievements of countless faculty, staff, students and alumni. When we depart the university, we take what we learned here and extend the impact of Bowie State around the world. Our connection to BSU is for life. We commit to return our time, talent and resources to ensure that future generations can join us in continuing to build the Bowie State University legacy.

### WE ARE #BSU4LIFE

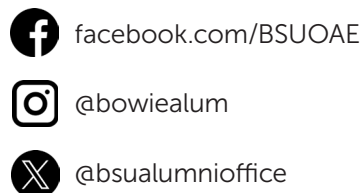
More information:  
301.860.4302  
[alumni@bowiestate.edu](mailto:alumni@bowiestate.edu)  
[bowiestate.edu/alumni](http://bowiestate.edu/alumni)

### STAY CONNECTED

#### Bowie State University



#### Alumni Relations



# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## UNIVERSITY HISTORY

Bowie State is an outgrowth of a school that opened in Baltimore, Maryland, on January 9, 1865, by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities for Black citizens.

From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university, offering 29 undergraduate majors, 20 master's degree programs, 16 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 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 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, which dated 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.

### 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.

# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## UNIVERSITY HISTORY

### 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.



# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

## UNIVERSITY HIGHLIGHTS

### LEADING BOWIE STATE INTO THE FUTURE

Bowie State University empowers more than 6,300 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.
- 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.



# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## HISTORY OF PRESIDENTS

- |                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Leonard Waterman</b><br>*Principal 1865–1866                             | 10. <b>Dr. Joseph Alexander Wiseman</b><br>Interim President<br>December 1941–February 1942                                                                                                                                                 | 17. <b>Dr. Harold Delany</b><br>Interim President<br>July 1992–July 1993             |
| 2. <b>H.F. Hartwell</b><br>*Principal 1866–1869                                | 11. <b>Dr. William Edward Henry</b><br>President 1942–1967                                                                                                                                                                                  | 18. <b>Dr. Nathanael Pollard</b><br>President 1993–1999                              |
| 3. <b>P. J. Doran</b><br>*Principal 1869–1870                                  | 12. <b>Dr. Samuel Lloyd Myers</b><br>President 1967–1977                                                                                                                                                                                    | 19. <b>Dr. Wendell Holloway</b><br>Interim President<br>January 1999–April 15, 2000  |
| 4. <b>Anne Coore</b><br>*Principal 1870–1872                                   | 13. <b>Edmund C. Mester</b><br>Interim President<br>(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.) | 20. <b>Dr. Calvin W. Lowe</b><br>President 2000–2006                                 |
| 5. <b>M. A. Newell</b><br>*Principal 1872–1893                                 | 14. <b>Dr. Rufus L. Barfield</b><br>President 1978–1982                                                                                                                                                                                     | 21. <b>Dr. Patricia Pierce Ramsey</b><br>Interim President<br>July 1–August 31, 2006 |
| 6. <b>Alexander Chaplain</b><br>*Principal 1893–1893                           | 15. <b>Marcellina Brooks</b><br>Acting President<br>January 1983–September 1983                                                                                                                                                             | 22. <b>Dr. Mickey L. Burnim</b><br>President<br>September 2006–June 2017             |
| 7. <b>George Harrison</b><br>*Principal 1893–1911                              | 16. <b>Dr. James Lyons Sr.</b><br>President 1983–1992                                                                                                                                                                                       | 23. <b>Dr. Aminta H. Breaux</b><br>President<br>July 2017–Present                    |
| 8. <b>Dr. Don Speed Smith Goodloe</b><br>*Principal 1911–1921                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |
| 9. <b>Dr. Leonidas S. James</b><br>*Principal 1921–1938<br>President 1938–1941 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                      |

\* The university's leaders were formerly referred to as principals and were designated presidents in 1938.

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## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to ABM Janitorial Services, Bowie State University Bookstore, BSU Conference & Event Services, PG County Police Department and Maryland Transit Administration.



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