



WINTER  
**COMMENCEMENT**

2024

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024  
LEONIDAS S. JAMES PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY  
WINTER 2024  
COMMENCEMENT

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024  
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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## **DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX**

PRESIDENT, BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



**Dr. Aminta H. Breaux** 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 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. 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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## MC LYTE

LYRACIST, MUSICIAN, INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER & ENTREPRENEUR



**MC Lyte** is known as a trailblazer in hip-hop and one of the most influential women in entertainment. With a career spanning over three decades, she has left an indelible mark on the music industry, beginning with her debut album in 1988. Her pioneering achievements include becoming the first female rapper nominated for a Grammy and the first to earn a gold single. Known for her powerful lyrics and trailblazing spirit, she has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center Honors, and even for President Barack Obama and Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House.

Beyond her music, MC Lyte has gained acclaim as a formidable actress, continuing to break boundaries with roles in both television and film.

She recently starred as Detective Monroe in BET's *Angel*, a role she also directed, and appeared in Viacom's *Hip Hop Family Christmas* and BET's *Favorite Son's Christmas*. Her film credits include *Patti Cakes*, a Sundance Film Festival favorite, and *Bad Hair*, showcasing her versatility and creative talent across genres.

In addition to her entertainment career, MC Lyte is a dedicated entrepreneur and philanthropist. She is the CEO of *Sunni Gyrl, Inc.*, a full-service entertainment management and consulting firm that provides services to talent across the industry. Through her nonprofit, the *Hip Hop Sisters Foundation*, she has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships, demonstrating her commitment to education, empowerment and community uplift.

**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.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

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### **GWENDOLYN MAE BARNETT**



Growing up on Maryland's Eastern Shore, **Gwendolyn Mae Barnett** followed in the footsteps of many relatives and neighbors when she joined the freshman class at what was then Bowie State College in 1973. She served as an officer of her senior class, exemplifying her commitment to leadership and service. She graduated with honors in 1977, earning a Bachelor of Science in elementary education.

After graduation, Barnett returned to Maryland's Eastern Shore and began her career in education, teaching in the Wicomico County school system for three years. In 1980, she transitioned to the federal government and began a distinguished 36-year career as a computer programmer and IT specialist.

Barnett's career steadily advanced as she took on roles with increasing responsibilities, including team leader, front-line manager, branch chief and senior manager. Her technical expertise included software development for internal agency administrative systems, configuration management, risk management and the software development lifecycle. She also secured her agency's first Capability Maturity Model Level 2 certification, a groundbreaking federal software process achievement.

As a leader and mentor, Barnett championed employee development, organized mentorship programs, supported customer project testing and conducted mock interview sessions. She retired in 2016, leaving behind a legacy of technical innovation and exemplary leadership.

As a proud alum of Bowie State University, Barnett has remained deeply connected to her alma mater. She is a lifetime member of the National Alumni Association, a founding member of the Class of 1976/1977 Endowed Fund, a member of the 1865 Donor Society and a member of the Nelson Wells Legacy Society. Barnett also founded the Barnett Family Endowed Fund, furthering her dedication and commitment to the university and its students.

# THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

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## DR. AMINTA H. BREAUX

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  
Bowie State University Concert Choir



## MOMENTS OF REFLECTIONS

Dr. William Lewis, Mace Bearer



## GREETINGS & CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux

Anwer Hasan

Regent, University System of Maryland

Khaleah Brinson

President, Senior Class

Ephonia Green

President, Graduate Student Association



## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Karen J. Shaheed, Esq.

