



Leadership Southern Maryland

Regional Collaboration for Today's Leaders and Tomorrow's Vision

Education Session

Thursday, May 13, 2021
College of Southern Maryland Velocity Center
4465 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640
(301)539-4830

Outcomes:

- increased awareness of the educational opportunities in our region
- increased awareness of how all students are prepared for success, regardless of abilities, and the transition process through their life span, from elementary through post-secondary to employment with an emphasis on pandemic learning
- awareness of the work, products, and people associated with education in our region and the importance of budgets, facilities, competence, and assessments required to meet the mission with an emphasis on pandemic learning
- an understanding of the essential partnerships and local access among educational providers and our communities

Connect the Dots:

- What are valuable/important aspects of our region's educational offerings for youth?
- What partnerships are in place to strengthen the region's access for educational successes?
- What impacts have population growth and budget challenges had on education efforts, specifically during the pandemic, in our region and what does the future look like for our region in this area?
- How can LSM class members and their organizations support public and private educational opportunities and initiatives in our region?

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| TIME | TOPIC | SPEAKER |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 8:15-8:45 am | Coffee, Pastries & Welcome | Sponsored by Maralit Customs & Repairs |
| 8:45-9:30 am | History & Evolution of Education | Thomas Brewer LSM'20 , Manager, Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability Programs, St. Mary's College of Maryland |
| 9:30-10:45 am | Southern Maryland Teachers' Panel | Crystal Dunkin , Dean of Faculty & Student Development, St. Mary's Ryken Bernadette Scheetz , Instructional Resource Teacher for Educational Technology, St. Mary's County Public Schools |
| 10:45-11:00 am | Break | |
| 11:00 am-12:00 pm | Southern Maryland Students' Panel | Naggena Ohri , Student Member of the Board, student at Leonardtown HS Judy Ngyen , student at Leonardtown HS Sophia Williams , student at Chopticon HS |
| 12:00-1:00 pm | Lunch | Lunch sponsored by The MIL Corporation |
| 1:00-2:30 pm | Leaders in Education Panel | Dr. Daniel Curry , Superintendent, Calvert County Public Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill , Superintendent, Charles County Public Schools Dr. James Scott Smith , Superintendent, St. Mary's County Public Schools Dr. Maureen Murphy , President, College of Southern Maryland Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan , President, St. Mary's College of Maryland |
| 2:30-2:45 pm | Break | |
| 2:45-4:15 pm | Internship Panel Discussion | Kee Abell , Director, Strategic Education Office, NAWCAD Mary Jane "MJ" Selph , Tech Jobs Rule Apprenticeship Coordinator, The Patuxent Partnership |
| 4:15-5:00 pm | Wrap Up | Denise Foster |

BIOGRAPHIES

SPEAKERS:

CRYSTAL DUNKIN, *Dean of Faculty & Student Development, St. Mary's Ryken*



Crystal Dunkin is the dean of faculty and student development at St. Mary's Ryken High School. Before moving to administration, she taught high school Spanish and was an adjunct instructor at the College of Southern Maryland. As a classroom instructor, she received the Crystal Apple Award for creativity in the classroom, was a MEAD fellow for the Maryland Foreign Language Association (MFLA) and was awarded the Best of Maryland and Best of the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Foreign Languages for her co-presentation on risk taking in the classroom. She earned her master's in leadership in teaching from Notre Dame of Maryland University where she is currently pursuing her PhD in instructional leadership.

BERNADETTE SCHEETZ, *Instructional Resource Teacher for Educational Technology, St. Mary's County Public Schools*



Bernadette Scheetz is a national board-certified teacher from St. Mary's County, Maryland. She currently works for the Office of Assessment and Accountability, after having taught in a variety of classrooms throughout the United States for 20 years. As a teacher, Scheetz always sought to thoughtfully incorporate technology to enhance student mastery and produce global thinkers. In her capacity as the instructional resource teacher for educational technology for St. Mary's County Public Schools, Scheetz has served as a coach for teachers regarding online teaching during the pandemic.

