



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

BRAVEBOY CLIMATE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

DATE & TIME

November 20, 2025

10:00 AM - 3:15 PM

LOCATION

Bowie State University
Student Center
14000 Jericho Park Rd.,
Bowie, MD 20715



Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive



Samuel B. Moki, Ph.D. | Director



PRINCE GEORGE'S
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Registration and Continental Breakfast - **9:30a.m. - 10a.m.**

10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

The Honorable Serena C. McIlwain, Maryland Secretary of the Environment

Best Practices from the Front Lines (<i>Fireside Chat</i>)	Bowie Theater	11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
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Ava Richardson, *Director of Sustainability, City of Baltimore*

Gabriela Rivera, *Events and Partnership Director, Defensores de la Cuenca*

BREAKOUT SESSION 1C | **Climate Change and Human Health:** Pathways for addressing public health, wellbeing, and cumulative impacts (*Fireside Chat*)
Wiseman Room B | 12:30 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

Extreme weather events such as heat, drought, storms and flooding create conditions that exacerbate respiratory and cardiac conditions like asthma and heart disease. Individuals residing in underinvested and overburdened communities are the most likely to face such health conditions, and to bear the brunt of extreme weather conditions. This interactive discussion will feature experts from national and local organizations that provide research, tools and support to mitigate the health impacts of climate change.

Moderator:
Jacob Riley, *Chief Epidemiologist, Prince George’s County Health Department*

Speakers:
Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, *Executive Director, Children’s Environmental Health Network*

Kim Rush Lynch, *Program Manager, Soil Conservation District, Bloomin’ PGC*

Aaron White, *Assistant Fire Chief, Prince George’s County Fire & EMS Department*

COFFEE AND NETWORKING BREAK | **1:20 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.** | Wiseman Room A & B

BREAKOUT SESSION 2A | **Unlocking Economic Opportunity:** Growing the Climate Workforce of the Future (*Panel Presentation*) | Bowie Theater | 1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Despite it being an urgent crisis, climate change also provides opportunities to grow the local economy through the creation of new green jobs. Learn from workforce advocates and practitioners who prepare, train and help place Prince Georgians into green jobs. From education and job readiness, to training and apprenticeship programs, to placement services and job support, speakers will cover the full range of the workforce lifecycle.

Moderator:
Jeffrey Swilley, *Interim CEO, Employ Prince George’s*

Speakers:
Donald Belle, *Science Curriculum Leader, Prince George’s County Public Schools*

John Deadwyler, *Director, Sustainable Energy and Workforce Program, Prince George’s Community College*

The Honorable Krystal Oriadha, *Council Member, District 7*

David Pala, *Communications Director, IBEW Local 26*

BREAKOUT SESSION 2B | **Resilience Hub Programming Jam** (*Workshop*)
Wiseman Room A | 1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In this workshop, County officials and community members are invited to come together to envision what climate resilience programming could look like for users of the future Hyattsville Branch Library Resilience Hub. Participants will work together in small groups, each with different themes, to develop a community engagement or education activity to help residents better access the resources they need to withstand the climate crisis.

Facilitators:
Kelsey Brooks, *University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center*

Leo Pierce, *University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center*

BREAKOUT SESSION 2C | **Tools for Changing the Game:** Green and Renewable Energy Solutions (*Fireside Chat*) | Wiseman Room B | 1:40 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

In this fireside chat, practitioners from the State and County and non-profits will share their experiences facilitating renewable energy adoptions at County facilities and among private residents and businesses in Prince George’s County. Learn about incentives and tools available to a variety of stakeholders, despite the Federal retrenchment from renewable energy.

Moderator:
Pamela Boozer-Strother, *Board of Education, Prince George’s County Public Schools*

Speakers:
Eric Coffman, *Director of Energy Programs, Maryland Energy Administration*

Ernest Jolly, *Deputy Director, Prince George’s County Office of Central Services*

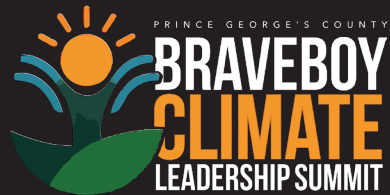
Dan Limbago, *Senior Vice President, Market Development and Deployment, Groundswell*

GROUP ACTIVITY: From Planning to Action | **2:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.** | Wiseman Room B

Facilitated by University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

CLOSING REMARKS | **3:10 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.** | Wiseman Room B

Derrick Coley, *Deputy Director, Prince George’s County Department of the Environment*



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Pat Lawson Muse
Emcee

Pat Lawson Muse is an Emmy award-winning former news anchor with NBC4-TV in Washington, DC where she spent nearly 41 years before retiring in March of 2023.

Muse joined NBC4 in 1982 as an anchor and reporter. That year, Pat and Barbara Harrison became the first female television news anchor team in the country on News4 at Noon. Muse later anchored weekend editions of News4 at 6pm and 11pm and News4 at 4pm. For years she hosted NBC4's

community affairs programs including News4 Your Sunday, Reporter's Notebook and Viewpoint. For more than three decades she was the face and heart of NBC4's "Food 4 Families" campaign which has fed tens of thousands of families at Thanksgiving.

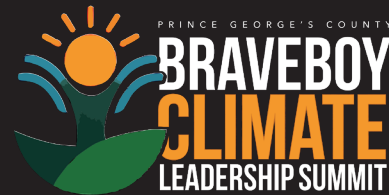
Muse's Emmy awards include the prestigious Board of Governors Award by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter. She's received multiple Emmys for news anchoring and multiple Emmy nominations for news reporting. In November of 2023, Muse received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from the Washington Association of Black Journalists.

Muse has been honored by the U.S. House of Representatives as Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin's 'Hero of the Week' for her outstanding career in local television news and community service. She was also presented citations by Maryland Gov. Wes Moore, the Maryland State Senate, the Maryland House of Delegates and the Prince George's County State's Attorney.

