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# *The Annapolis Times*

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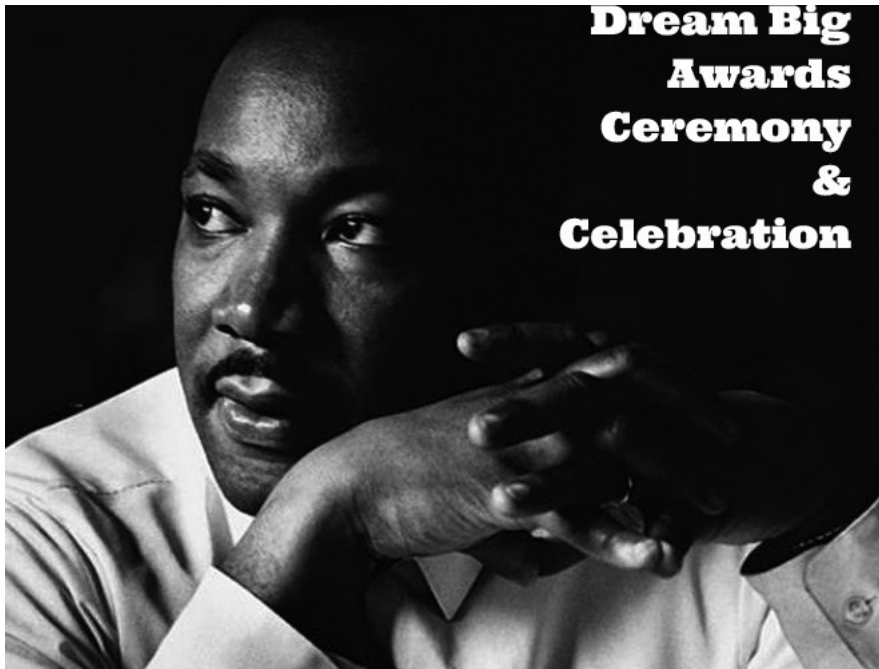
## Upcoming 'AfroPop' Docuseries Designed to Give Audience A Unique Experience



Out of a dire need for more programming focusing specifically on the global black experience, a group of aspiring producers and filmmakers created “AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange,” to give viewers a unique portrait of black life other than what is widely portrayed in mainstream media. AfroPoP airs new episodes every Monday at 8 p.m. ET/ 10 p.m. PT beginning January 21, 2019 through February 18 on WORLD Channel. Episodes will also be available for same-day streaming on platforms including: world.org, PBS.org, and PBS apps for iOS, Android, Apple TV, and more. Hosted by actress Danielle Brooks, known as “Taystee” in “Orange is the New Black, this season’s opening episode puts Africa’s first global music icon—Miriam Makeba—back in the spotlight with “Mama Africa: Miriam Makeba!” Director Mika Kaurismaki’s film tells the story of Makeba’s rise to global stardom as a musical legend and as a powerful voice of the South Africa anti-apartheid movement. (Photo): Miriam Makeba performing at Standard Bank Arena 1991. (See article on page 11). (Copyright WDR Kulturweltspiegel)



## Dream Big Awards Ceremony & Celebration



### DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION & AWARDS CEREMONY

Monday | January 21, 2019 | 6pm  
The Modell Lyric  
140 W. Mount Royal Avenue

Featuring  
Councilman Brandon Scott, Keynote Speaker  
Jason Newton, WBAL, Emcee

This event is FREE and open to the public  
RSVP by emailing [education@modell-lyric.com](mailto:education@modell-lyric.com)

Finalists will read their essays and receive an honorarium

Kaiser Permanente Presents:  
MLK Day Celebration and Day of Service 2019  
Reginald Lewis Museum  
830 E Pratt Street, Baltimore City  
Monday, January 21, 2019 — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday with musical performances,  
theater readings, a book discussion with Dr. King's barber,  
films and craft activities for the family.  
Kaiser Permanente will provide an array of resource services  
for the community including free health screenings.

Program activities include:  
A Center Stage reading of *The Mountaintop*  
101 Psychology and the Black Power Movement with Jeffery Menzise  
Living History Talk: *The Colored Waiting Room*  
with Kevin Shird and Nelson Malden  
For more information, visit: [lewismuseum.org](http://lewismuseum.org)

## Celebrate Martin Luther King Day 2019 in Annapolis



Annapolis—Visit Annapolis and celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the holiday weekend of January 19-21, 2019.

Maryland's beautiful seaside capital has a history that prominently features African Americans. The city's records from the 19th century state "they comprised one-third of the population in Annapolis."

King became the inspirational leader of the African-American Civil Rights Movement after delivering his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

Awarded a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for advancing civil rights through nonviolent civil disobedience, King tragically lost his life four years later.

You and your family can spend Saturday and Sunday visiting the Banneker-Douglas Museum and Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial, along with the other usual Annapolis landmarks like the Naval Academy.

On Monday, get ready to be entertained during the 5th Annual MLK Day Dream to Reality Parade, which is hosted by the City of Annapolis and the MLK Parade Committee.

The parade starts at 12 noon on Monday, January 21, 2019—beginning on Amos Garrett Boulevard and continuing down West Street and Main Street, the parade will be a celebration of Dr. King's life and equality for all Americans.



### ATTENTION H.S. Seniors:

The MDDC Press Foundation is looking for an outstanding senior staff member from a high school newspaper (print or online) in Maryland, Delaware or D.C.

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*Michael S. Powell*

**High School Journalist of the Year**

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# HIS DREAM NEEDS YOUR VISION.

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marched on Washington for a dream. Over 50 years later, people are still marching because of his vision. Comcast celebrates Dr. King's legacy with a one-of-a-kind interactive digital mosaic made up of pictures and videos of people sharing their vision of his dream.

Join countless others inspired by Dr. King and share why you're still marching at

**VisionsOfKing.com**



Personality rights and copyrights of Dr. King are used with the permission of The Estate of Martin Luther King Jr. Inc. Represented by Greenlight. ©2019 Comcast. All rights reserved.



# Guest Editorials/Commentary

## Insurance flip-flop hurts vulnerable seniors

By Kenneth E. Thorpe

The vast majority of seniors have at least one chronic condition, and more than two thirds have two or more chronic conditions, so choosing the right coverage is important.

Fortunately, premium prices are expected to remain stable. But out-of-pocket pharmacy costs are expected to rise thanks almost entirely to the benefit design set by many insurance plans. To keep premiums low, insurers are saddling sick enrollees with higher out-of-pocket bills.