Scheetz earned her Bachelor of Education from Penn State University, her Master of Education in mathematics from Walden University, and her Master of Education in educational leadership and administration from College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Her awards include St. Mary's County Public Schools Teacher of the Year 2012 - 2013, Maryland Teacher of the Year Finalist, Maryland Outstanding Educator Using Technology, and Outstanding Mathematics Teacher. She has worked in the St. Mary's County Public School System since 2007. Scheetz proudly calls St. Mary's home and lives with her husband (Retired USMC) and two children.

DR. DANIEL CURRY, *Superintendent of Schools, Calvert County Public Schools*



Dr. Dan Curry has been superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) since July 1, 2014 and was recently named the 2020 Superintendent of the Year for Maryland. Curry is originally from Fairmont, West Virginia and served there as superintendent of three counties for 15 years. He then spent another 11 years as superintendent of schools for the Lake Forest School District in Felton, Delaware from 2003-2014, and has been with CCPS since 2014.

Curry has been a member of many professional and community organizations. His roles with Public Schools Superintendents' Association of Maryland include service as president, legislative chair, secretary and past president. He was also past president of the Delaware Chief School Officers and legislative chair and past president-elect of the West Virginia Association of School Administration. Curry was a member of the governing board and executive board of the American Association of School Administrators.

Curry's community affiliations include serving on the board of the Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, the Calvert Community Foundation and the Calvert Family Network. He is a member of the Harriet Elizabeth Brown Commemoration Task Force, and a former charter member of two new Rotary Clubs and Rotarian of the Year. He is also a former executive board member for the Delmarva Blood Bank and United Way of Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Curry and his wife, Jacque currently reside in Lusby, Maryland.

DR. KIMBERLY HILL, *Superintendent of Schools, Charles County Public Schools*



Dr. Kimberly A. Hill is a career educator serving her second term as superintendent of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

Under Hill's leadership, CCPS has become a national model for computer science education. Her development of a partnership with Code.org and expansion of the school system's curriculum has provided every student – from prekindergarten to grade 12 – exposure to the skills computer science offers. She has shared CCPS success on panels and roundtables across Maryland, at the White House and on Wall Street.

Prior to her 2013 appointment as superintendent, Hill served as principal of North Point High School, Charles County's largest high school and center for science, industry and technology career pathway programs. Hill started her 33-year career

in education as a social studies teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School, her high school alma mater. She also previously served as vice principal at several schools.

CCPS named Hill as the 2013 Principal of the Year, and she also was honored as the recipient of the 2013 Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.

Hill earned her doctorate degree in educational leadership and policy from The George Washington University. She received a Master of Education in education administration and supervision from the University of Maryland, College Park and a Bachelor of Arts in political science and history from High Point University in North Carolina.

DR. JAMES SCOTT SMITH, *Superintendent of Schools, St. Mary's County Public Schools*



Dr. James Scott Smith is the superintendent of St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS). He has been with SMCPS since he began as an English teacher at Leonardtown High School (LHS) in 1991. While in the classroom, Smith sponsored the school newspaper, the literary magazine, the school newsletter, several drama productions, and the National Honor Society. Beyond the classroom, he was the English department chair and administrator in charge of Evening High School.

Smith left the classroom in 2000 to become an assistant principal at LHS. Two years later, he became the principal of the school. In 2007, he became the director of secondary schools and advanced to executive director in 2012. In the spring of 2013, Smith was named the acting assistant superintendent of instruction and held that position until his appointment of interim superintendent. On July 1, 2015, Smith's appointment as superintendent of schools began.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree in English education from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo, a master's degree in human resources from Towson University, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Maryland at College Park. He is certified to teach English 7-12 and holds Administrator I and Administrator II credentials.