Her work has been recognized by the American Association of University Women, the National Association of Black Journalists, the International TV and Film Festival of New York, the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. DC Chapter, and the Minority Business & Professionals Network.

Muse's broadcast journalism career began in 1977 in Washington, DC radio, including WTOP-AM, WHUR-FM, WOL-AM, National Public Radio, and the former Mutual Black Network. Her television news career began in 1980 at WBAL-TV in Baltimore.

Muse is a magna cum laude graduate of Howard University where she earned a degree in broadcast management and radio production. She's a native of Las Vegas, Nevada and lives in Prince George's County with her husband, Maryland State Senator C. Anthony Muse.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



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, bringing more than 30 years of diverse higher education leadership experience to the position. As president, she is committed to ensuring that every student at Bowie State University develops an entrepreneurial mindset to achieve success in the rapidly changing workplace and communities. Dr. Breaux initiated a university-wide focus to infuse entrepreneurship education across the disciplines which led to the opening of an Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community in fall 2021. She

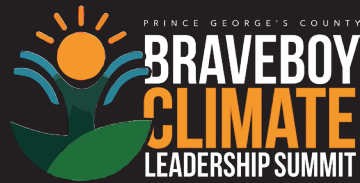
is dedicated to building on the legacy and rich history of Maryland's oldest historically Black university with a strategic focus on ensuring the long-term viability of the institution.



The Honorable Aisha N. Braveboy
Prince George's County Executive

Aisha N. Braveboy was elected County Executive of Prince George's County on June 3, 2025, during a special election and was sworn in as County Executive on June 19, 2025, after serving six years as Prince George's County State's Attorney. Remaining true to our commitment of service, In her last two days as State's Attorney, Ms. Braveboy remained focused on delivering justice for the people of Prince George's County. She was engaged in a two-week jury trial that resulted in a first-degree murder conviction. She also took immediate action on two of her key priorities as County Executive:

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and public safety. Anticipating the removal of the PGCPS Superintendent, she acted quickly to unite stakeholders behind her choice of an Interim Superintendent. She also identified and rallied support for a new Police Chief, an internal candidate from the Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD) who is community-focused and deeply familiar with the County. County Executive Braveboy is a lifelong public servant, uniquely distinguished in County history for having served in all three branches of government: Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. She was twice elected State's Attorney for Prince George's County, first in 2018 and again in 2022, representing over one million residents. In that role, she managed a \$24 million budget and a staff of over 200. As the County's top law enforcement officer, she secured over a 90% conviction rate in homicide cases and implemented programs to reduce recidivism, support survivors of domestic violence, address hate crimes, and combat gun violence. As County Executive, she will continue to advance a comprehensive public safety strategy to build stronger, safer communities.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



The Honorable Edward P. Burroughs III
Council Chair, District 8

Edward Burroughs (D) - District 8 was sworn into office on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, following a Special Election to fill the District 8 Council seat left vacant in November 2021. District 8 constituent areas include Andrews Air Force Base, Camp Springs, Forest Heights, Fort Washington, Oxon Hill, and Temple Hills. A lifelong resident of Prince George's County, Burroughs is a graduate of Crossland High School. In 2008, he was elected by his peers to serve as the student member on the Board of Education, representing the interests of over 130,000 Prince George's County Public School students.

Following two one-year terms as a student member, Burroughs became the youngest elected official in Maryland when he was elected to represent District 8 on the Board of Education. He held the position until his resignation in 2021.



The Honorable Ingrid S. Watson
Council Member, District 4

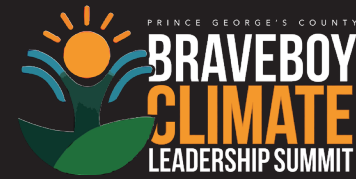
Ingrid Scott Watson (formerly Harrison) was elected in the November 2022 General Election to her first term on the Prince George's County Council and represents Councilmanic District 4. Council Member Watson's longstanding history of community service in the county spans 27 years. In November 2018, she was elected to the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee, Legislative District 23B. In November 2019, she was elected to an At-Large seat on the Bowie City Council. In this capacity, she served as Council Liaison to the Public Safety and Diversity committees; the Bowie Racetrack Executive Board; and spearheaded development of the Youth Advisory Committee.



The Honorable Wala Blegay
Council Member, District 6

Wala Blegay was elected to serve her first four-year term on the Prince George's County Council in the November 2022 General Election and represents Councilmanic District 6. She was elected as Vice Chair by her peers during her first term on the Council. During her first term, she spearheaded an aggressive people-driven agenda authoring legislation to encourage quality development in the county, limiting tobacco stores and marijuana shops in residential communities, incentivizing healthy restaurants, providing tax credits for public safety employees, creating a task force to

address emergency room wait times, requiring security cameras in high-capacity apartment buildings, rent stabilization and more.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Dr. Falecia D. Williams
President, Prince George's Community College

Dr. Falecia D. Williams is the ninth president of Prince George's Community College. A proven transformational servant leader, she values learning as much as leading and understands the power of inspiring others to invest in their own positive outcomes. Dr. Williams served for nearly 22 years at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, holding a series of progressively responsible positions, including president of the Downtown and West campuses. In this role, she was responsible for providing academic, administrative, and fiscal leadership to support the vision, mission, and values

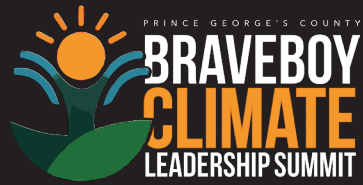
of Valencia College, and her data-driven results demonstrate her ability to achieve lasting, remarkable outcomes through effective leadership and partnership building.