Increasing out-of-pocket expenses for patients with multiple chronic conditions is counterproductive.

Higher cost sharing reduces the likelihood of adherence to medication regimens, thus aggravating people's underlying health problems and driving up costs elsewhere in the healthcare system.

Research shows that non-adherence causes at least 10 percent of hospitalizations and costs the rest of the healthcare system upwards of \$289 billion annually. It also puts a higher cost burden on those who need help the most—research has shown that for the sickest, a \$1 increase in co-payments results in a \$1.78 increase in overall healthcare spending. This especially hurts seniors with multiple chronic conditions.

Health plans are supposed to shield patients from financial ruin when disease strikes. Since the Affordable Care Act took effect, insurers have been prohibited from denying insurance to anyone. Beneficiaries pay a monthly premium with the understanding that their individual health dollars support a larger "risk" pool. Those who are healthy thus subsidize those who are sick, knowing that if they themselves fall ill, they'll be protected.

When it comes to prescription drug coverage, however, insurers increasingly flip this dynamic. They're effectively raising costs on the sickest individuals to offer savings to healthy enrollees.

Here's how. Pharmaceutical companies offer large discounts to health insurers to ensure their drugs are covered by health plans. In Medicare, for example, brand-name drugs are discounted by 30 percent, on average. Last year, the pharmaceutical industry paid out \$153 billion in total discounts and rebates.

Insurers keep some of these rebates for themselves and use the rest to lower premiums. That's good news for healthy enrollees.

But these discounts are not shared directly with patients at the pharmacy. Most insurers require patients to pay co-insurance on brand-name drugs, which is a set percentage of a drug's sticker, or "list," price, rather than a percentage of the discounted price the insurer pays.

As a result, sicker patients who fill lots of prescriptions rarely benefit from the massive discounts granted by drug companies. This isn't how insurance is supposed to work.

The Trump administration recognizes that drug benefit design is undermining the foundational promise of insurance. In its 2019 budget, the administration put forward a plan that would require insurers in the Medicare drug benefit to share a portion of negotiated discounts with patients at the point of sale.

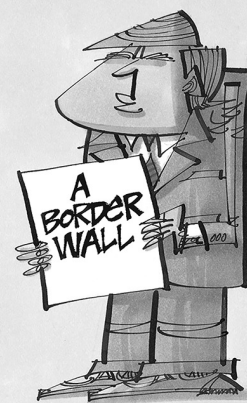
These are encouraging developments. Unless insurers share discounts directly with patients, high cost-sharing requirements will continue to prevent sick enrollees from taking their prescriptions as directed. That means worse health outcomes for those patients—and higher spending for the Medicare program, and thus taxpayers.

*Kenneth E. Thorpe is a professor of health policy at Emory University and chairman of the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease.*

HE HAD A  
DREAM...



HE HAS A  
FANTASY.



APRIL 2019

## Community Affairs

### Peace groups sponsor writing contest for Maryland middle school students

Annapolis— All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice.

The contest, which is sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Justice Center of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels. This is the 23rd consecutive year the contest has been conducted.

Four cash prizes will be awarded: \$350 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$150 for third place, and \$100 for fourth place. The winners will be honored at a special ceremony, although attendance is not required to receive an award.

To enter, students must submit an entry of up to 1,200-words on this topic: "The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees our most fundamental liberties, including prohibiting the government from restricting freedom of speech or the press, the free exercise of religion, the right to assemble peacefully, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. However, these freedoms have been threatened throughout American history. Which one of these do you believe faces the greatest challenges at this time? Support your views with examples from current events. What actions do you suggest to protect the freedom you selected?"

Entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet including the student's name, address and phone number or e-mail address; school's name, address and phone number; and the name of the teacher sponsor if applicable.

Entries and accompanying materials must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2019 and mailed to Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328.



# Page Opposite/Commentaries

## Remembering Dr. King and 'The Other America'

By Charlene Crowell

Once again on the third Monday in January, much of the nation will mark the anniversary of the death of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Countless programs and events will no doubt recall several of his famous speeches from the 1963 March on Washington's "I Have A Dream" to his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" delivered in Memphis during the 1968 sanitation workers' strike.

In a life of only 39 years, Dr. King captured global attention in his valiant, nonviolent fight for the values of freedom, justice and equality. Preaching and fighting for long overdue citizenship rights first promised to all in the Declaration of Independence, he championed economic justice—especially for blacks to have safe, decent and affordable housing. He also called for full participation in the economy, and an end to financial exploitation.

Now 51 years since his assassination, his words still strike a resonant chord. His words—written as prose but markedly poetic—remain as timely as they are timeless.

"There are so many problems facing our

nation and our world, that one could just take off anywhere," Dr. King said in a speech delivered on April 14, 1967 at Stanford University.

Entitled, "The Other America" Dr. King began by recapping the nation's bounty and beauty, noting how "America is overflowing with the milk of prosperity and the honey of opportunity," and how "millions of young people grow up in the sunlight of opportunity."

For his audience, those comments almost certainly reflected the lifestyles of

Historically, homeownership has been a reliable measure of the nation's middle class. Late last year it stood at 64.4 according to the Census Bureau. Yet when race and ethnicity are added who owns a home today discloses a far different picture. White homeownership was higher than the national average at 73.1 percent.

But blacks still-suffering from the financial losses from the now decade-old foreclosure crisis had a homeownership rate of 41.7 percent, lower than its pre-housing crisis rate of 47.7 percent.

federal government shutdown are men and women—the military and civil servants—whose service to the country is deemed so essential that they must continue to work without knowing when another paycheck will arrive. Another 800,000 furloughed federal workers may be at home; but like others affected by the shutdown, they too still need to pay their rent or mortgage, honor their financial obligations and take care of children as best they can.

When times are tough financially, a range of predatory lenders seize opportunities to tempt those who are hard-pressed for cash with interest rates on loans that would make a bookie blush. When a loan of only a few hundred dollars comes with interest payments that double or triple the cash borrowed, predatory lenders are ready to exploit those with few or no financial options.

Those who are unpaid or underemployed; those who are working but failing to earn a salary comparable to their education and training, student loan repayments can take a financial backseat to housing, utilities, or other daily living needs. At press deadline, the federal shutdown was approaching the 1995 shutdown record of 21 days.

In 1967, Dr. King advised his Stanford University audience, "Somewhere we must come to see that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistent work of dedicated individuals.... And so we must help time, and we must realize that the time is always right to do right."

