

# *2023 Mid-Atlantic Environmental Literacy Summit*



**November 1, 2023  
9:00am-3:30pm  
Bowie State University**



***Preparing our Schools for a Changing Landscape***

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## Acknowledgements

*The Chesapeake Bay Program would like to extend its gratitude to NOAA and Maryland Department of Natural Resources for hosting this year's Summit. We would also like to thank the Summit planning committee for their hard work and ongoing dedication to environmental literacy in the region: Tom Ackerman, Krysta Hougan- Ryall, Jimmy Looper, Bart Merrick, Sandi Olek, Britt Slattery Shannon Sprague, Emily Stransky, Elise Trelegan, Stephanie Tuckfield, and Olivia Wisner. A huge thank you also goes out to the members of the Chesapeake Bay Program Education Workgroup and all of the speakers, session organizers, and notetakers. We could not have done it without you.*



# Bowie State University & Event Information

## Campus Map

**Address:** 14000 Jericho Park Rd, Bowie, MD 20715

**Marc Train:** Penn Line – Bowie State Stop

**Parking:** Lots O, L, N

**Electric Charging Stations:** Lots I, G, S & K

**Meeting Location:** Student Center– Ballroom

**Check in:** 8:15–9:00 am

**Event start:** 9:00 am



## Summit Themes

This Summit will explore how school districts can help prepare their schools and students for a changing climate through the lens of two themes:

**Theme 1:** *Building Green Career Pathways* will showcase and discuss innovative programs that are developing career pathways to support emerging workforce needs related to sustainability.

**Theme 2:** *High Impact Actions for Sustainable Schools* will define and explore significant actions schools and school districts can take to mitigate impact and adapt to the realities of a changing climate.

## Detailed Agenda & Session Descriptions



9:00 **Welcome**

**Shannon Sprague**, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

**Jabari Walker**, Bowie State University

**Secretary Josh Kurtz**, MD Department of Natural Resources

**Dr. Monica Goldson**, MD State Board of Education

9:30 **Changing Conditions in the Chesapeake Bay Region**

Hear from a NOAA climate scientist about current and expected changes in the region in response to a changing climate.

**Tom Di Liberto**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

9:45 **Prince George's County Panel**

Learn about new programs and policies in Prince George's County, including climate action plans for both the county and the school district.

**Donald Belle**, Prince George's County Public Schools

**Jean-Paul Cadet**, Prince George's County Public Schools

**Adriana Caldarelli**, Prince George's County Department of Environment

10:20 **BREAK**

## 10:30 Theme 1: Building Green Career Pathways

### Introduction

Explore the drivers behind career and workforce programming that is designed to help learners develop the skills and competencies necessary to respond to a changing climate and prepare for life-sustaining careers. Learn more about opportunities for the environmental literacy community to engage with and support this programming.

**Jonathan Wickert**, Delaware Department of Education

**Luke Rhine**, U.S. Dept of Education

### Career Programming Panel

Delve into examples of career programming that support a spectrum of learners in developing the skills and competencies needed to engage with both current and emerging career opportunities.



**Dan Hinderliter:** [Delaware Pathways](#)

**Mary C. Keller:** [Maryland Works for Wind](#)

**Mike Piaskowski:** [Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps](#)

### Supporting Your Vision with Resources

Take a brief look at national funding opportunities available to support career programming with an emphasis on green career pathways.

**Dan Hinderliter**, Advance CTE

**Frank Niepold**, NOAA

### Breakout Discussion

Develop a shared understanding of current green career pathways within your state and discuss opportunities for supporting the development of a workforce that has the skills and competencies necessary to address climate change and related challenges.

## 12:00 Networking Lunch

Please consider sitting with someone from outside your state.

## 12:45 **Theme 2: High-Impact Actions for Sustainable Schools**

### **Introduction**

Explore the highest impact actions school districts can take to address the impacts of a changing climate.

**Anisa Heming**, US Green Building Council

### **District Examples Panel**

Learn from school districts in our region about how they are prioritizing and advancing high impact actions for sustainable schools.