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief of Staff



## “A CHOICE TO CHANGE THE WORLD”

Kevin Johnson and Sarah Stephens  
Bowie State University Concert Choir



## INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

Dr. Aminta H. Breaux



# THE ORDER OF EXERCISES

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## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

MC Lyte

Lyricist, Musician, Inspirational Speaker and Entrepreneur



## “COME SUNDAY”

by Duke Ellington, arranged by Paul Murtha

Bowie State University Symphonic Band

Billy Bennett, Director



## 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. 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



## BSUF4LIFE OATH

Carla Henry Hopkins

Director, Alumni Engagement and Stewardship



## ALMA MATER

Bowie State University Concert Choir



## RETIRING OF THE COLORS

BSU Army ROTC



## 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 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 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

### **Raolatu Ibijoke Agbedina**

M.Ed. — Bowie State University  
B.S. — University of Maryland, College Park  
"School Counselor Leadership Through  
the Lens of Followership Theory"

### **Everett M. Davis**

M.S. — Bowie State University  
B.S. — University of Maryland, College Park  
"Where is the Village? Ways to Promote  
Increased Family Engagement for Students  
of Color Through the Lens of Pupil  
Personnel Workers"

### **Tammy Lynette Jones**

M.S. — John Hopkins University  
B.S. — University of Maryland  
Eastern Shore  
"The Impact of School Leadership and a  
Specialized Program on African American  
Males' Enrollment in High School  
Advanced Courses"

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## DOCTOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

### **Michael Abobor**

M.S. — Bowie State University  
B.S. — University of Science & Technology, GH  
"Multi-View Framework for Fine-Tuning  
Transformer-Based Models with Multi-Label  
Data Augmentation for Social  
Engineering Detection"

### **Sahar Menwer S. Almenwer**

B.S. — Al-Jouf University  
"Early Detection of Pleuropulmonary Blastoma  
Using Vision Transformers Models"

### **Veronica Ama Boateng**

M.S. — Wichita State University  
B.S. — Kwame Ninsin University  
"A Deep Ensemble-Based Modeling  
Approach for Enhanced Performance in  
AI-Based Analysis"

### **Ayodeji Ogunyemi Ogundiran**

M.A. — Central Connecticut University  
B.S. — Ladoke Akintola University  
of Technology  
"A Goal-Oriented Visualization Approach to  
Digital Forensics Evidence Presentation"

### **Tanviben Somabhai Patel**

M.S. — Bowie State University  
B.S. — Gujarat Technology University  
"Enhanced Blood Cell Classification  
Performance and Conditional Image  
Generation with Transformer Based Models"

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\*Denotes Summer 2024 Completion

# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

### MASTER OF ARTS IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

**Stephanie K. Adegbule**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Jasmine Ball**

B.A. — Trinity Washington  
University

**Chibogwu Oyidia Igwe-Nmaju**

B.A. — Abia State University

**Joseph Alfonso Julien**

B.S. — Wayne State University

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Bethel Chijindu Chiedu**

B.S. — Novena University

**Steven Andrew Fingold**

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Global Campus

**Dinali Nelushi Jayawardana**

M.A. — Bowie State University

B.S. — University of Westminster

**Akif Muhtasim**

B.S. — American International  
University, Bangladesh

**Omobolanle Favour  
Niyi-Owoeye**

M.A. — Bowie State University

B.S. — Bowie State University

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

**Paris Anthony**

B.S. — Bowie State University

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

**Abiodun Isoken Asemota**

B.S. — Tai Solarin University  
of Education

**Aaron J. Beach**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Jeremy Darnell Boyd**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Hastons Isiawwe**

B.S. — Lagos State University, Ojo

**Saniha R. Jackson\***

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Lisa L. Jing**

M.B.A. — Bowie State University

B.S. — Bowie State University

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Faisal Azoz Alshammari**

B.S. — Tennessee State University

**Dyamond Denise  
Blackman-Buckle**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Deja L. Cooper**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Miya Staggers**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**JaWaun Antonio Williams**

B.S. — Bowie State University

### MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**Nathan Agyen Boateng**

B.S. — Frostburg State University

**Brittney Dericka Braxton**

B.S. — Bethune Cookman  
University

**Kevin R. Jackson Jr.\***

B.S. — Hampton University

**Porchia Demae Nixon**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Adrienne V. Wallace-Riddick**

B.S. — Bowie State University

### MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

**Charnell Diamond Ferguson**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Nelson Nkenglefack  
Fondungalla**

B.S. — University of Beau

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS & SCIENCES

**Abigail Naa Aku Abrahams**

B.S. — University of Ghana

**Joana Otemaah Amo**

B.S. — Central University College

**Godswill Ashong**

B.A. — University of Ghana

**Quindonte M. Bobo**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Quinton L. Bobo**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Tyra Boswell**