This year, may we all honor Dr. King and do our respective efforts to make America live up to its promise of opportunity for all.

*Charlene Crowell is the Center for Responsible Lending's Communications Deputy Director. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).*

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***"In 2019 the two Americas Dr. King wrote about still remain. A nation once lauded for its enviable and expanding middle class has evolved into a nation of people who are either growing wealthy or growing poor. In this unfortunate process, the nation's envied middle class is vanishing."***

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the students attending one of the nation's elite educational institutions.

In his inimitable Baptist cadence, Dr. King then went on to speak of the "Other America" that was equally real but far removed from the commonplace privilege associated with Stanford.

"Little children in this other America are forced to grow up with clouds of inferiority forming every day in their little mental skies. As we look at this other America, we see it as an arena of blasted hopes and shattered dreams," said Dr. King. "It's more difficult today because we are struggling for genuine equality. It's much easier to integrate a lunch counter than it is to guarantee a livable income and a good solid job. It's much easier to guarantee the right to vote than it is to guarantee the right to live in sanitary, decent, housing conditions."

In 2019 the two Americas Dr. King wrote about still remain. A nation once lauded for its enviable and expanding middle class has evolved into a nation of people who are either growing wealthy or growing poor. In this unfortunate process, the nation's envied middle class is vanishing.

Today's black homeownership resembles the same levels experienced at the time of the 1968 Fair Housing Act's passage.

Latino homeownership today is higher than that of blacks at 46.3 percent; but still lower than its earlier pre-crisis rate of 47.7.

Housing also remains troubled for renters as well. According to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, the nation lacks more than seven million affordable rental homes that affect 43.8 million families. Moreover, 11 million families pay more than half of their income on housing and are considered severely-cost burdened.

As of January 3, over 1,100 HUD contracts with landlords for its Section 8 rental voucher program expired. By February, another 1,000 more contracts are expected to expire. At press time, the stalemated federal government shutdown continued, leaving millions of people uncertain about their lives, or livelihoods or both. While landlords and HUD figure out the paperwork, 1.2 million families relying on this vital rental support program remain at risk.

Also caught in partisan bickering of a

### ***The Annapolis Times***

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# Baltimore resident maps 'small' but unique plan to house homeless

By Stacy M. Brown

Smalltimore Homes was more of a manifestation for founder LaQuida Chancey.

"I began researching and investing in the Baltimore Real Estate Market and ... it wasn't long before putting the first house on the market that the realization that most people who attended the open houses weren't prepared to buy a home," Chancey said. "At that moment, I knew my focus would probably need to shift. As a developer who focuses on affordability and first time home buyers, it didn't seem to be enough to make an impact just focusing on those two things."

Chancey, who regularly worked as volunteer for numerous organizations that focused on the homeless, noted she had a natural desire to end homelessness.

"And, I thought, 'wow, I think tiny homes could end homelessness,'" she said.

In February 2018, Chancey started Smalltimore Homes, an affordable housing and sustainable living solution, which focuses on enhancing community living and improving neighborhoods by creating alternative ownership opportunities.

The mission of the Smalltimore Homes is to provide those living below poverty level and those experiencing homelessness and families with individualized supportive services as well as tailored housing solutions with a goal of obtaining and maintaining affordable housing.

Chancey says she felt compelled to act when she noticed that many tent encampments around Baltimore were being cut off from public access and entire communities were being dismantled.

"It was quite sad to see... it really feels more like a war on homelessness and it's not fair," said Chancey, who attended



*LaQuida Chancey started Smalltimore Homes, an affordable housing and sustainable living solution, which focuses on enhancing community living and improving neighborhoods by creating alternative ownership opportunities.*

Courtesy Photo

Spelman College in Atlanta after growing up in Baltimore.

After researching a number of tiny home communities, Chancey says she figured there was more she could do.

"I think a Smalltimore Homes tiny home/micro shelter community could address Baltimore blight and vacancies by deconstructing/disassembling those properties first, dispose of anything hazardous or debris, then keep what is salvageable and safe, and start the community build with those salvageable materials," she said. "It really could be a perfect model for transitional tiny home

communities with the potential to grow into an entire eco-system that creates a stronger Baltimore."

Chancey's idea has caught on as many local organizations have found Smalltimore Homes online or on social media and want to collaborate and help advocate.

"We raised enough funds to construct at least 10 shelters already," Chancey said. "Team Depot and The Home Depot Foundation gave us a grant to help build prototypes/models to be put on display throughout Baltimore for feedback and get the conversation started around

homelessness and provide feedback for design enhancements."

They're now working on the logistics to have the models placed at different locations around Baltimore for 30 to 90 days at a time.

"The idea is that having the model there to see and touch, makes it easier to understand the concept and potentially it will trigger some thoughts and be a conversation piece," Chancey said. "The stigma around homelessness is an issue too, and with time I'd like to address that with our youth specifically. I've been speaking with a few educators to brainstorm ways to somehow make this into an extra-curricular program to engage students in the discussion as well as the building process."

Chancey says she plans to do this work "forever," and certainly can always use assistance.

"At the moment, we meet monthly with volunteers to construct these simple micro-shelters which is more or less a shed on wheels and cost about \$1,200," she said. "At the moment there's no plumbing or electric but it would keep someone safe from the elements. Most anyone of any skill-set can assist."

The next two build sessions are scheduled for Saturday, January 19 and Saturday, February 9 and will be held at the Baltimore Community Tool Bank from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Ideally, I would like to create a community of members who are vested and involved in homelessness advocacy and affordable housing initiatives to help create the best micro-shelter prototype and the best community," Chancey said.

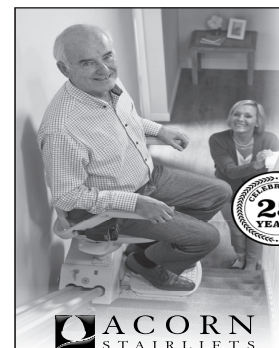
For more information about Smalltimore Homes or to find out how you may help, visit: [www.smalltimorehomes.org](http://www.smalltimorehomes.org).

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# Baltimore nonprofit announces \$1K 'Black Futures' micro-grant

By Stacy M. Brown

With a motto of "Building Black Futures Together," CLLCTIVLY.org, a community-based organization in Baltimore, is spearheading an effort to show the tremendous effect black lives are having throughout the city.

Each month, the nonprofit social impact organization which serves as a resource for those seeking to find, fund and partner with black social change organizations in the city, has pledged to award a local individual or organization with a "Black Futures" micro-grant worth \$1,000.