DR. MAUREEN MURPHY, *President, College of Southern Maryland*



President of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) since July 1, 2017, Dr. Maureen Murphy has been connected with community colleges for nearly 30 years including a decade as a community college president.

Most recently, Murphy served as president of Brookdale Community College, a multi-campus community college in New Jersey, where she forged partnerships with community organizations, school districts, business and industry, donors, and other higher education institutions. Among her initiatives were developing early college high school programs, launching a College Promise program for free tuition for all qualified graduates and spearheading a Minority Male Conference to support the academic achievement of minority male students.

Before her appointment at Brookdale in 2012, she served as president of San Jacinto College South in Houston, Texas, and as vice president at both Rappahannock Community College and Wytheville Community College in Virginia. Murphy began her career teaching English at St. Louis Community College-Meramec, where she later served as a dean. Murphy has been an active member of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges since 1995, and has served on the national board including two years as president since 2007.

She has received numerous awards including the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction by Phi Theta Kappa, the Distinguished Corporate Leadership Award by the Greater Red Bank NAACP and the Carolyn DesJardins CEO of the Year Award by AAWCC. Currently, Murphy is on the board of directors for the American Association of Community Colleges, the national organization representing more than 1,100 colleges.

Murphy earned her bachelor's degree in English from the University of Louisville, her master's degree in English from the University of Missouri – Columbia and her doctorate in American Studies from Saint Louis University.

DR. TUAJUANDA JORDAN, *President, St. Mary's College of Maryland*



Dr. Tuajuanda Jordan has served as St. Mary's College of Maryland's (SMCM) seventh president since July 2014. The College, as Maryland's only public honors college and the first of its kind in the nation, has been widely recognized for its successes.

Since joining the College, Jordan has been widely recognized for her contributions to higher education and the larger community. Recently, she was named one of the Top 25 Women in Higher Education by the national magazine, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. In addition to serving on numerous national panels and boards, she was recognized as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2018), Black Leader in Education by the AFRO (2017), was named as one of Fisk University's Talented Tenth (2016), Purdue University's Distinguished Women Scholars (2015-16), and as an Influential Marylander by the *Daily Record* (2015). She received the Torchbearer Award (2014) from the National Coalition of Black Women, Baltimore Metropolitan Chapter, was inducted (2015) into the Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society, was awarded the Education Excellence award by the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (2018), and received the inaugural CEO's Excellence Award from the Prince George's County Public Schools Foundation (2019).

Jordan gained national prominence in the realm of science education with the creation of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science Education Alliance (SEA) program and the launch of its first initiative, the SEA Phage program, which engaged novice undergraduates in research in genomics and bioinformatics. This program has been implemented at more than 50 diverse institutions across the nation, impacted thousands of students and faculty, and resulted in numerous scientific and pedagogical publications.

Prior to St. Mary's College, Jordan was a tenured faculty member and administrator at Xavier University of Louisiana and Lewis and Clark College in Oregon. Dr. Jordan holds a B.S. in chemistry from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Purdue University.

KENNETH "KEE" ABELL, *Director, Strategic Education Office, Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD)*



Kenneth "Kee" Abell has worked for the Department of Defense (DoD) for 36 years. He started his career at the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in 1985 as an engineering technician conducting test of data acquisition and collection equipment aboard naval aircraft. He transferred to the Navy Primary Standards Laboratory in the Washington Navy Yard in 1987 where his assignments included direct support to fleet activities, and R&D of pressure instrumentation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In 1989, Abell accepted a position within the NAVSEASYSOM where he and a team of experts conducted audits/training for ship and shore-based Navy activities in the eastern hemisphere. In 1992, he moved to the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division (NSWCDD) as the head of the Metrology and Calibration Division, where he directed research, in conjunction with NIST, to characterize dynamic pressure introduced behind projectiles.