B.S. — North Carolina A&T  
University

**Fary Ndiaye Casset**

B.S. — African Institute of  
Management

**Carolyn J. Clark**

B.S. — Strayer University

**Iteoluwakishi Oreoluwa Dare**

B.S. — University of Lagos

**Jerry Godwin Diabor**

B.B.A. — Valley View University

**Preetam R. Ganti**

B.S. — Pennsylvania State  
University

**Nkemdilim Veronica Iyiegbu**

B.S. — Enugu State University

**Morgan Cierra Johnson**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Eunice Marfo-Ahenkorah**

B.A. — University of Ghana

**Queen Paul Mwafongo**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Boluwatife Ogungboye**

B.S. — Central Michigan  
University

**Bankole Omobola Oluwole**

B.S. — University of Benin

**Anthony Ayodeji Owolabi**

B.S. — Obafemi Awolowo  
University

**Bianca C. Tucker**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Odisebramiyen Evans Yomi**

B.S. — University of Benin

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# THE GRADUATE PROGRAM

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### MASTER OF ARTS IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

**Nelvin Alexander Arevalo\***

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

**Gabrielle Lilly Baldwin**

B.S. — Florida Memorial  
University

**Rodenard W. Davis III**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Ossawa F. Gillespie\***

B.S. — Hawaii Pacific University

**Ciara C. Green**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Jarrian D. Harris**

B.A. — Kasier University

**Anoa F. Hawkins\***

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

**Melanie Jones**

M.S. — John Hopkins University  
B.S. — University of Maryland  
Eastern Shore

**Jamia Alexis Kent**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Alejandra Rosario Mackulin\***

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

**Iyanna Martha McAllister**

B.S. — North Carolina A&T  
University

**Osatohanmwem Omokaro**

B.S. — Virginia State University

**Valerie Blue Sanders\***

B.A. — Cornell University  
M.B.A. — University of Texas

**Hilda Gonzalez Talley**

Beneme'rita University

**Kourtney Janelle Washington**

B.S. — Salisbury State University

**Arial LaVerne Williamson**

B.S. — Virginia State University

### MASTER OF ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

**Lanaya Denise Body**

B.S. — Morgan State University

**Maiya Elysia Caraway**

B.S. — North Carolina A&T  
University

**Kristina McNeil Clark**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Demere Dysean Coker**

B.S. — University of Buffalo

**Precious Forson**

B.S. — Duquesne University

**MonToya C. Jenkins\***

B.S. — Coppin State University

**Emoni Narasha Johnson**

B.S. — Coppin State University

**Andrea Diana Malloy**

B.S. — Frostbury State University

**Gabriela Alexis Mills**

B.S. — Virginia State University

**Jada Queen**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Briona Redmond**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Jonnae Tyesha Tinson**

B.S. — Westminster College

**Cyscy Valenzuela**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Baaraca Songhia Wilder**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Amber Leeann Williams\***