"In 2015 after the death of Freddie Gray, a coalition of grassroots activists and concerned citizens came together to form Baltimore United for Change and, in the days following the uprising we launched a skills bank to create an on ramp for concern community members that wanted to serve," said Jamye Wooten, the founder of CLLCTIVLY.

Wooten said more than 260 individuals and organizations answered the call.

"Community organizations often work in silos, these silos lead to fragmentation, fragmentation leads to duplication, and duplication leads to wasted resources— time, talent and treasure," he said.

"The first phase of our project (CLLCTIV ASSETS) will create an on-line asset map/directory of organizations in Greater Baltimore listed by neighborhood and area of concentration.

"Our mission is to end the fragmentation and duplication of programs, to learn from and about each other, and to be a resource for the Greater Baltimore community that seeks to find, fund and partner with Black social change organizations."

The idea of CLLCTIVLY and the grant was conceived because many black-led organizations are under-resourced and underappreciated.

"I want to shine a light on the individuals and organizations that are doing great work in our community. I know the grant process can be intimidating for many, so I set out to create an easy,



Jamye Wooten,  
Founder of CLLCTIVLY.org  
Courtesy Photo

nity who are making a difference without a spotlight, and often under resourced," Wooten said. "We want to show our appreciation and motivate others to also use their time, talent and resources to strengthen our communities."

It's Wooten's hope that CLLCTIVLY will help bring unity and foster collaboration among the many community organizations doing great work.

"We are in a state of emergency. We must get back to pooling our collective resources and building community together," Wooten said.

He noted a recent report done by the Institute of Policy Studies that revealed, "If average black family wealth continues to grow at the same pace it has over the past three decades, it would take black families 228 years to amass the same amount of wealth white families have today."

Recognizing the large scope of its mission, CLLCTIVLY has organized its work into six-phases.

The first phase includes creating an on-line asset map/directory of organizations in Greater Baltimore, listed by neighborhood and area of concentration. There is also an online store where 20 percent of proceeds are directed to the Black Futures Micro-Grant Fund.

"If the organization's first month is any indication, the future of CLLCTIVLY is bright," Wooten said. "Members are joining, the Black Futures online store is fulfilling orders, and the first Black Futures Micro-Grant Award is just weeks away. The community is responding, and we're excited about it."

no-strings-attached process to show gratitude to the organizations and individuals serving our community," Wooten said.

The first \$1,000 grant will be awarded on February 22, 2019, and the deadline for submission is January 31, 2019. All are welcome to visit BlackFutures-Grant.org to apply.

Details about qualification also is available on the website.

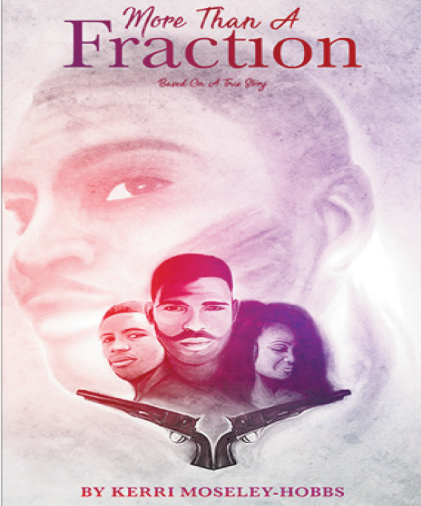
"CLLCTIVLY.org is very excited to offer the Black Futures Micro-Grant. Baltimore has amazing, dedicated individuals and organizations in our commu-



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Meet the Author:  
**Dr. Kerri Moseley-Hobbes**



**More Than A Fraction**  
*Based On A True Story*

BY KERRI MOSELEY-HOBBS

Meet **Dr. Kerri Moseley-Hobbes**, author of the historical novel *More than a Fraction*, based on a true story.

Thomas and Othello Fraction are brothers and best friends, descendants of an African nobleman whose tribal scars looked like tiger stripes. But here they were in America, considered three-fifths a person, and fighting two battles: one for the nation and one for themselves.

Learn how the Fraction family came to America, contributed to the Civil War, survived murder attempts on their lives, and eventually settled outside of Blacksburg, Virginia, as southern refugees.



**Saturday, January 19** | **2:00 p.m.**

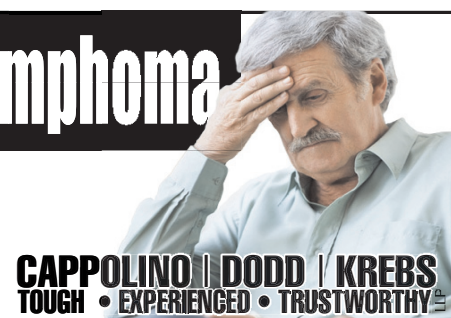
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# Three ways to release yourself from the past and live for today

News & Experts— Our memories help us relive life's most delightful moments, such as a trip to the Grand Canyon or a child's high school graduation. However, not every memory is a happy one, and often people become so tied to the past— dwelling on mistakes they made or offenses committed against them— that they fail to enjoy and take advantage of the present.

"If we permit our past to hold us hostage from the change we deeply desire, we are stuck," said Tom Corner, a motivational speaker and author of *Borrowed Eyes and Feet: Finding Enlightenment After Rage* ([www.tomcorner.net](http://www.tomcorner.net)). "It's important to be able to release your past and to see existence in the present moment. There is no future and there is no past, only the gift of now."

He knows from experience. For Corner, freeing himself from the past involved overcoming anger and rage that plagued him since his parents divorced when he was a young boy. He was in his 40s, he says, before he learned to live in the moment or perhaps, re-learn how to live in the moment.

Most people, as children, aren't so hung up on the past and the future, preferring to immerse themselves in the activity at hand, whether that involves a game of tag, a hike in the woods, a favorite TV show or a captivating book.

"Unfortunately, children eventually grow up to become adults who live in a state of constant worry about what they did yesterday and what they will do tomorrow," Corner says. "We nudge the present moment to the side, making it something of an anomaly, until we return full circle later in life to try to recapture the gift of those moments."

But how do you recapture the ability to



take pleasure in the present moment, and avoid letting the past and the future dominate your thoughts and cause you heartache and anguish?

Corner has a few suggestions:

•**Practice forgiveness.** It's been said that the act of forgiveness isn't so much for the person we are forgiving, but for ourselves. Either way you look at it, it's not always an easy thing to do. "Are we courageous enough to see the world through the eyes of forgiveness, allowing us to release the many false expectations we unintentionally impose on ourselves and on others?" Corner asks.