James Dubon Garcia
10th grader at Parkdale High School

James Dubon Garcia is a passionate, bilingual sophomore participating in the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Parkdale High School. James has engaged in student leadership ever since he was in elementary school believing that if we can empower students to take action, we can help solve any issue. He has exemplified this message by being a student member of the PGCPSC Climate Change Action Plan Ad-Hoc Committee on the Board of Education, participating on the Executive Board of the Prince George's

Regional Association of Student Governments (PGRASG) as an elected secretary, and being a part of the Maryland Association of Student Council's Environmental Affairs Committee. In the future, James plans to continue in student advocacy by advocating for his own school community, working with the PGCPSC Department of Food and Nutrition Services to improve school lunch to reduce food waste, and encourage school composting in Prince George's County Public Schools. But beyond school, James has taken interest in the performing arts and computer science having been lead actor in two Parkdale performances and participating in the National Student Leadership Conference Artificial Intelligence Program at Duke University. He also plans to work to support impoverished communities and children living in his home country, Honduras. Overall, James is an activist for the environment and student leader dedicated to bettering his community and people.



SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)



Maya Gudderra
10th grader at Oxon Hill High School

Maya Gudderra is a sophomore in the Science and Technology Program at Oxon Hill High School in Prince George's County, Maryland, with a strong interest in Sustainable Agriculture, AgBusiness, and Environmental Economics. She currently serves as the Region 1 Junior MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences) Ambassador, a Maryland State 4-H Council Representative, and a student member of the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Climate Change Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Education. Maya is one of four

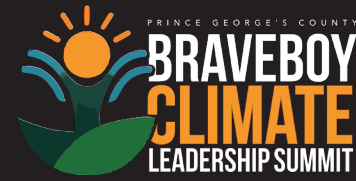
youth leaders heading the PGCPS Student Environmental Coalition, which works to elevate student voices and promote collaboration between schools and environmental organizations. She is also a second-year participant in the Burroughs District 8 Student Leadership Academy, an SGA class alternate, and an active member of both the Envirothon and GLOBE Club, where she helps maintain her school's environmentally conscious practices through waste reduction and recycling initiatives. Beyond school, Maya has been deeply engaged in agricultural education and community service for over a decade. She has assisted annually with the Gwynn Park Greenhouse planting, county-wide clean-up events, and local FFA/MANRRS chapter activities. Her journey with MANRRS began in 2015 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Youth Leadership Institute, and she has since continued to grow her leadership and advocacy within the organization. Maya is the recipient of the MANRRS American Farmland Trust Travel Scholarship, which supported her participation in the National MANRRS Conference in Florida. She earned first place in the 2023 National Junior MANRRS Essay Contest for her piece on crop diversity as a grand challenge in agriculture and second place in the 2025 National Junior MANRRS Public Speaking Contest with her speech "I Am Because You Are." Rooted in her heritage as a descendant of generational farmers from both the United States and India, Maya is passionate about sustainability, agricultural innovation, and youth empowerment in environmental advocacy.



Olivia Thomas
9th grader at Charles Herbert Flowers High

Olivia Thomas is a determined freshman at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in the class of 2029. She is an extremely passionate worker who puts her all into everything she does, from school to her personal interests. Olivia currently serves as a member of the Environmental Outreach Team of the Prince George's County Regional Association of Student Governments (PGRASG). She is also a student member of the PGCPS Climate Change Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee. Through her work with the PGCPS CCAP Ad Hoc Committee, Olivia and her classmate Noah Agbede were instrumental

in getting plastic bags banned from the Kenmoor Middle School breakfast program. This was recognized as progress toward meeting the Climate Change Action Plan Recommendation Number Six (Commit to Sustainable Materials Management and Procurement) and Number Eight (Lead by Example to Support Transformational Change). Olivia was a leader in Kenmoor Middle School's Environmental Topics Club.



SPEAKERS (in order of appearance)

While in this club, Olivia and her team created an interactive presentation to encourage young people and adults throughout Maryland to become People Against Litter (PAL). The Kenmoor students presented at two major 2025 events: the Student Environmental Alliance Summit at Bowie State University and the annual Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit at Sandy Point State Park. At their encouragement, over 1,000 people signed a pledge to become People Against Litter. Other interests Olivia has include playing in her school's orchestra, drawing, and traveling. Some of her favorite recent travel destinations are the United Kingdom, Japan, and Panama.



Mikal Witherspoon
12th Grader at Academy of Health and Sciences

Mikal Witherspoon is a driven senior at the Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College, where he is earning an associate degree in Health Sciences. Passionate about environmental sustainability and community impact, he has been involved in the AHS Green Club and the countywide Envirothon competition since ninth grade. He currently serves as President of the Prince George's County Student Environmental Coalition (PGSEC), leading student efforts to plan and organize the annual Student

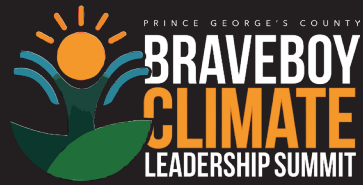
Environmental Alliance Summit—a two-day event that engages students in hands-on environmental issues and career exploration. In this role, he has strengthened PGSEC by introducing leadership positions, a constitution, and an organizational structure that encourages greater student participation. Beyond PGSEC, he serves as a student member on the Prince George's County Ad Hoc Committee for the Implementation of the Climate Action Plan, helping to bridge youth perspectives with the plan's eight priority recommendations. As Chief of Staff for the Prince George's Community College Student Governance Association, he is leading a campus-wide Recycling Audit to evaluate and improve sustainability practices. He plans to major in Plant Science as an undergraduate and pursue a career in medicine, combining his interests in health sciences and the environment to promote holistic approaches to care.