B.S. — University of Maryland,  
College Park

### MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

**Brooke Maia Evans\***

B.S. — Bowie State University

### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN READING EDUCATION

**Victoria Jennifer Patch**

B.S. — University of Maryland,  
College Park

### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHER LEADERSHIP

**Mary-Luisa Abiva**

M.A. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

**Brianna Lynn Bull**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Raquel Judith Charles**

B.S. — State University of New  
York at Brockport

**Amanda Conner**

B.S. — University of Maryland  
Baltimore County

**Kerlie Exantus**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Amanda Michelle Guardia**

B.A. — LeMoyne College

**Elinor J. Love**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Brittany Elizabeth Martin**

B.S. — Stevenson University

**Toni Monique McGhie**

B.S. — Drexel University

**Lindsay Carlita Montgomery**

B.S. — Goucher College

**Sabine Luke Philippe**

B.S. — Boston State College

**Anna Nicole Slusarczyk**

B.S. — Towson State University

**Emily Kathryn Smith**

B.S. — Salisbury State University

### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SCHOOL COUNSELING

**Taylor Annmarie Mance**

B.S. — Morgan State University

**Destiny Spears**

B.S. — Newbury College

**Talisha Nicole Thurston**

B.S. — Coppin State University

**Anithia Jeronez Walker**

B.S. — Bowie State University

### MASTER OF EDUCATION IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Kendra M. Albert**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Andre T. Clark Jr.**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Monique Sara Fant**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Joseph Thomas Doan Gibson**

B.S. — Salisbury State University

**Roslyn Hamilton**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Bryan Christian Thompson**

B.S. — Bowie State University

**Kathleen Ann Thompson**

B.S. — Franciscan University

**Mary Kathleen Vall**

B.S. — Towson State University

\*Denotes Summer 2024 Completion

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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## LATIN HONORS

### Summa Cum Laude

Elisabeth L. Arritt  
Muniratuawero Olasubomi  
Balogun  
Ashanti L. Boone  
Evaleigh Claire Cooley  
Elizabeth Mojisola Fatokun  
Alex A. Hernandez  
Oluwafeyikemi Ipaye  
Samantha Manapul  
Zina Fenay Oliver  
Terrell Robbins  
Trevor Brooks Ross  
Quiandria Marie Willis

### Magna Cum Laude

Awa Ballo  
Jayla R. Bowen  
Sisy Marcela Escobar  
Hailee L. Estep  
Jessenia E. Iglesias  
Telly Gerard Jackson  
Christopher M. Johnson  
Rosaura Martinez  
Dawnette Yvette Miller Taylor  
Amari Nicole Montgomery  
Chukwuemeka B. Obizuo  
Terrence A. Rainford  
Fathia A. Tom-Alli

### Cum Laude

Faith Lola Arotimi  
Taylor C. Brown  
Aaron M. Butler  
Tiffany Deya Evans  
Liexl Miriam Forcho  
Anya U. Jackson  
Ibiyemi Ebunoluwa James  
Fatima Adnan Mohamad  
Esther Anuoluwapo Olawunmi  
Shanise Lynea Sellman Spriggs  
Deidra E. Senessie

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.

Nia L. Carey-Proctor

Shannon Y. Carroll

Stacy-Ann Melissa Chisholm

Michele Djeutchouang

Crystian Eunique-Lleroyce Harris

Anisa J. Hassan

Takeda Hughes

Saba Yasmin Mahmood

Iman Kimm Massey

Julian Randolph Mitchell

Lance Justin Namoco Nuique

Iteoluwakiishi Newiness Ogunbiyi

Chisom Divine Okongwu

Oluwadolapo Olomo

Allen Oluwatimilehin Orimoloye

Samson Oluwatobi Oyelaja

Kimani D. Price

Cameron Marcqelle Proctor

Richard Dantes Rameau

Liliana Y. Ramirez Arias

LaTaya A. Riddick

Ashley Torshie Squire

Mariela Natalie Trejo

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This list of Honors and Recognition was compiled as of December 9, 2024.

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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

Detrick George Jones  
Nicholas Hasane Murphy

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

Myles A. Clark  
Andrew James Essex  
Kimberly I. Osuji  
Leslie Warren\*

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BIOINFORMATICS**

Ashani Chaziah Banyan  
Collins Kibet Kipkorir II  
Kortney Edwina Lawrence  
Lance Justin Namoco Nuique

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

Muniratuawero Olasubomi Balogun  
Sydney Robin Barnes\*  
Avrianna Savannah Blackshear  
Karen T. Brutus\*  
Cindy A. Ejezie  
Elizabeth Mojisola Fatokun  
Alysha Alexandra Gans  
Adriana L. Ganthier  
Natasha Goldson  
Ziporia Irick  
Jaila A. Jackson  
Summer J. Jenkins  
Angela Marie Jenkins  
A'Niyah S. Johnson  
Saba Yasmin Mahmood  
Cynthia Lizbeth Manrique  
Kylie M. Morris  
Esther Anuoluwapo Olawunmi  
Kasarachi Onokala  
Hailey J. Osborne  
Liliana Y. Ramirez Arias  
Skye M. Smith  
Tashera M. Tanner  
Fathia A. Tom-Alli  
Junnita N. Ukay  
Adriel N. Wheeler Jr.