•**Strive for self-acceptance.** If we are honest and brave enough to look deep within ourselves, Corner says, we will realize that, more often than we'd like to admit, we sabotage ourselves with negative self-talk. "The next time you feel doubt or a sense of failure, pay attention

to how you feel about yourself," he says.

"If you are not being nice to yourself, be aware of these feelings and try to replace this doubt with positive thoughts or

affirmations."

•**Recapture childlike wonder.** "When we were children, all things were possible because we did not know much about resistance or fear," Corner says. "As children we did not allow our past to hold us hostage from the gift of joy in the present moment." Think about your past, he says, release whatever is holding you back from your dreams, your desires, and your ability to accomplish anything.

"Too often, we wait for tomorrow to celebrate our yesterdays," Corner says. "Why not today? Why not celebrate what we have right now, right this minute?"

*Tom Corner is an inspirational author and motivational speaker. He has two decades of experience in the financial-services industry, which helped him sharpen his skills as a communicator, uplifter and business professional. His latest book is "Borrowed Eyes and Feet: Finding Enlightenment After Rage" For more information, visit: [www.tomcorner.net](http://www.tomcorner.net).*

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## The Neil Muldrow Business Development Fund

# CBP Names Program after Minority-business Advocate and Pioneer

By Ursula V. Battle

Following the death of Ackneil M. Muldrow, II, the longtime businessman was remembered as “a tireless advocate for uplifting and empowering African Americans.” Muldrow’s long and storied business career included serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Development Credit Fund, Inc. Muldrow served as chief administrator of a \$7.5 million loan pool formulated to provide low cost financial assistance to minority-owned businesses operating in the State of Maryland.

To help continue Muldrow’s rich legacy of supporting minority-owned businesses, Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP) has established The Neil Muldrow Business Development Fund. The Fund aims to support small businesses who expand or locate in Central Baltimore, particularly those who re-develop long-vacant properties requiring significant new investment.

Muldrow served as a CBP Board Member up until his death. The naming of its business development program after Muldrow was highlighted in December at CBP’s 8th Annual Honor Roll held at Motor House on North Avenue. The Honor Roll is an annual celebration of the unique collaborative effort that is transforming Central Baltimore.

Over 100 people attended the annual event, which recognized Innovative Partnerships and paid tribute to Muldrow. During the event, honorees were highlighted and presented with certificates.

“Mr. Muldrow was such a dynamic man,” said Baltimore Times publisher and CEO Joy Bramble, who attended the event. “We had the honor and privilege of having him on our staff at The Baltimore Times until his passing. We were so blessed to have him, and miss him dearly.

“His contributions to minority-owned businesses in Maryland and beyond is immeasurable. I applaud Central Baltimore Partnership for establishing a living memorial in his honor that will help to continue his mission of assisting black businesses.”

Ellen Janes is executive director of Central Baltimore Partnership.

“Given Neil’s concern about minority businesses, particularly those in the



**Ackneil M. Muldrow, II**  
File Photo

Charles Street corridor, this seemed like the perfect way to keep his memory alive,” said Janes. “He was a doer, and this Fund will have a practical impact. I admired him. He always had relevant, up-to-date information that he was always willing to share. This is our way of saying thank you to him for all the help he gave us. We felt this living memorial would be very appropriate for him.”

CBP is a ten-year-old nonprofit with over 100 partners who together achieve a comprehensive strategy for community revival in 11 Central Baltimore neighborhoods. According to CBP, the Fund was created to foster small business development in Central Baltimore, and is expected to be up and running this year. When finalized, the Fund will offer businesses without the financial capacity to qualify for a traditional commercial loan to support upgrades and tenant build-out plans.

According to CBP, the organization is often approached for financial assistance to help their businesses locate in, expand and/or make interior improvements. On many occasions the extent of deterioration of commercial property is a barrier, or the conditions in a lease make tenant build-out plans prohibitively expensive.

Smaller businesses often cannot obtain a conventional loan to undertake the needed improvements to support improvement or expansion plans. CBP received feedback from property owners



**Residents from J. Van Story Branch, Sr. Housing Apartment complex received a certificate of recognition from Central Baltimore Partnership**

Photo by Ed Weiss

that prospective tenants rarely have the finances or expertise to build-out a commercial space—and the property owners do not have the capital to perform the work, nor can they charge a rent that would compensate them over time for their investment.

According to CBP, this creates a vicious cycle of perpetuating the lack of meaningful investment in their commercial districts. In the Fall of 2018, CBP commenced a work group that included their partners from the Baltimore Arts Realty Corporation, Baltimore Community Lending, Jubilee Baltimore, Latino Economic Development Corporation, and The Reinvestment Fund to help identify a financial assistance product that would foster small-scale commercial development in their commercial districts.

After many conversations with business owners, developers, community members, and stakeholders, the group recommended creating a business program that was modeled after the Southeast Community Development Corporation’s Tenant Fit Out Grant Program and the Great Street Initiative’s Retail Small Business Grant & Neighborhood Prosperity Fund in Washington D.C. Thus, The Neil Muldrow Business Development Fund was born.

“Neil was great at identifying barriers for minority-owned businesses, and coming

up with strategies to overcome those barriers,” said Janes. “That’s what the Neil Muldrow Business Development Fund is all about. It is not easy to start up a business, and it is very difficult to thrive in an area that has been neglected. Mr. Muldrow understood that.”

Muldrow retired from the Development Credit Fund in 2005, after serving for 22 years. During its existence, the Fund lent nearly \$40 million for working capital, equipment and machinery.

In addition to Central Baltimore Partnership, Muldrow served on numerous other boards, which included Bon Secour’s Hospital, and Walters Art Gallery.

“We want to keep Central Baltimore affordable, attractive, and a place where everyone can thrive,” said Janes. “Our mission is unique. We have a great model for other communities. They can learn from what we have done, and are trying to do. We are hopeful that The Neil Muldrow Business Development Fund will also follow this model and be something other communities can replicate.”

For more information about the Fund, email Jack Danna, Director of Commercial Revitalization at [jdanna@centralbaltimore.org](mailto:jdanna@centralbaltimore.org) or call 410-702-5193.



# Upcoming 'AfroPop' Docuseries Designed to Give Audience A Unique Experience

By **Demetrius Dillard**

Out of a dire need for more programming focusing specifically on the global black experience, a group of aspiring producers and filmmakers created "AfroPop: The Ultimate Cultural Exchange," to give viewers a unique portrait of black life other than what is widely portrayed in mainstream media.