Valencia McClure
Senior Vice President, Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs at Exelon

Valencia McClure is the senior vice president of Governmental, Regulatory and External Affairs (GREA) for Maryland and D.C. In this role, she leads strategic engagement with government officials, regulatory bodies, and community stakeholders to advance the company's mission and strengthen its presence across both states. Valencia has 15 years of experience with the company and was most recently vice president of Governmental and External Affairs and Pepco region president at Pepco Holdings. Prior to that, she had

a 13-year tenure with Exelon, holding roles in Communications and Governmental and External Affairs at Exelon Generation and BGE.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Kishia L. Powell
General Manager/CEO, WSSC Water

Kishia L. Powell is a dynamic force in the global water sector with 25 years of experience in both the public and private sectors across the U.S. and London, England. She leads a team of 1,680 strong and manages the day-to-day operations of the largest water utility in Maryland – the 8th largest in the country – and ensures water and water resource recovery services are safely provided to 1.9 million customers throughout a 1,000-square-mile service area. Kishia serves on the board of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, (formerly as President), representing over 400 clean

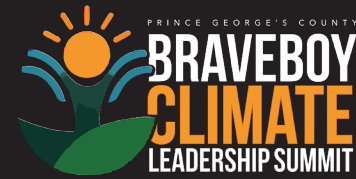
water agencies across the country. Mayor Brandon Scott appointed her to serve on the Baltimore Water Governance Task Force. She also serves on the Morgan State University School of Engineering Executive Council and the Montgomery County Chamber Board and was appointed to serve on the GSA Green Building Advisory Council. In May 2023, the Maryland Society of Professional Engineers honored her with the Industry Icon Award.



Dr. Samuel B. Moki
Director, Prince George's County Department of the Environment School

Dr. Samuel Belsham Moki was confirmed by a super majority as Director of the Department of the Environment on October 21, 2025. He holds a law degree, two master's degrees in criminal justice and environmental management, and a Ph.D. in political science with a minor in public administration from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He has taught and continues to teach as an adjunct at several universities in the Washington, D.C. area at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for over 22 years. He is passionate about the environment and eager to find

opportunities to promote environmental preservation and improvement in Prince George's County. Through environmental stewardship, advocacy, projects, initiatives, and excellent customer service, he is prepared to lead the Department of the Environment to "ELEVATE" Prince George's County.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



The Honorable Serena C. Mcllwain
Maryland Secretary of the Environment

Serena Mcllwain was confirmed as the Maryland Department of the Environment's 11th Secretary on March 2, 2023. Prior to that, Secretary Mcllwain was the Under Secretary at the California Environmental Protection Agency. A native of the Washington Metro area, Secretary Mcllwain also worked for the federal government as a Senior Executive for numerous Executive Branch agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as Assistant Regional Administrator for Region 9 in San Francisco,

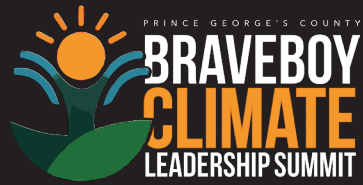
California, Performance Improvement Officer, and Director of Continuous Improvement at U.S. EPA Headquarters, and Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Energy. Secretary Mcllwain received a Master of Public Administration from George Mason University and a Master's degree in Administration and International Studies from Central Michigan University.



Danielle Miller Wagner
Resilience Officer, Prince George's County Department of the Environment

As Climate Resilience Officer at Prince George's County Department of the Environment, Danielle Miller Wagner is responsible for deploying the Department's climate implementation strategies. In this role she manages the climate resilience hub initiatives, engages the Climate Resident Advisory group, among other responsibilities. Prior to joining Prince George's County, in October 2024, Ms. Miller Wagner served as Program Director for American University's Center for Environmental Policy where she led equity-focused

initiatives focused on clean air and air quality monitoring, the Clean Water Act and technology deployment for environmental protection. As a consultant, Ms. Miller Wagner provided policy, grant writing and sustainability support to local and regional government agencies, associations, non-profits and foundations. Danielle also spent several years leading brownfields initiatives at ICMA. She holds a BS from the University of Michigan and a MS from Johns Hopkins University.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Katie Dickinson
*Climate Action Officer, Prince George's County
Department of the Environment*

Katie Dickinson is the Climate Action Officer within the Prince George's County Department of the Environment, where she drives the implementation of the County Climate Action Plan (CAP) and guides the execution of climate-related strategies and initiatives. Before beginning this role in March 2025, Katie worked at the U.S. Department of the Treasury where she served as the Climate Change and Sustainability Specialist in charge of spearheading the Department's first Sustainability Office. Prior to Treasury, Katie worked on green workforce development and climate action

implementation for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District in the San Francisco Bay Area. Katie holds a Master of Science in Climate Science and Solutions from Northern Arizona University.



Cynthia Miller
Mayor, City of District Heights

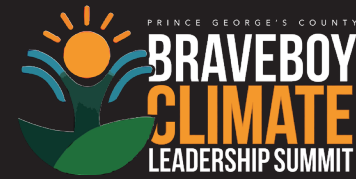
Mayor Cynthia Miller has served as Mayor of District Heights since July 2022, following years of leadership as Ward 1 Commissioner and Vice Mayor, and brings more than three decades of professional experience across federal, nonprofit, private, and public sectors. A proud resident for over 24 years, she has strengthened partnerships, expanded senior services, and advanced revitalization of the Marlboro Pike corridor while championing sustainable growth, inclusive opportunity, and quality of life for residents. Her record includes chairing city committees, serving in leadership roles with the

Prince George's County Municipal Association, Maryland Municipal League, and Maryland Black Mayors Association, and representing District Heights on regional redevelopment and hunger-relief initiatives.