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

Mohammed Fayez Al Amer  
Dayton J. Alexander  
Makiyah Allen  
Tryphosa Ernestina Asante  
Jamiu Ayisatu Olayinka  
Austin Nasier Carver  
Stacy-Ann Melissa Chisholm  
Kaylyn M. Dhaiti  
Antania L. Evans  
Daniel Timothy Futrell  
Michaela Nicole Givens  
Christian Allan Gray  
Kyler Thomas Greene  
Anisa J. Hassan  
Takeda Hughes  
Telly Gerard Jackson  
Evan Gabriel Johnson  
Christopher M. Johnson  
Kairiq K. Jones  
Timothy Lee Joyner\*  
Nettitia Osharante Mack  
Amari Nicole Montgomery  
Kiana Ophelia Osborne  
Saniya S. Parker  
Jaquan Shamar Pitts  
Richard Dantes Rameau  
Deion S. Reed\*  
Chayse M. Robinson  
Ashley Nicole Stewart  
Edward Totangi\*  
Joel Chayson Webb  
Quiandria Marie Willis  
Anisha Chonay Wilson

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

Dalexis Michelle Baxter  
Ashanti L. Boone  
Taylor C. Brown  
Daevon T. Bush  
Noh B. Eiob  
Natnael Feleke  
Caleb I. Francois  
Noble H. Grant

Vincent A. Johnson\*  
Eddy Lionel Koundjou Yem  
Jac Mofor  
Edrina S. Namirembe  
Chukwuemeka B. Obizuo  
Iteoluwakiishi Newiness  
Ogunbiyi  
Hanaa Salim

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

Jamiu Abdoulaye Olayinka  
Shanysse Antoinette Alexander  
Torera A. Aloyinlapa  
Jatarius L. Battle  
Gregory Brock Jr.  
Destiny M. Charleron  
Aly Junior Dabo  
Jackson C. Emeh  
Naila Faustini  
Quincy Mandel Foster  
Paul Lenwood Harrison II\*  
Raleigh W. Hawkins IV  
Devyn K. Lyons  
Micah Antonio Neal  
Godson K. Oparaugo Jr  
Bria Jamese Parker  
Christa Mary Hawa Pessima\*  
Kerin Naeilah Quintero  
Terrence A. Rainford  
Jefry Jesus Ramos  
Roderick James Robinson  
Tierra I. Spriggs  
Busola Omolara Tejuosho

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Darius Lavon Goodman Jr.

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN THEATRE**

London Diggs  
Derek Dushawn Fields Jr.  
Daysha R. Saunders

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## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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Abdulghani Abdulwakil  
Kenneth David Samson Aquino  
Torrance J. Doles  
Niara T. Dula

Tasia Denise Evans  
Ayodele C. Koku  
Tatyana Nauja Maith  
Samantha A. Manapul  
Halima Britney Oyoyo  
Kimani D. Price

Terrell Robbins  
Trevor Brooks Ross  
Clayton Smallwood  
Morgan T. Tate  
George Joseph Washington  
Quiana Rachelle Willett

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### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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Prince-Naeem N. Al-Deen  
Ebony Tochuckwu Amuzie\*  
Jaiden Banks  
Breon Louis Boatwright\*  
Emilie M. Boum Hamou  
Kiara K. Brown  
Diamynn R. Brown  
Edwin Samuel Constanza  
Kyshawn N. Davis  
Alhouseyni M. Diallo\*  
Aminata Nyara Dione\*  
Ifeoluwa A. Epebinuade  
Iona L. Epienkede  
Racheal G. Folorunsho  
Liexl Miriam Forcho

