



OFFICE OF EQUITY & INCLUSION COMMUNIQUE

Director's Greetings

I am pleased to bring you this Special Edition on *WOMEN'S HISTORY* to commemorate the vital roles we have in shaping American history. While we should celebrate the achievements of women year-round, this dedicated month marks special moments in which historical



accomplishments, local and worldwide, emphasize our greatness.

This year's theme, "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories," encourages the recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling.

Purple, green and white are the colors of International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women on March 8—purple signifies justice and dignity, and being loyal to the cause; green symbolizes hope, new beginnings, and growth; and white represents freedom from immorality.

Unbeknown to me then, my story began taking shape when I was 12-years-old. My mother said, "*Societal norms are not a part of your DNA, and your intellect and abilities will be called into question because you are a petite black girl. But believe, with no uncertainty, that you belong in every room you walk in and are fully qualified for every role you pursue.*" I have carried those words of female empowerment and womenomics* throughout my evolving public service career.

We all know women are the *first* architects of society—game changers— influencers—trailblazers—visionaries—innovators—who can become even stronger, together. When society eradicates glass ceilings, the sky will become our limit.

Let's go inside...

Gail V. Tucker

Director, Office of Equity & Inclusion



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On January 10, 1921, the members of a new police force began training at Saunders Range in Glen Burnie. Governor Albert Ritchie said he was creating “a State Police force” with statewide authority dedicated to fighting crime across Maryland. One month later, Governor Ritchie presided over the graduation of the first 35 members of the new Maryland State Police, all of whom were men.

Fast forward to 1974 when six females entered the Academy. You might say they broke the gender barrier 53 years after that first class. These courageous women took their place at the head of a long line of distinguished fellow female troopers who would build a legacy. On the Maryland State Police YouTube Channel, these women reminisce in a video about the pact they made with each other to make it through the Academy, and they did. They were the original trailblazers who created a path for today’s woman in the police profession.

In 1975, Trooper *Jacqueline Ringgold* and Trooper *Maria Barnett* became the first African American women to join the ranks. In 1982, Trooper *Maryann Pang* became the first Asian female trooper. Lieutenant Colonel *Cynthia Smith* became the first female commissioned officer in 1993. Four years later, she reached yet another milestone becoming the Department’s first female bureau chief. We are a police department that values our history.



Many dedicated female members of this Department have worn our uniform or worked in civilian support. Each of them has made their contribution to not only our Department, but to the safety and well-being of the people of Maryland.

In celebration of **Women’s History Month**, we honor the legacy of the Maryland State Police women who have led the way and changed the course of our history. We reflect on their courage and their tenacity. With almost 54 years of service to the citizens of this state, Ms. *Ida Williams* is a prime example. She holds the record as one of the longest serving civilians in the Department. She is also the first African American civilian director and the first female director.

It is important to remember the role all of these women have played in our Department. I am proud to celebrate and honor their contributions and I salute each one, both sworn and civilian, who has ever been a part of this cadre of professionals known as Maryland’s finest.

Colonel Roland L. Butler, Jr.
Acting Superintendent

LOCAL SHEROES

C. *Sylvia Brown* uses her success to support children, schools, the arts, and the most needy. Through the Eddie C. and C. Sylvia Brown Family Foundation, Brown supports charitable groups addressing needs, in Baltimore, in the areas of health, the arts, and K-12 education. In February 2019, Brown and her husband gave \$3.5 million to endow the position of chief curator—one of the few curatorial positions in the United States named for an African American couple.

From 1991 to 2011, Dr. *Nancy S. Grasmick*, dubbed “First Lady of Education,” served as Maryland’s first female state superintendent of schools. We both are proud Western High School alumnae – the oldest public *all-female* high school in the U.S.

Since 2019, *Adrienne Alease Jones*, has served as the 107th Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, and the first African-American and first woman to serve in that position. Speaker Jones has been a member of House of Delegates since October 1997.

After the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, Dr. *Enolia P. McMillan* became one of the first Black teachers in a white school in Maryland. Dr. McMillan was also the first female president of the NAACP. During her time as NAACP president, she helped move the national office to Baltimore City.

Aruna Miller, assumed office in January 2023, is the tenth Lieutenant Governor for Maryland. Lt. Governor Miller is the first South Asian female elected lieutenant governor in the U.S., as well as the first immigrant to hold statewide office in Maryland.

HERSTORY

MSP VISIONARIES

Since its inception in 1921, MSP's first six women troopers broke barriers in June 1974—changing the optics of “Maryland’s Finest”

Jane E. Denby

Virginia F. Kincaid (Lewis)

Jane Diane Kulp

Margaret L. Scott (Edge)

Susan V. Topper

Donna L. Whiting

In 2020, **Kamala Devi Harris**, a politician and attorney, became the 49th vice president, the highest-ranking female official in the U.S. history, as well as the first Black and first Asian American vice president.

Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in June 2022, and following a contentious confirmation, she became the first Black woman to be nominated and serve as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Madam C.J. Walker was a Black entrepreneur who became America’s first female self-made millionaire—specializing in beauty and haircare.

From suffragists like **Susan B. Anthony** and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** fighting for women’s right to vote, to the rise of feminism—these women were champions of temperance, the rights of labor, and equal pay for equal work.

Born as Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis, **Maya Angelou** was an American memoirist, popular poet, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and is credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years.

* **WOMENOMICS** - the concept that women's economic advancement can improve the global economy as a whole, and remove pay disparity and inequities.

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Acting Superintendent



Wes Moore
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Aruna Miller
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