Shannon Moore
*Director, Division of Energy and Environment,
Frederick County, Maryland*

Shannon Moore built the Division of Energy and Environment for Frederick County Government and serves as its Director. She manages the county's energy portfolio, clean energy program, alternative fuel vehicles program, climate and energy action plans, sustainability and equity program, stormwater permit compliance and resilience, and building energy performance. She is a strong proponent of Environmental Justice and believes that sustainability is for everyone.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Ava Richardson
Director of Sustainability, City of Baltimore

In her role as the Sustainability Director for Baltimore City, Ava Richardson oversees climate mitigation, adaptation and strategic planning aimed to make Baltimore City more sustainable, equitable and resilient. Ava works with the Sustainability team, city agency staff and many partners across the city to advance the implementation of citywide plans including Baltimore's 2019 Sustainability Plan, 2023 Disaster Preparedness Plan and 2024 Climate Action Plan. She is a versatile public health professional, climate leader and

senior leader, working diligently to advance environmental sustainability through well-designed, evidence-based policies, systems and programs that address environmental, health, social and economic inequities.



Michael Pistininzi
*Urban Forestry & Street Scape Project Manager,
Prince George's County Department of Public Works
& Transportation*

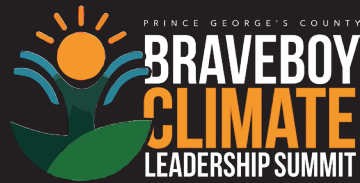
Michael Pistininzi is an Urban Forestry Project Manager for Prince George's County. Coming from a horticulture background in Boston, Michael's past work focused on native plant designs and pollinator habitat in dense urban systems. He served 3 years with the United States Peace Corps, teaching 10th-grade biology and math in Liberia. After his service, he pursued graduate studies in California, concentrating on Urban Sustainability and

analyzing the intersection of environmental, social, and economic challenges as they relate to urban green space and urban tree canopy. Michael soon became a Certified Arborist and dedicated more time to urban forestry and tree-planting initiatives. A native of Carroll County, MD, Michael is excited to bring his skills and experience back to his home state. In his current role, Michael facilitates the Right Tree, Right Place program in Prince George's County, which plants thousands of trees annually.



Mary Abe
*Deputy Associate Director, Sustainability
Division, Prince George's County Department of
the Environment*

Mary Abe is the Deputy Associate Director within the Sustainability Division of the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. As a registered Landscape Architect with over 35 years of experience, she has been a business owner, non-profit leader, and now as a public servant within her own local government, Prince George's County. From September 2020



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)

through January 2022, Mary's efforts directly supported the Chair of the Prince George's County Climate Action Commission, DoE's Associate Director, Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, bringing together the ideas of a diverse group of Commissioners, consultants, colleagues, and county residents to develop and draft the Prince George's Climate Action Plan(CAP) to County Council which County Council ultimately adopted in July of 2022. Beyond her climate action work, her expertise encompasses environmental and sustainable site design, piloting innovative green infrastructure stormwater management solutions, and ecosystem restoration projects, including the County's first channel restoration project (Calverton Channel) and the first RSC (William Wirt Regenerative Stormwater Conveyance). Within DoE's Sustainability Division, Mary's team manages the Prince George's County Urban Tree Program, now annually on track to plant thousands of street trees within the public spaces of our municipalities, HOAs, and churches; climate-resilient stormwater management modeling projects, the Prince George's County Master Gardener Program; and the USDA Advancing Markets for Producer Grant for County farmers. She is a tireless advocate for the natural world, focusing her efforts on developing financial and behavioral initiatives for the public and private implementation of sustainable practices and natural resource protection.



Debra Collier (Not Pictured)
Epidemiologist, Prince George's County Health Department

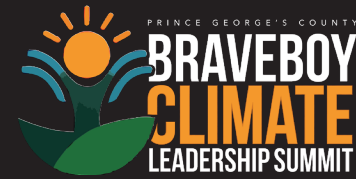
Debra Collier is a Senior Epidemiologist with the Prince George's County Health Department, where she leads analytical efforts across multiple public health programs and divisions. Debra leads and collaborates on analyses for population health reports, grant narratives, community health needs assessments, community health improvement plans, strategic planning initiatives, and a wide range of ad hoc projects critical to countywide public health strategy.



Stephanie Schollaert Uz
Adjunct Scientist, UMD Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center

Stephanie Schollaert Uz, Adjunct Scientist, UMD Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, leads activities to advance science and applications using Earth observing satellite data. Dr. Schollaert Uz leads projects that help federal, state, and local partners apply NASA environmental data to their decisions, building resilience with practitioners across Maryland. She also applies her expertise to water quality challenges, working to develop new satellite data products through collaboration with resource managers

around the Chesapeake Bay. She previously served as a meteorology and oceanography officer in the U.S. Navy. She has a Ph.D. in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences from the University of Maryland, an M.S. in Physical Oceanography from the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island and B.S. in Oceanography from the U.S. Naval Academy.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Joanna Smith
Associate Director, Office of Storm Drain Maintenance, Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation

Joanna M. Smith is a transformative leader in public works, stormwater infrastructure, and fleet operations. She is the Associate Director of the Office of Storm Drain Maintenance (OSDM) within the Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T). With nearly 20 years of experience in environmental engineering, infrastructure management, and operational strategy, she has been at the forefront of

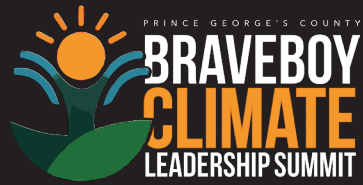
modernizing public-sector fleet and stormwater systems to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and climate resilience.