Theodore R. Gaffney  
Leslie Dorianne Gbikpi-Benissan  
Joshua Groce  
Haroun M. Hagan  
Christian T. Hayes  
Alex A. Hernandez  
Oluwafeyikemi Ipaye  
Olashile M. Jaiyesimi  
Amelia P. Jemison  
Rasie T. Johnny  
Kandice R. Johnson  
Jasmine Joseph\*  
Nesta Yusao Kajempou  
Lawrence I. Miggins  
Amani S. Miles  
Stephan D. Milliner  
Fatima Adnan Mohamad  
Keith L. Moore

Jonathon C. Nash  
Jayvon N. Pegus  
La'Hyniah Nekhyi Phillips  
Dayana Okaikor Quaye  
Jaylen C. Ragland  
Aalyah Enid Ramirez-Arzuaga  
Jamal D. Rikard  
Elijah Sterling Saunders\*  
LaNiah M. Saunders  
Jalen Smith  
Chrystal D. Stewart\*  
Gianni D. Tatum  
Tamia Star Thompson  
Taniah N. Valentine  
Noelle S. Valentine-Brown  
Jacob D. Walker  
Miles A. Walton\*  
Ethan E. Ware V

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## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

Allison Leigh Bachman\*  
Rebecca L. Baumgardner\*  
Brittany N. Brewer\*  
Desia Latrice Couser\*  
Evaleigh Claire Cooley  
Kari Anne Emert\*  
Sisy Marcela Escobar  
Tiffany Deya Evans  
Casey Lee Gargagliano\*  
Sheldon Tyler George\*  
Connie Jane Green\*

Donna Lee Heffner\*  
Kristina Johns\*  
Kiyamonie A. Johnson\*  
Sherlia D. Lewis\*  
Kaylee R. Murphy\*  
Thomas Austin St. Clair  
Rubi Celia Vasquez Martinez

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Gianna L. Asomani-Graham  
Cedrick L. Hawkins  
Kayle Marie Sutton

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT**

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Olivia Biddle  
Samuel K. Doku  
Tyriek J. Knowles  
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## COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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Deborah O. Odewusi

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Aniyah D. Morrison-Stone  
Steven Morton  
Natalie N. Myrie  
Makayla Marie Nagel  
Godwin C. Obodozie

Fatia A. Olagunju  
Oluwadolapo Olomo  
Michael O. Onwukwe  
Cameron Marcqelle Proctor  
Alaeyah Nicole Ransmeier\*  
Ta'Nasia V. Richardson\*  
Nasser I. Ross  
Aba F. Sakyi  
Erica Ann Tibbs  
Darius B. Walker  
Daija S. Washington\*  
Rashina Erica Watson  
Roge'la S. Williams  
India M. Young  
Bethany R. Young

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Raven J. Berry  
David Tavon Brockenberry  
Savannah K. Green  
Faith M. Jackson  
Shayla G. Johnson  
Christian Marie Jade Kabia  
Shaniya L. McBride  
LaTaya A. Riddick  
Darranicka Monique Veney

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Awa Ballo  
Cedris S. Foster  
Angel Gross  
Jordyn A. Harrell  
Haniya Lakiria Harris  
Jessenia E. Iglesias  
DaQuan Isaiah McClenton  
Rodah Jemutai Ngorem  
Chinelo P. Obeleagu  
Chisom Divine Okongwu  
Erin Renee Pearson  
Sydney Simone Smith  
Alexis T. Thomas

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

Zionna Grace Parks

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PSYCHOLOGY**

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Nichola S. Bailey  
Demi T. Bland  
Ma'Chelle Davis  
Jeron E. Dory  
Zsakia B. Ford  
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## COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

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Chanel Ileilani Hamilton  
Talia M. Hammond  
Deja D. Johnson  
Jinasha N. Johnson  
Shawna Janay Lance  
Kayla Michelle Mann  
Iman Kimm Massey  
Damon Marcel Murphy  
Tatiana Samba Nshi  
Ekombong Otu  
Samson Oluwatobi Oyelaja  
Moises M. Severino  
Gabrielle T. Smith  
Shelomi A. Smith  
Ashley Torshie Squire  
Lexia Tierre Tabron\*