**Jeanne Jabara**, Prince William County Public Schools

**Hope Watts**, Lynchburg City Public Schools

**Kelley Holocker**, Baltimore County Public Schools

**Eddie Wilson**, Woodland Hills School District

### **Supporting Your Vision with Resources**

Explore the many resources and funding opportunities available to advance high impact actions in schools and school districts.

**Andrea Suarez Falken**, US Department of Education

### **Breakout Discussion**

Develop a shared understanding of how decisions are made within your state related to school construction and renovation, food waste reduction, and transportation and identify strategic areas for influencing more high impact actions.

*We invite you to take a break as needed as you transition to or from your breakout discussion.*

## **Looking Forward:**

### **2:15 Beyond 2025: The Future of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement**

Learn about the steps partners are taking to explore the future of the Chesapeake Bay Program and opportunities for you to provide input to this work.

**Anna Killius**, Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission

### **2:30 Breakout Discussion**

Reflect on how green career pathways and high impact sustainable school actions could inform the direction of the environmental literacy efforts of the Chesapeake Bay Program.

### **3:00 Report Outs & Next Steps**

### **3:30 Adjourn**

Thank you so much for joining us for the Summit. We appreciate your time and hope that you are inspired to take action to support our schools and students!

## Speaker Biographies

### Josh Kurtz

#### [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#)

Josh Kurtz is a lifelong outdoor enthusiast and conservationist, passionate about the beauty of our state and all the resources it has to offer.

Under the Moore/Miller Administration, Secretary Kurtz leads teams across the state, working to improve water quality and bay resilience, restore and conserve forested land, expand access to our state parks, monitor and slow the spread of invasive species, and ensure the state maintains sustainable fisheries.



Secretary Kurtz previously served as the Maryland Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and has also served as the Policy and Government Relations Director for The Nature Conservancy in Maryland, where he created and led advocacy campaigns leveraging strong relationships with partners and industry leaders to build support for policies regarding conservation and climate change in both the Maryland General Assembly and the DC City Council.

Secretary Kurtz lives in Crownsville, Maryland with his wife, Samantha, and they are expecting their first child at the end of April. He holds a master's degree in public policy from George Mason University and a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Delaware.



### Dr. Monica Goldson

#### [Maryland State Board of Education](#)

Dr. Monica Goldson most recently served as the Chief Executive Officer for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). Student-led and community-focused, she is driven to propel scholars to their highest potential, proudly working in the same school system where she was educated.

A visionary leader, Dr. Goldson recognized the impact of increasing student access to dual enrollment college credit years before state legislation granted free access to such programs. Under her leadership, PGCPS gained national recognition from The College Board for higher passing rates on Advanced Placement exams. Dr. Goldson created pipelines to enhance access to the county's premier Science and Technology specialty program and served alongside the Prince George's County Government's Transforming Neighborhood Initiative @ Schools team.

Dr. Goldson holds degrees from three HBCUs: a bachelor's in Mathematics from Florida A&M University, master's in Elementary and Secondary School Administration from Bowie State University, and doctorate in Educational Administration and Policy from Howard University. Her two adult sons are both graduates of Prince George's County Public Schools.





**Jabari Walker**  
[Bowie State University](#)

Jabari Walker is a recent recipient of the Visionary Award from the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), a public-private partnership that promotes the use of clean, alternative fuels created by the Department of Energy (DOE). The Visionary Award is given in recognition of “exceptional leadership achievement in clean energy and clean transportation; and a strong commitment to new and emerging technologies, clean energy and clean transportation goals, policies, and procedures.”

Jabari has close to 15 years of professional experience within the University of System of Maryland. He currently serves as Bowie State’s Sustainability and Energy Coordinator where he is Chair of the University Sustainability Committee, founder and advisor to the BSU Green Ambassadors student group, and a veteran member of the BSU Staff Council Executive Board. He has spearheaded a variety of sustainability initiatives on campus including a solar bus stop, a fruit tree orchard, the creation of the Climate Career Expo which connects students with green-job employers, and recently getting the campus ‘tree designated campus’.