Vernice Miller-Travis
Founder of WE-ACT for Environmental Justice and Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Group

Vernice Miller-Travis is a pioneering national expert and respected thought leader on environmental justice, with more than three decades of experience integrating environmental and public health considerations into urban and land use planning. She co-authored the landmark 1987 report Toxic Waste and Race in the United States, co-founded WeACT for Environmental Justice, and has led initiatives at NRDC and the Ford

Foundation. A skilled practitioner in cross-cultural engagement, conflict mediation, and sustainable redevelopment, she has consulted widely for government agencies, foundations, and nonprofits, bringing diverse stakeholders together to address racial, cultural, and economic conflicts. Vernice serves on numerous boards and advisory councils—including Clean Water Action, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and Harvard Law School's Energy and Environmental Law Program—and in 2024 was honored with the William K. Riley Lifetime Achievement Award by American University's School of Public Policy.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Aneca Atkinson
*Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice,
Maryland Department of the Environment*

Aneca Atkinson is the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice at the Maryland Department of the Environment. Atkinson joined the team from the National Audubon Society Mid-Atlantic, where she served as director of the organization's Delaware River Watershed Program. Atkinson has worked in state government for over 15 years. Midway through her career, she transitioned to managing policy and operational needs. She served in several senior-level roles with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, including Deputy Secretary for the Office of Water Programs and Director of Program Integration. Aneca has a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science from Smith College and a Master of Science in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering from Villanova University. Aneca uses her experience to operationalize Secretary McIlwain's priority to strengthen environmental protection by ending systemic environmental injustices.



The Honorable Wanika B. Fisher
Council Member, District 2

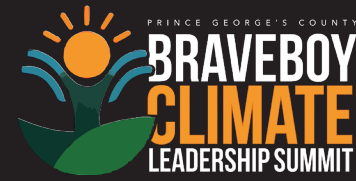
The Honorable Wanika B. Fisher, Esq. was elected to her first term on the Prince George's County Council in the November 2022 General Election and represents Councilmanic District 2. She is the proud daughter of immigrant parents of Nigerian and South Asian descent and broke barriers as the first daughter of African immigrants to be elected from Prince George's County in 2018. Wanika is also the first Asian American to ever serve on the Prince George's County Council. She currently serves as the Prince George's County Council Member of District 2.



Nicole Jackson
*Climate Action Team Lead, Prince George's
County Sierra Club*

Nicole Jackson is an environmental justice leader who leverages a unique blend of project management, policy expertise, and storytelling to advance equitable solutions. A U.S. Army Reserve veteran and certified Racial Justice Facilitator, she is dedicated to empowering frontline communities. Professionally, she serves as the Director of Education at CEEJH INC, where she develops educational programs and tools, and as a Principal Advisor at Monarch PSG. Her community leadership is extensive, including roles as

Chair of the City of District Heights Sustainability Committee and the Climate Action Team for the Prince George's Sierra Club. She also chairs the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee for the AME 2nd District Women's Missionary Society, guiding community-driven initiatives and a global storytelling project.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



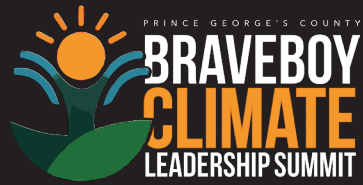
Gabriela Rivera
*Events and Partnership Director, Defensores de
la Cuenca*

Gabriela Rivera is a seasoned political strategist and advocate with extensive experience leading initiatives at the local, state, and national levels. Currently, she serves as the Events and Partnerships Director, at Defensores de la Cuenca where she leads the development and execution of strategic partnerships and signature events that advance the organization's mission and expand its reach. She cultivates meaningful collaborations with community partners, sponsors, and stakeholders, ensuring that each initiative fosters engagement, visibility, and lasting impact. Gabriela previously served as Partnerships Director at Public Wise, where she led national partnership initiatives focused on protecting voting rights and promoting equitable access to democratic participation. As Field Director for the Paid Leave for All campaign, she helped develop and implement a national strategy to build awareness and advance support for paid family and medical leave. She also brings a deep commitment to environmental advocacy—during her tenure at Moms Clean Air Force, she created and launched the Ecomadres Program, designed to engage and empower Latinx mothers on key environmental issues such as climate change, air quality, and toxic exposure. Earlier in her career, Gabriela worked on several political campaigns, including serving on Hillary for America's presidential campaign.



Jacob Riley
*Chief Epidemiologist, Prince George's County
Health Department*

Aneca Atkinson is the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice at Jake Riley graduated from the University of Iowa College of Public Health with an MS in Epidemiology in 2014. Following graduation Jake worked as a Disease Prevention Specialist at Johnson County Public Health where he focused on communicable disease investigations, quality improvement, and public health accreditation. Jake played a large part in the agency's response to COVID-19, and was able to lead a team in publishing a paper on mask effectiveness in the journal of Emerging Infectious Diseases. In addition to his role at JCPH, Jake was a board member for the Iowa Public Health Association from 2019 to 2022, which helped him expand his skills in strategic planning and public health advocacy. Jake's partner, Danielle, completed her Ph.D. in epidemiology in 2022. At this point they (and their two dogs) relocated to the DMV area where Jake obtained a position as Senior Epidemiologist at Prince George's County Health Department. Currently Jake manages the Office of Assessment and Planning at the Health Department, working with his team to support the data and planning needs of the agency, including; program evaluation, special reports, quality improvement, strategic planning, and the Community Health Assessment. The team also supports the Prince George's Health Action Coalition, which develops and implements the County's Community Health Improvement Plan. Jake is passionate about using data to inform and improve public health systems and increasing engagement with community partners to better deliver on the Health Department's vision that "All Prince Georgians are their healthiest at every age and every stage."



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Nsedu Obot Witherspoon
Executive Director, Children's Environmental Health Network

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, serves as the Executive Director for the Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN), extending partnerships, organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. For the past 23 years, she has served as a key spokesperson for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country.