AfroPoP is a public television show based in the U.S. featuring independent documentaries and short films about life, art and culture from throughout the African Diaspora which includes all of Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, South America, Europe, the U.S. and anywhere people of African descent have made a significant contribution to the culture. AfroPoP, according to its webpage, is the only series on American public television focusing solely on stories from the African Diaspora.

The independent documentary series is produced by Black Public Media (BPM), of which Leslie Fields-Cruz is executive director, distributed by American Public Television (APT), and partially sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

"Many complicated, opposing and controversial viewpoints are often presented about Africa. Perhaps because of this, Africa is one of the most fertile grounds in our modern age for new, fresh and exciting exploration," says an AfroPop webpage.

Angela Tucker, an Emmy-nominated producer, writer and director, will also play a crucial role in the production and dissemination of the content included in this season of AfroPop.

The documentary series co-executive producer is based in New Orleans and has an extensive background in film-making and producing.

Some of her most noteworthy directorial work includes: "Paper Chase," a teen comedy in pre-production with Gunpowder and Sky; "All Styles," a feature length dance film in post-production starring Fikshun ("So You Think You Can Dance"); "Black Folk Don't," a documentary web series featured in Time Magazine's "10 Ideas That Are Changing Your Life," and



**Angela Tucker, AfroPop co-executive producer**

Photo Credit: Mariama Shephard

(A)Sexual, a feature-length documentary that streamed on Netflix and Hulu for four years.

"Since I was young, I was always aware of there not being enough content that was about black life," Tucker said of what sparked her to interest in black filmmaking.

"I really just always think about myself as a young person and how I really longed to see people that looked like me. From seeing people that looked like me in all different types of situations, you know you're better able to understand yourself and the world that you live in."

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native went to film school at Columbia University, and from there entered into the film industry working initially at a social issues documentary production company, which is when she met Fields-Cruz, the founder of AfroPop.

"We just sort of had a shared interest in finding more out... about black media," Tucker said of the relationship that she and Fields-Cruz developed early on.

AfroPop is a documentary series in its 11th season. It will feature stories spotlighting the global black experience, and was created mainly to help bring stories of the African diaspora to American viewers.



**Danielle Brooks, AfroPop hostess**

Photo Credit: Alimah Boyd

Tucker saw the series as a means for providing further opportunities for black up-and-coming filmmakers.

"I think AfroPop allows or provides an opportunity for filmmakers to really grapple with complicated issues that are facing black people."

Each season has a different celebrity host. This season, Danielle Brooks will be the hostess and will be chiefly responsible for uniquely introducing the series' five episodes. Brooks was approached by Fields-Cruz and series director Duana Butler, and agreed to host without hesitation.

Previous hosts of AfroPoP have included Idris Elba; Anika Noni Rose; Wyatt Cenac; Gabourey Sidibe; Anthony Mackie; Yaya DaCosta; Jussie Smollett; Nikki Beharie; and Nicholas L. Ashe.

This season will premiere on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 21, 2019 at 8 p.m. on the WORLD Channel, which is offered on most cable television providers. New episodes will air every Monday through February 18, 2019.

Tucker, moreover, accentuated the necessity for cross-cultural understanding in regards to the enlightenment AfroPop will provide for those unfamiliar with black culture.

"And also for people who are not black, I think it's important for them to have a better understanding of different aspects of black life, just to understand us better."

Throughout AfroPop's offseason, episodes from this season will be re-broadcast on various channels. Tucker has been with AfroPop since 2011. She explained how the series has evolved, especially in its delivery to diverse audiences.

"One thing I would say is the internet has played a big role in letting more people have a better understanding [and] know how to find the series, and kind of raise the profile of the series," she said.

"I think every year more and more people know about that, and that only benefits not only the films but the filmmakers. And I think we've always been really fortunate to get talent who also kind of helped raise the profile of that."

The main topics covered in the upcoming season of AfroPop will include a look into the genocide in Rwanda, black politicians in the U.S., uprisings against law enforcement abuse of Congolese women and children, activism against apartheid in South Africa and black cultural identity.

The single greatest aspect of AfroPop, said Tucker, is that it sends a message that the black community is not monolithic.

"There's no one set of experiences that are singular to the black community," she said. "So what this season rolls out— you're able to really see that first hand by traveling all over the world."

Tucker said she expects the docuseries gives the black audience an experience it will never forget.

"I hope that [black America] not only gets to see different parts of the world, but also what different characters felt."

\*Viewers can find more information on the series, by visiting [www.blackpublicmedia.org](http://www.blackpublicmedia.org), <http://afropop.tv/> or following them on Twitter

(@BLKPublicMedia) or on Facebook. For viewing information, check local listings or [www.APTonline.org](http://www.APTonline.org).\*



## Ten local civil and human rights activists honored at 31st Annual MLK Jr. Awards Dinner



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**George Craig "Lassie" Belt**  
*Peace Maker Award*



**Patricia Cole**  
*Alan Hilliard Legum Civil Rights Award*



**Midshipman First Class Aaron J. Lewis**  
*Drum Major Award*



**M. Eve Hurwitz**  
*Alan Hilliard Legum Civil Rights Award*



**Alderman Marc Rodriguez**  
*Morris H. Blum Humanitarian Award*



**Najiba Hlemi**  
*We Share the Dream Award*



**Vivian Gist Spenser**  
*Drum Major Award*

Annapolis— The 31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Awards Reception and Dinner, the largest celebration of Dr. King's birthday in Anne Arundel County will be held Friday, January 18, 2019 at 6 p.m. at La Fontaine Bleue in Glen Burnie.

A highlight of the program will be the world premiere of the documentary film, "The Dream Revisited, Civil Rights in Perspective," directed by award-winning filmmakers and partners in Imagyn, Inc., Charles and May Love based in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The documentary pays tribute to Dr. King and discusses the struggle for civil rights that still exists to this day.

"I watched this beautiful film and was deeply moved by it," said Dr. William Ferris, former chair of the National

Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. "It is a powerful, timely reminder of how race continues to define our lives."

Addressing guests at the dinner and reception will be Anne Arundel County Executive Steuart Pittman; Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley; Congressman Anthony Brown; and Steven McAdams on behalf of Governor Larry Hogan. Other speakers will include St. John's College President Panayotis Kanelos and Captain Robert Dews of the United States Naval Academy. The Naval Academy Gospel Choir will also perform.