In addition to his on-campus work, Jabari serves as the co-chair of the Education, Communication and Outreach Workgroup of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change, and as a Board member of the External Advisory Board of the Maryland Sea Grant. He is also a charter member of the HBCU/MSI Chesapeake Bay Summit steering committee and a charter member of the Intersectional Climate Action Leaders Working Group.

Jabari holds a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina Central University and a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Hampton University.

**Tom Di Liberto**  
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

Tom Di Liberto is a passionate Climate Scientist/Meteorologist and science educator who is as equally comfortable standing on stage talking science to large and diverse groups as handling large datasets, analyzing complex topics, and managing others in mutual pursuits. He is currently a Public Affairs specialist and climate scientist at NOAA’s Office of Communications in the Office of the Undersecretary. Previously, Tom served as science writer and communicator for NOAA’s Climate.gov and a meteorologist and spokesperson for NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center.



Tom has repeatedly served as the Master of Ceremony at the Department of State’s US Center at United Nations Climate Change Conference and received a Meritorious Honor Award in 2022 for his work at the US Center. He was also nominated for a regional Emmy for his science communication work and was declared America’s First Scientist Idol. Tom is also an improv comedian.

Tom holds a master’s degree in atmospheric science from Stony Brook University and bachelor’s degree in atmospheric science from Cornell University.

## Luke Rhine

### [U.S. Department of Education](#)

Luke Rhine is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at the U.S. Department of Education. He joins the Biden-Harris Administration after most recently serving as the Associate Secretary of Workforce Support for the Delaware Department of Education. His work has supported the K-12, higher education, and the workforce systems to establish policy, scale effective practices, and develop solutions that connect youth and adults with good jobs that provide a living wage.



Previously, Luke was a Program Specialist in CTE and STEM with the Maryland State Department of Education. In addition, he also gained experience working as a high school CTE teacher and middle school teacher. Luke has received several state and national awards for educational leadership, was a Fulbright scholar, and has served as an advisor to President Biden's education transition team and as a contributor to New York City Mayor Eric Adams's education transition team. Luke earned his bachelor's degree from California University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Science Degree in Education from Stockton University.



## Jon Wickert

### [Delaware Department of Education](#)

Jon Wickert is the Director of Career and Technical Education and STEM Initiatives for the Delaware Department of Education. Jon has a long list of priorities for the Department, including equitable updates of statewide programs of study, middle grades CTE expansion, and the incorporation of environmental literacy across CTE pathways. Jon has been with the agency for multiple years; prior to becoming State CTE Director, Jon was the Chief of Interpretation for Delaware State Parks. Jon has a Doctorate of Education in curriculum, instruction and assessment from Walden University.

He earned both a master's degree in education and a bachelor's degree in social science and secondary education from Frostburg University. Jon and his wife, Sinead, have a 10 year old son named Sean. They love hiking, camping, kayaking, and enjoying the outdoors as much as possible.

## **Anisa Heming**

### **[Director, Center for Green Schools- U.S. Green Building Council](#)**

Anisa (Baldwin Metzger) Heming is director of the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council. She began her work with USGBC ten years ago in New Orleans, hired to assist with rebuilding the schools after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During her two years with the city's Recovery School District, she established green design and construction standards, received an EPA grant to hire an indoor air quality manager for the schools, completed a public-private partnership to install solar PV on school roofs, began a recycling pilot program, and laid the foundation for the district's energy management program. She later brought this experience to Washington, D.C. to begin the nation's first network of school district sustainability staff and founded the Green Schools Fellowship Program to place and train sustainability directors in school districts.



Anisa's areas of expertise include sustainability policy and implementation, school district operations, the application of green building rating systems, and disaster resilience and planning (particularly, in a schools context). In 2014, Anisa was named in a list of the "Most Powerful Women in Sustainability" by Green Building and Design Magazine. She is a Little Rock native and holds a B.S. in Architecture from Washington University in St. Louis and an M. Arch. from the University of Washington in Seattle.



## **Andrea Suarez Falken**

### **[U.S. Department of Education](#)**

Andrea Suarez Falken serves as Special Advisor for Infrastructure and Sustainability at the U.S. Department of Education, which includes overseeing the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition award. This award is a communications and outreach tool responding to a widely supported public request that Falken built from the ground up, beginning in 2011. Beyond the recognition award, Falken has come to lead the Department on matters related to school environment, sustainability, and infrastructure.