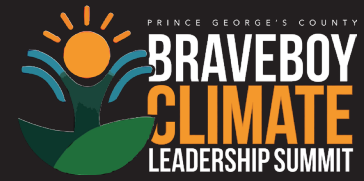
Kim Rush Lynch
Program Manager, Soil Conservation District, Bloomin' PGC

Kim Rush Lynch serves as the Program Manager for the Prince George's Soil Conservation District's Urban Agricultural Conservation program, where she leads efforts to support urban farmers in implementing soil and water conservation practices. In this role, Kim connects growers with technical and financial resources to adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) and helps them navigate complex local and state regulatory landscapes.

With a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and food equity,

Kim collaborates with a wide range of partners to advance conservation and urban agriculture. She is an active member of several key initiatives, including the Prince George's County Envirothon Program, the Prince George's County Public Schools Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Advisory Committee, the Prince George's County Food Equity Council, the Steering Committee for The Urban Farm Incubator at Watkins Regional Park, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Regional Agriculture Workgroup.

In recognition of her leadership and dedication to equity in urban agricultural conservation, Kim was honored with the 2024 Maryland Civil Rights Award by the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Maryland Civil Rights Advisory Committee. When she's not thinking about food (which is rare), you can find Kim in her garden, at her local farmers market, roller skating, or cheering on her favorite swimmer - her daughter, McKenna.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Aaron White
Assistant Fire Chief, Prince George's County Fire & EMS Department

Assistant Fire Chief Aaron White has been with the Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department since 2006 and has served in several leadership roles throughout his tenure. AFC White currently serves as the commander for the Office of the Fire Marshal which includes the Fire Prevention & Life Safety Division, Fire Investigations Division & Bomb Squad.



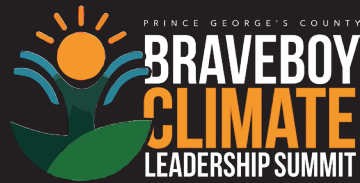
Jeffrey Swilley
Interim CEO, Employ Prince George's

Jeffrey Swilley is the Interim Chief Executive Officer of Employ Prince George's, Inc. (EPG), where he leads the organization's workforce development strategy, operations, and partnerships across Prince George's County. With over 30 years of experience in workforce development, Mr. Swilley has held key leadership roles at EPG, including Chief of Staff, Chief Program Officer, and Director of Business Services. He is a longtime member of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals and holds certifications as a Global Career Development Facilitator, Workforce Development Professional, and Certified Business Services Consultant. His work has been recognized with multiple awards, including the NACo Achievement Award and the Maryland Workforce Development Association's "Above the Bar" Award.



Donald Belle
Science Curriculum Leader, Prince George's County Public Schools

Donald Belle is a seasoned educator with over 20 years of experience in the Prince George's County Public School (PGCPS) system and currently serves as the PreK-12 Science Supervisor. Before taking on this role, he served as an Environmental Outreach Educator at the William Schmidt Outdoor and Environmental Education Center. His dedication to education and the environment was recognized in 2012 when he received the Outstanding Educator Award from PGCPS. Throughout his career, Donald has spearheaded numerous science initiatives, including a presidential program for the development of new science teachers, interdisciplinary STEM design studios, programs investigating the nature of science with educators, and the Community Science 2.0 Mussel Program.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



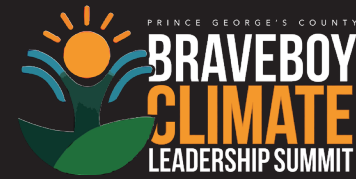
John Deadwyler
Director, Sustainable Energy and Workforce Program, Prince George's Community College

John T. Deadwyler is an accomplished leader and advocate in workforce development, currently serving as the Program Director for Prince George's Community College's Sustainable Energy Workforce Development Program (SEWDP) and TeamBuilders Academy (TBA). These flagship programs empower adult learners with occupational skills training and work-based learning opportunities, preparing Prince George's County residents for meaningful careers in the renewable energy sector. During his tenure, John has successfully established an advisory board and forged strategic partnerships with industry leaders including Clean Slate Solar, Pepco, and Washington Gas. These collaborations have transformed the programs from solely grant-funded initiatives into sustainable, revenue-generating ventures, securing over \$600,000 in corporate and government funding in the last three years. John studied Communications at the University of the District of Columbia and holds certifications from the African American Media Institute (AAMI), as a Global Career Development Facilitator and Certified Program Planner, with specialized training in radio-television broadcasting. He remains deeply committed to community service, actively participating as a board member for the Woodridge Warriors Youth Organization (DC) and the Prince George's County Education Coalition.



The Honorable Krystal Oriadha
Council Member, District 7

The Honorable Krystal Oriadha was elected to serve her first four-year term on the Prince George's County Council in the November 2022 General Election, representing Council District 7. Her previous career accomplishments combine more than a decade of professional experience within the public, private, and nonprofit sectors with her extensive community engagement to craft and support policies that build a brighter future for District 7 and Prince George's County. Council Member Oriadha is co-founder of PG ChangeMakers, a grassroots organization addressing community issues to include housing, food insecurity, healthcare, LGBTQ+ rights, police reform, education, and systemic racism.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



David Pala
Communications Director, IBEW Local 26

David Pala handles marketing and communications for International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 26. His portfolio also includes business development, advocating for the transition to a sustainable future, implementing green energy workforce development grants.



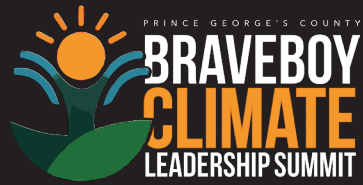
Kelsey Brooks
Program Manager, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

Kelsey Brooks is a Program Manager with the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC), which serves communities throughout EPA Region 3. Kelsey has worked throughout the Mid-Atlantic, first as an MS4 Stormwater Specialist with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, then as a Regional Watershed Restoration Specialist with the University of Maryland/Maryland Sea Grant Extension, and finally as a Senior Program Manager with the National Wildlife Federation in the Delaware River Watershed. While the majority of Kelsey's work has focused on green infrastructure and urban stormwater management, she has worked on a range of conservation, climate resilience, and environmental justice issues. Kelsey holds a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Rutgers University and a B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University.