In 1996, Abell accepted a BFM position with the NAWCAD, for the R&E Group. In 2002, he transferred to the NAWCAD T&E Group where he supported financial, manpower and strategic initiatives. In 2012, he was promoted to a staff associate position with the T&E Group as an advisor to the executive director at NAWCAD. In 2017, Abell was assigned to his current position as the director of the NAWCAD Strategic Education Office, managing a team engaged in education outreach and workforce development for NAWCAD.

Abell is a Southern Maryland native, a 1980 Ryken High School graduate, and has a BS in business management from the University of Phoenix.

MARY JANE “MJ” SELPH, *Tech Jobs Rule Apprenticeship Coordinator, The Patuxent Partnership*



Mary Jane “MJ” Selph is the Tech Jobs Rule apprenticeship coordinator for The Patuxent Partnership. Tech Jobs Rule is an initiative with the James A. Forrest Technology Center , the Strategic Education Office of NAWCAD, The Patuxent Partnership, and member companies that gives paid apprenticeship opportunities to talented high school students who are interested in skilled work in manufacturing and STEM fields.

Prior to her current position, Selph was a teacher with St. Mary's County Public Schools, retiring after 38 years. She was selected for the Washington Post St. Mary's County Teacher of the Year award in 2017. Selph holds a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Frostburg State University.

Outside of her professional duties, Selph is a youth coach for St. Mary's County Recreation and Parks. She is a wife, mother of three, and grandmother of one.

PROGRAM ADVOCATES:

THOMAS BREWER LSM'20, *Manager, Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability Programs, St. Mary's College of Maryland*



Thomas Brewer is the manager of environmental health, safety, and sustainability programs at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM). He is a Southern Maryland native with lifelong ties to his community. Brewer received his Bachelor of Arts in biology from SMCM. After college, he attended the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore and returned to St. Mary's County as a pharmacist.

After one year working as a pharmacist, Brewer decided to step out of the industry due to a lack of fulfillment and purpose from the career path he had chosen. He was offered interim positions as an organic chemistry lab instructor and sustainability coordinator at his alma mater SMCM. He then went back to a favorite job in the service industry as a server and bartender. Brewer also found fulfillment in volunteering and became president of St. Mary's County's Commission on the Environment and parliamentarian of his college's alumni council.

In 2018, Brewer ran for state Senate representing District 29. Although not elected, he learned a great deal about the area in which he had lived his entire life.

ANGELA WALTERS SMALL LSM'16, *Public Information Officer & Director of Media Relations, College of Southern Maryland*



Angela Walters Small is the public information officer and director of media relations for the College of Southern Maryland. Prior to this role, she was a public information specialist for Calvert County Government.

A 25-year resident of Calvert County, Walters has more than 30 years of communication experience. Proceeding her work with CSM and Calvert County Government, Walters was the manager of strategic leadership support and site contract lead for OMNITEC Solutions, a defense contractor at NAS Patuxent River. In that role, she served as the lead speechwriter and supported all leadership communication efforts for the commander of Naval Air Systems Command.

Before working for the Navy, Walters began working in Calvert County in 1992 as editor of the Calvert Independent. She moved from there to the corporate communications staff at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant, becoming the supervisor of nuclear communication for the company's growing nuclear fleet.

Walters holds a B.A. degree in communications from the American University. She has completed numerous continuing education courses in media relations, crisis communications and publication design.

AMY CRICCHI LSM'16, *Director of Enrollment Management, St. Mary's Ryken High School*



Amy Cricchi is currently the director of enrollment management for St. Mary's Ryken High School. She previously served as the director of admissions and international programs director at the school. Prior to joining the St. Mary's Ryken community, Cricchi's career focus was in sales and account management. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Towson University.

Cricchi was born and raised in Thurmont, Maryland, a small town in northern Frederick County. She currently resides in Leonardtown. When she is not working Cricchi enjoys travel, golf, live music, and a healthy dose of reality television.

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