

Legislative Newsletter



“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.” --Thomas Jefferson

February 21, 2019

Legislative Update



Greetings! Last week was busy but things are moving right along in Annapolis. On Friday, the Baltimore County House Delegation heard from our partners in higher education from the Community College

of Baltimore County, Towson University, and UMBC. Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, president of CCBC, updated legislators and made some requests for support – things like support on a workforce readiness grant and financial support for access for students with disabilities.

As has been the norm under Dr. Kurtinitis’s leadership, the state of our community college system is strong. CCBC is rated one of the top 100 community colleges in the country, and for good reason. They continue to be the state leader in workplace education, with cybersecurity and health at the forefront. They have also consistently been there for our veterans, serving approximately 2,500 veterans just last year.

“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

“Education is neither Eastern nor Western, it is human.”

— Malala Yousafzai,

“Education consists mainly of what we have unlearned.”

— Mark Twain, Notebook



Baltimore County House Delegation with Dr. Kim Schatzel, Dr. Freeman A Hrabowski III, Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis

One of the best programs to be implemented in recent years is the Baltimore County College Promise scholarship program, which helped send 359 students to college last year. The program operates as a “last dollar in” scholarship, making up the difference in cost after applying for all other financial aid and grants. The College Promise program is growing statewide, and Governor Hogan has expressed an interest in a College Promise Plus program, which would essentially keep that deal intact for students who move on to partnering universities like UMBC and Towson.

We in Baltimore County are blessed to have such an incredible group of higher education facilities and leadership of Dr. Freeman A Hrabowski III, Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis, and Dr. Kim Schatzel. We are even more blessed that they understand they play a vital role in education, employment, and more.



*Dr. Kim Schatzel, Dr. Freeman A Hrabowski III,
Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis (left to right)*

We also discussed and voted on HB217, which authorizes community associations to seek judicial relief for nuisance abatement in the county. Nuisance properties have been an issue on the east side of the county, and this bill made it out of our delegation. From there we moved on to HB449, which would allow Baltimore County government to implement impact fees on developers. I voted yes on this piece of legislation, which is known as “enabling” legislation. It basically just ensures County Executive Olszewski and the County Council have all the tools they need at their disposal.

This week I also moved to cross-file SB677, which aims to help out deaf or hearing impaired students and parents of deaf or hearing impaired students. This bill Best,

was submitted in the Senate by Senator Chris West and would require the Hearing Aid Loan Bank Program in the State Department of Education to lend certain videos and certain downloadable resources to the parents of hearing-impaired students. It would also exempt parents or guardians of deaf or hard of hearing children from paying tuition for certain courses at public institutions of higher education. This is a strong bill that looks to take care of some of those who need it most and I’m proud to introduce it in the House of Delegates.



Scholarship Program

Scholarship

Students looking to continue their education after high school should apply for the Maryland Legislative District 8 Scholarship. This year, Delegates Bromwell, Boteler and I will be awarding our scholarship as a team, so you only need to apply once. Applications must be submitted by April 28, and applicants must reside in District 8 to qualify. The application for the scholarship can be found [here](#).

Best,

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