

For Immediate Release  
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## **MOST NETWORK ESTABLISHES STATEWIDE COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS ADVISORY BOARD**

### ***Board Seeks to Advance Post-Secondary Education Opportunities for Maryland Students***

The Maryland Out of School Time Network has created a statewide advisory board to promote the expansion of college and career readiness resources for students across the state. The board, which consists of stakeholders representing the state's diverse demographic and regional differences, includes members drawn from state and local education agencies, the business community, and the non-profit sector. All of whom will play active roles in the decision-making process.

#### **Members of the board include:**

Dr. Mark S. Brown – Principal at Phoenix Academy  
Nona Carroll – Chief Strategy Officer at the Md. Business Roundtable for Education  
Natalie Dixon – Associate VP and Education Program Officer at United Way Central Md.  
Dr. Marquis Dwarté – Director of School Support at Anne Arundel County Public Schools  
Dr. Brenda James – Director of CASA at Morgan State University  
E. L. Mitzel, Jr. – Executive Director at the office of Leadership Development and School Improvement, MSDE  
Dinorah Olmos – Executive Director at the Latino Education Advancement Fund  
Jennifer Sproul – President of MCCEI  
Kadain Wallace – IEP Coordinator at the Arrow Center for Education-Riverside

The foundation of the advisory board builds on the early successes of the MOST Network's college and career readiness initiatives. The College & Career Readiness Toolkit has been distributed to dozens of schools, families, and expanded learning organizations since its publication in February of this year, while the College & Career Readiness Ambassadors program has created a cohort of knowledgeable trainers to guide educators in implementing the lessons found within the Toolkit.

The advisory board adds an essential administrative component to these programs, allowing for the strategic coordination necessary to offer high-quality, accessible resources to students. Providing students with additional support as they make the critical transition from school to work will undoubtedly aid in the alleviation of poverty and the acquisition of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills among Maryland's young people.

*The Maryland Out of School Time Network (MOST) is a statewide youth development organization, dedicated to more and better opportunities in the out of school hours for all of Maryland's young people. MOST is the state affiliate to the National Afterschool Association, the voice of the out-of-school time profession and one of the 50 Statewide Afterschool Networks funded by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.*