Leo Pierce
Program Assistant, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

Leo has worked in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast addressing community housing insecurity, environmental planning and climate resilience, and food sovereignty. Prior to joining the Environmental Finance Center in 2023, he worked on both urban and rural farms, leading education and engagement events on food justice and regenerative agriculture models. He has worked for city, county, state, and federal government entities on community planning initiatives in addition to multiple environmental non-profits and community organizations. Leo graduated from Temple University with a B.S. in Community Development and Planning and a certificate in Geographic Information System (GIS). He is continuing his education learning more about climate resilience and community care models created by Black and Indigenous communities that integrate ancient and modern practices of stewardship into how communities navigate the climate crisis. In his free time, he is usually found making art or with their hands in the dirt.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



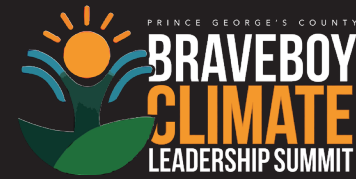
Pamela Boozer-Strother
Board of Education, Prince George's County Public Schools

Pamela Boozer-Strother has served as the Prince George's County Board of Education Member for District 3 since 2018. She chaired the PGCPs Climate Change Action Plan work group of internal and external experts that established carbon and waste reduction goals for the school system by 2030 and 2040. The plan was researched and drafted in tandem with the County Climate Action Plan and was adopted by the Board of Education in April 2022. Board Member Boozer-Strother is a nationally recognized expert in K12 Climate Action policy, serving on the Aspen Institute's K12 Climate Action Roundtable (2022-2024) and Generation 180's School Leadership in Clean Energy (SLICE) Network.



Eric Coffman
Director of Energy Programs, Maryland Energy Administration

Eric leads the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) portfolio of energy programs, a broad portfolio of efforts funded by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF). This dynamic portfolio spans more than \$300 million annually and is backed by a team of subject matter experts in resiliency, solar, wind energy, energy efficiency, energy finance, transportation electrification, infrastructure investment programs, biomass, and other relevant topics. His work includes grid modernization, clean energy deployment, energy efficiency, resiliency, smart cities technologies, and more. Prior to joining MEA, Eric led the Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES) within Montgomery County's Department of General Services (DGS). In his time with OES, he was responsible for the sustainability and energy performance of County operations as well as efforts before the Maryland Public Service Commission. Eric oversaw the procurement, financing, construction, and commissioning of the County Government's first microgrids in this capacity. Before joining OES, Eric led the County's climate and energy programs for the Department of Environmental Protection. Eric is a Certified Public Manager, Certified Energy Manager, and Certified Energy Procurement Professional, among other qualifications.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Ernest Jolly
Deputy Director, Prince George's County Office of Central Services

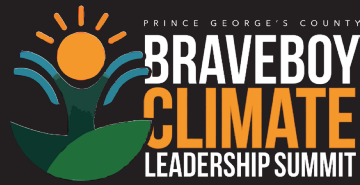
Ernest Jolly became Deputy Director of Prince George's County Office of Central Services, effective August 2026. In this role, Ernest has leadership accountability for a portfolio of over 100 county building, over 4,000 vehicles and the general services operation. His previous roles have included Managing Director of DC Sustainable Energy Utilities, Energy Chief and Strategic Planning Chief of DC Water, Executive Vice President of Operations for the University of the District of Columbia and the roles of Senior Vice President Energy Supply, Vice President Corporate Transformation, Vice President External and Environmental Affairs and Station Manager of Deepwater Generating Station for Atlantic Electric. He served on the Board of Directors of the Maryland-District of Columbia Utilities Association for 14 years including three terms as President of the Board. He is a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy with a degree in engineering and is a Certified Energy Auditor and a Certified Energy Manager.



Dan Limbago
Senior Vice President, Market Development and Deployment, Groundswell

Dan Limbago is the Senior Vice President of Market Development & Deployment at Groundswell. Dan leads the strategy of discovering and onboarding new partners in new territories throughout the United States, as well as integrating additional services with existing clients.

Prior to joining Groundswell, Dan was the Institutional Giving Officer at Certified Financial Planner (CFP) Board, where he led the development function for the organization. During Dan's tenure, he was responsible for raising over \$9 million from corporate and individual donors, and helping to diversify and grow the financial planning profession. While at CFP Board, Dan was instrumental in creating the first two endowed scholarship funds to focus resources on Black and African American students, and women - two underrepresented demographic groups in the profession.



SPEAKERS

(in order of appearance)



Derrick Coley
*Deputy Director, Prince George's County
Department of the Environment*

Derrick Coley has extensive experience in environmental issues, legislative affairs, communications, public advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and outreach in both the private and public sectors. Derrick's environmental focus was reinforced during his six years as a Staff Associate at the United States Conference of Mayors, Environmental Programs Division. His responsibilities included monitoring city, state, and federal programs and policies for the Brownfields Redevelopment Program. He managed the annual survey titled "Recycling America's Land: A National Report on Brownfield Redevelopment," funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He also collaborated with the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation to promote sustainable development in American cities. Additionally, Derrick served as the staff contact for the Municipal Waste Management Association's (MWMA) Operations Committee, consisting of city solid waste and public works directors, as well as environmental commissioners. He started his tenure at the Conference as a Program Assistant, working on initiatives such as the Buy Recycled Training Initiative, Recycling Paper at Work, and the Urban Water Council.

We are pleased to recognize the sponsors of the Braveboy Climate Leadership Summit 2025