Falken began her federal tenure as a Presidential Management Fellow within the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis. Early in her career, she taught and translated languages in France and Spain and worked in non profit international education. She earned both of her degrees — a master's from Georgetown University and a bachelor's from Colgate University — with high honors. Since 2014, the Washington, D.C. native has overseen the Department's environment, sustainability, and infrastructure portfolio from her home in Colorado, where her household includes two active boys who are intrigued by the natural world. In her spare time, she enjoys biking, running, skiing, swimming, and piano playing.

## Anna Killius

### [Chesapeake Bay Commission](#)

Anna Killius joined the Commission in 2023 as Executive Director. She previously served as Director of Advocacy for the James River Association and legislative counsel for Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland, where she advanced his leadership as co-chair of the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force.



Anna has held appointments to the Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advisory Committee and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. She is a 2021 graduate of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. She received a juris doctor degree from William and Mary Law School, where she was a member of the first class of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center, and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Dallas with a concentration in Applied Mathematics.

The daughter of a naval officer and an elementary mathematics coach, Anna has enjoyed living and learning in communities throughout the Bay watershed and is proud to always call the Chesapeake home.

## Facilitators

**Tom Ackerman**, Vice President for Education, [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#)

**Kristen Keim**, Program Coordinator; [Generation 180](#)

**Bart Merrick**, Education Coordinator, [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#)

**Sandi Olek**, Acting Associate Director, MD Forest Service, [MD Project Green Classrooms](#)

**Shannon Sprague**, Acting Deputy Director, [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#)

**Elise Trelegan**, Chesapeake B-WET Program Coordinator, [NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office](#)

**Olivia Wisner**, Watershed Education Specialist, [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#)

## Theme 1: Building Green Career Pathways- Breakout Facilitators

**Bill Forrester**, Coordinator of School Support, [MD State Dept of Education](#)

**Zachary Carey**, Director of Science, [MD State Dept of Education](#)

**Jon Wickert**, Director of Career and Technical Education & STEM Initiatives, [DE Dept of Education](#)

**Christen Miller**, Visitor Experience Director, [VA State Parks](#)

**Judd Pittman**, Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, [PA Department of Education](#)

**Chris Kemmerer**, Education and Interpretation Section Chief, [PA State Parks](#)

**Candice Mott**, CTE Performance Accountability Coordinator, [DC Ofc of the State Supt. of Education](#)

**Erica Skorlinski**, STEAM TAC Specialist, [West Virginia University](#)

## Theme 2: High Impact Action for Sustainable Schools- Breakout Facilitators

**Laura Collard**, Executive Director, [MAEOE](#)

**Olivia Wisner**, Watershed Education Specialist, [MD Department of Natural Resources](#)

**David Christopher**, Marine Education Specialist, [DE Sea Grant](#)

**Jeanne Jabara**, Energy Education Coordinator, [Prince Williams County Public Schools](#)

**Vijay Ramnarian**, Director Support Services, [VA Department of Education](#)

**Tammie Peffer**, Environment & Ecology Curriculum Advisor, [PA Department of Education](#)

**Chris Kemmerer**, Education and Interpretation Section Chief, [PA State Parks](#)

**Grace Manubay**, Environmental Literacy Specialist, [DC Ofc of the State Supt. of Education](#)

**Victoria Lusk**, Watershed Education Coordinator, [Cacapon Institute](#)

## Looking Forward: Driving Forces and Next Steps- Breakout Facilitators

**Sandi Olek**, Acting Associate Director, MD Forest Service, [MD Project Green Classrooms](#)

**David Christopher**, Marine Education Specialist, [DE Sea Grant](#)

**Christen Miller**, Visitor Experience Director, [VA State Parks](#)

**Tammie Peffer**, Environment & Ecology Curriculum Advisor, [PA Department of Education](#)

**Grace Manubay**, Environmental Literacy Specialist, [DC Ofc of the State Supt. of Education](#)

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