Designed to pay homage to the memory of Dr. King, the annual dinner honors local civil and human rights activists whose deeds, words and actions have helped keep his legacy alive. Proceeds



**Congressman C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger**  
*Dream Keepers Award*

from the event will be used to underwrite the annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception and the annual Dr. Martin



**Congressman John Sarbanes**  
*Dream Keepers Award*

Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner to ensure their continued existence in the future, honoring Dr. King.



# Brooks Long: A True Songster

By Imani Wj Wright

About five years ago, as I left my high school after a long day, I headed to the popular McDonald's across the street, like many other students who attended Carver Center. I was particularly fatigued and I could hardly wait for my dad to pick me up to take me home.

After sitting down, I must have dozed off when suddenly I heard someone say, "Long day?" I looked up chuckled a bit and groggily responded: "Yeah man."

After some back and forth small talk, we ended up speaking about my aspirations as a musical artist—I was 15 years old at the time. The man sat pensively for a couple seconds and asked: "Are you familiar with Brooks Long?" "No I am not," I responded.

He went on to talk to me about how talented this guy was and listed a few of his musical accomplishments, including a "Best Real R&B" award from one of Baltimore's publications. Later on that day, I did some more research on Long and I have been a fan ever since.

Long is a triple threat musically. His soulful and fervent voice is supplemented by his ability to seamlessly tell a story while strumming away at his guitar. And to add even more fuel to the fire his band, The Mad Dog No Good adds that extra funk to Long's distinguishable sound. When listening to them get down



*The artists who participated in Brooks Long's award winning interview/concert series "The Songster Series," at the Creative Alliance throughout 2018, ranged in age and style, which gave the show a dynamic and unbiased view of various musical forms.*

Courtesy Photo

you even get old school vibes. At times, I even heard an Otis Redding and Sam Cooke influence, especially on songs such as "Got Soul." In the hook Long sings, "Don't tell me you ain't got soul." The way the piece is instrumentally structured, and the method in which Long conveys his message will make you a believer. The intensity of the piece rises to Gospel levels that you would

find at the 9:30 a.m. service in church.

I guess they call it soul because you can feel it in your spirit!

Long is currently working on a project titled, The Songster part 2. Well.... he has been working on it, and will always be working on it. The project is a compilation of his music that he continuously adds to throughout his journey. When I asked when the project would be com-

pleted, Long broke it down plainly and simply, "I'll continue to add on to it until the day I'm gone." This spring, he expects to add three more songs to the series.

Along with Long's high energy, he also has a reserved and strategic side. Watching him during his award winning interview/concert series "The Songster Series," at the Creative Alliance throughout 2018, it was clear to see his intellect and his knowledge of the world of music. During the shows, he explained why he began the series and talked about the importance of highlighting "true songsters." The artists who participated in the series, ranged in age and style, which gave the show a dynamic and unbiased view of various musical forms.

Long told that he plans to pursue a graduate degree in Ethnomusicology and while in grad school his goal is to "highlight Baltimore Music Culture."

You can catch Brooks Long on Friday, January 25, 2019, when he will be opening up for Kentavious Jones at Creative Alliance!

For more information, visit <https://www.creativealliance.org/events/2018/kentavious-jones-album-release-w-brooks-long-mad-dog-no-good>. You can also follow Brooks Long on Facebook @ Brooks Long.

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# Anne Arundel County nonprofit assists NC veterans and uplifts local wounded warriors

By Andrea Blackstone

Many people believe that there is no such thing as coincidence. Scott Mallory just may agree. His legacy of service partially began with his late father, a linguist in the Air Force, who later became a disabled veteran. He was also later inspired by another veteran in 2010 to think about getting involved any way that the Mallory family could to support wounded warriors.

When asked by the veteran if he had ever visited the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (Walter Reed) located in Bethesda, Maryland, he responded that his father died there. What started out as a heartwarming mission to hand out iPods to wounded veterans at Walter Reed as a Christmas gesture has grown by leaps and bounds.

Mallory's Crownsville-based nonprofit, "Truckin 4 Troops" was incorporated in January 2011 and since that time, the nonprofit has been supporting wounded veterans from all branches with numerous needs, such as picking them up from the hospital for the first time with their family members after being discharged—in addition to helping with other requested tasks. Additionally, more feats have been accomplished.

All three of Scott and Lynne Mallory's children have volunteered with Truckin 4 Troops for the past eight years. When Hurricane Florence left a trail of damage in North Carolina, Truckin 4 Troops hit the road to help military families and veterans. Scott, Lynne, their oldest son, Travis Mallory, and Scott's twin brother, James Mallory, have all been helping to transport 16 campers to North Carolina. "Our latest mission that we have been very involved in was providing campers and supplies to Marine families at Camp Lejeune that lost their homes during the Florence hurricane in North Carolina," Scott said. "We have spent over \$100,000 in campers and another \$8,000 in fuel cost."

The proactive nonprofit founder is currently paying off a loan that enabled Truckin4Troops to purchase campers for military families and veterans. Leo's Vacation Center and Beckley's Camping



*(Left) James Brown (middle), an 84-year-old Korean War veteran who had been living in his van since he was affected by Hurricane Florence with Scott Mallory (right), founder of the Anne Arundel County-based nonprofit, Truckin 4 Troops. Mallory delivered a camper to Brown, after a volunteer (left) helped to locate veterans like Brown who were in need of a clean safe place to live. (Right) Disabled veteran Gabriel Fernandez (left), whose home was destroyed in Hurricane Florence was helped to get into a motorhome with his family in October, thanks to Truckin 4 Troops. Leo's Vacation Center and Beckley's Camping Center were extremely helpful to the nonprofit in obtaining trailers at wholesale costs and by donating campers.*



Center were extremely helpful in the process of donating campers, and giving Truckin4Troops used trailers at wholesale costs.

"This is a life passion of mine to give back to those who have given so much," Scott said. "Our mission is to support our military and serve our wounded veterans, every way we can!"

Truckin 4 Troops has the reputation of going the extra mile. For example, a veteran located a news story on Facebook, which led Gabriel Fernandez to reach out to Truckin 4 Troops. Assistance which was provided to improve his family's living situation, while their home is being rebuilt, reminded him that there are still good people who care.