Joshua Emanuel Thurston  
Mariela Natalie Trejo  
Kaiya L. Vickers  
Hermela A. Wasihun  
Britney Alesha Wilson

### **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SOCIOLOGY**

Jaden C. Lee

### **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SOCIOLOGY**

Regan A. Amos  
Raevon N. Baker  
Brionne Elise Grigsby Fuqua  
N'Deayah Ahkiri Hamlin  
Kayla Elizabeth Johnson\*  
Treasure M. Johnson

Janiece Jones  
Jay Aasad Jordan  
Imani D. Lemon\*  
Julian Randolph Mitchell  
Asia Toni Porter  
Christina L. Roy  
Tabitha Marie Sanchez  
Jamya Shorts  
Rudolph M. Stewart IV  
Nyah M. Turner

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

Aliyah Hopper\*  
McKinley Ann Sauls

# THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

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## 2022 COMMISSIONED OFFICER

**2nd Lieutenant Whitney M. Salsedosanchez**  
B.S. – Communications  
Chemical Corps, U.S. Army Active Duty

\*Denotes Summer 2024 Completion

## 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.

# ACADEMIC COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS

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## 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.

# UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND

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# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY OFFICIALS

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Dr. William B. Lewis

## UNIVERSITY GRAND MARSHAL

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Dr. Jared Moffett	Dr. Sharon Wilks
Dr. Cordelia Obizoba	

## UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL ANNOUNCERS

Dr. Kimetta Hairston

Dr. Latifa Zoulagh



## UNIVERSITY HISTORY



Bowie State University is an outgrowth of a school opened in Baltimore by an organization dedicated to offering educational opportunities that the state failed to provide for its Black citizens. From those humble beginnings, Bowie State has become a comprehensive university with more than 6,200 diverse students, offering 29 undergraduate majors and 36 master's, doctoral, and advanced certification programs in a broad range of disciplines. Bowie State University continues to build on its legacy of providing access to 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 criticized 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 No. 1, on Jan. 9, 1865, in the African Baptist Church in Crane's Building on the corner of Calvert and Saratoga streets. The school offered courses in the elements of education. Courses to train teachers were added in 1866.

The facility was woefully inadequate. In 1867, with the aid of the Freedmen's Bureau, the Quakers of England and others, the Baltimore Association purchased and renovated the Old Friends Meeting House at the corner of Saratoga and Courtland streets to house the Baltimore Normal School for Colored Teachers.

### MOVE TO BOWIE

After repeated petitions from the Baltimore Normal School trustees, the state legislature authorized the Board of Education to assume control of the school in 1908 and redesignated it as State Normal School No. 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 dates 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.

# BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

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## UNIVERSITY HISTORY

### **TRANSITION TO A STATE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE**

The Maryland State Legislature authorized the school 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 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 a \$27 million award, distributed over 11 years, 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 6,300 students through a rigorous curriculum and supportive resources that help them discover their strengths as they compete in a changing world. The university has made great strides on the path to becoming one of the nation's best comprehensive universities, with expanding academic initiatives and new modern facilities that provide opportunities for innovative teaching, learning and research.

### KEY HONORS

- *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges 2025 ranks Bowie State at No. 11 among the nation's top HBCUs, solidifying it as a top 10 public HBCU.
- 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.
- *U.S. News & World Report* recognizes Bowie State University's graduate programs in education, nursing, computer science and public administration in its 2024 Best Graduate Schools ranking.

### FIRST-CLASS TEACHING & RESEARCH

- Natural science students who choose a research track can work with faculty mentors to make breakthroughs in health and medicine.
- The College of Education has partnered with local school districts to launch an initiative that prepares more students to become certified educators.
- The Bowie Business Innovation Center, a partnership with the city of Bowie, is Maryland's only business incubator 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 in 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 has the distinction of being 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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