"Rental homes, hotels, campers and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) trailers were scarce and impossible to get after Hurricane Florence. Our home is uninhabitable and

still undergoing repairs. Scott Mallory from Truckin 4 Troops picked me up in Sneads Ferry, N.C. and drove me to Maryland where the campers were more accessible. He opened up his home and introduced me to his family for a night stay over," said Fernandez, who mentioned that Truckin 4 Troops escorted him back home to make sure that he arrived safely in Sneads Ferry, N.C. in his motorhome. "Many people [or] businesses and even nonprofits [that] are supposed to help veterans turned me down. Truckin 4 Troops was there for me and my family, when we needed help."

Local volunteer, Bridgette Lundfelt began lending a hand with Truckin 4 Troops after looking for a way to give back to our military service men and women. Lundfelt says in addition to addressing a variety of needs, Truckin 4 Troops has given hope, healing and life

to our severely wounded veterans who could not see any hope from behind the hospital walls of Walter Reed.

"It doesn't matter how big or small the ask is, from making sure that every grave at the Crownsville Veteran Cemetery was covered with a [Christmas] wreath, to helping veterans or service members move, to fixing their vehicles to bringing supplies and campers to military families in N.C. devastated by Hurricane Florence, etc., Truckin4Troops is there for our military community," Lundfelt said.

For more information about Truckin 4 Troops or to make a financial donation, visit: [www.truckin4troops.net](http://www.truckin4troops.net). To donate gently used living room, bedroom or dining room furniture, email: [truckin4troops@gmail.com](mailto:truckin4troops@gmail.com) if you are located in or near Anne Arundel County.

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## Applications open for scholarships for minority students in chemical sciences

Washington, D.C.— The American Chemical Society (ACS) Scholars Program is offering renewable scholarships of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per year for African-American, Hispanic and Native American students entering chemistry-related fields. Qualified students may be studying at community colleges or four-year institutions. Graduating high school seniors and college freshmen, sophomores and juniors may apply. Eligible majors include but are not limited to chemistry, materials science, toxicology, biochemistry, chemical engineering and chemical technology. In addition to providing financial support the ACS Scholars Program pairs students with academic and professional mentors to give them the opportunity to learn from those who have experienced similar challenges related to ethnicity. These relationships can span entire careers. Scholarship applications will be accepted online at the ACS Scholars Program website [www.acs.org/scholars](http://www.acs.org/scholars) through March 1, 2019, for the academic year 2019-20. Additional information is available by calling 1-800-227-5558, extension 6250, or by emailing [scholars@acs.org](mailto:scholars@acs.org). The Scholars program, now in its 24th year, aims to build awareness of the value and rewards associated with careers in chemistry and to help students acquire the skills and credentials needed for success. Nearly 1,700 ACS Scholars have graduated with a bachelor's degree in the chemical sciences, and a substantial number have gone on to graduate school and/or entered the workforce in their field.

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## Vernier Software & Technology now accepting applications for 2019 Engineering Contest

*Middle school, high school, and college educators encouraged to apply for chance to win the \$5,500 prize*

Beaverton, Oregon— Vernier Software & Technology is accepting applications for its 2019 Engineering Contest. This annual contest recognizes one middle school, high school, or college educator with a prize valued at \$5,500 for innovatively using Vernier technology to introduce engineering concepts or practices to their students.

“Using Vernier sensors with Scratch to introduce coding, to integrating sensors with Arduino™, or creating sensor-controlled LEGO® robots are just several ways instructors can incorporate hands-on technology into their engineering instruction,” said John Wheeler, CEO of Vernier Software & Technology. “The Vernier Engineering Contest provides a great way for educators to highlight their best practices while vying for cash and technology prizes.”

Applications for the Vernier Engineering Contest are due by February 15, 2019, and the winner will be announced on the Vernier website and Facebook

page in March. To enter, educators must complete an online application and produce a video showcasing the entry, the Vernier technology used, and the engineering concepts addressed. The Vernier sensors may be used in conjunction with any Vernier software titles or with Arduino®, LEGO®, Scratch, LabVIEW™, or other system.

Applications will be judged by a panel of Vernier experts based on innovation, engineering objectives, and the ease by which other instructors can replicate the project. One winner will receive \$1,000 in cash, \$3,000 in Vernier technology, and \$1,500 toward expenses to attend the 2019 National Science Teachers’ Association (NSTA) STEM conference or the 2019 American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference.

“Winning the Vernier Engineering Contest in 2015 kick-started our engineering program here at our school,” said Tate Rector, a teacher at Beebe Junior High in Arkansas. “While my 7th and 8th grade students used to think it was just fun or cool to see things explode or fly, evaluation of the data we collect using Vernier technology has helped them see the reason why we do the experiments.”

For complete information on the 2019 Vernier Engineering Contest and to submit an application, visit <https://www.vernier.com/grants/engineering/>.

## Celebrate the New Year with 10 free flowering trees or five free Crapemyrtles from the Arbor Day Foundation

Nebraska City, NE— Local residents can ring in the New Year with 10 free flowering trees by joining the Arbor Day Foundation any time during January 2019.

By becoming a part of the nonprofit Arbor Day Foundation, new members will receive 10 free flowering trees or five crapemyrtles.

The flowering trees include: two Sargent crabapples, three American redbuds, two Washington hawthorns and three white flowering dogwoods.

“These stunning trees will beautify your home with lovely flowers of pink, yellow and white colors,” said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. “These trees are perfect for large and small spaces.”

The free trees are part of the Foundation’s Trees for America campaign and will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting, between February 1 and May 31, 2019 with enclosed planting instructions. The 6- to 12-inch tall trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Members will also receive a subscription to the Foundation’s bimonthly publication, Arbor Day, and The Tree Book, which includes information about tree planting and care. To become a member of the Foundation and to receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution by January 31, 2019 to:

Ten Flowering Trees  
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## Accepting Nominations for Maryland Residents

The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Inc. (MSCHF) is seeking nominations of Maryland residents, 65 years of age or older, who as active volunteers (since age 65) have made outstanding contributions to improve the lives of others in the community. Nominations are accepted from now until April 8, 2019.

Our Selection Committee reviews nominations and selects up to 50 qualified nominees to be presented to the MSCHF Board for approval. Approved nominees are inducted into The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame at our annual Awards Luncheon held in October.

The nomination form and specific details for eligibility are available online at: [www.msCHF.org](http://www.msCHF.org) or by emailing [msCHF.mail@verizon.net](mailto:msCHF.mail@verizon.net) or calling 410-828-5852.

Many seniors are dedicating their golden years to making contributions to society and helping others as volunteers. Help us to celebrate their accomplishments. Nominations must be received by April 8, 2019.



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