



MOAAME NEWS

Quarterly newsletter:
April- June 2025

MOAAME and MOCFS Join Together for the First “Beyond the Bell College Tour”

BY KEIVON PATTERSON

MOAAME, alongside MOCFS staff, organized an inspiring and educational tour for Connect 2 Success youth and other inner-city students. This 2-day event included guided visits to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park.

The tour was designed to broaden horizons and expose students to higher education opportunities while deepening their understanding of African American history and heritage. At UMES, students had the chance to explore the campus, speak with current students and faculty, and learn about the admissions process, financial aid, and academic programs. Many youth expressed excitement and newfound motivation about pursuing a college education.

The second part of the journey took students to the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, where they walked through history and learned about Tubman's courageous efforts to lead enslaved people to freedom. Through interactive exhibits and storytelling, the students gained a greater appreciation for the legacy of resilience and leadership that continues to inspire generations.

This powerful experience left students feeling empowered, informed, and motivated to dream beyond the boundaries of their current circumstances. Both MOAAME and MOCFS are committed to continuing this initiative and expanding opportunities for Baltimore youth to explore pathways to success through education, culture, and community engagement.



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MOAAME Hosts Panel on Squeegee Collaborative's National Impact

The Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME) recently held a powerful panel discussion highlighting the growing influence of its innovative Squeegee Collaborative—a community-driven initiative aimed at supporting opportunity youth through engagement, mentorship, and workforce pathways.

The panel featured MOAAME staff, MOAAME youth advocate Jerome Holloway, and community and youth analyst who discussed how MOAAME's approach to addressing the root causes of youth street engagement is now inspiring similar efforts beyond Baltimore. One notable example is Macon, Georgia, where city officials have begun adapting elements of the Squeegee Collaborative model to support their own youth engagement programs.

Panelists spoke on the importance of community voice, collaboration between city agencies, and creating real opportunities for youth to thrive. Jerome Holloway shared his story about how MOAAME helped him, along with conversations he's had with friends who still squeegee, saying, "I just want them to know that squeegeeing is not the only thing in life." The discussion underscored MOAAME's commitment to turning local challenges into national blueprints for change.

As more cities look to Baltimore for insight, MOAAME's work continues to stand as a leading example of how cities can address complex social issues with compassion, innovation, and results.



Collaborative Rudos: MOAAME honors C2S Youth with Spring Fling Appreciation Celebration

BY KEIVON PATTERSON



The Mayor's Office of African American Male Engagement (MOAAME) wrapped up the school year with joy and appreciation by hosting a vibrant Spring Fling celebration for students in its Connect 2 Success program. The event honored the hard work, growth, and dedication of youth who participated in programming throughout the academic year.

Held as both a celebration and a show of gratitude, the Spring Fling featured food, music, games, and special recognitions. MOAAME staff took the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of students who demonstrated resilience, leadership, and commitment to their personal development through workshops, community service, and mentorship.

"We're proud of each and every student who showed up and stayed committed this year," said Deputy Mayor J.D. Merrill. "This celebration is our way of saying thank you and reminding them that their effort does not go unnoticed."

As the Connect 2 Success program continues to grow, MOAAME remains committed to creating opportunities that empower youth, uplift communities, and build a strong foundation for future achievement.

CONNECT 2 SUCCESS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



D. Woodson is our Connect 2 Success Student Spotlight

- **Year round youth worker
through MOAAME**
- **4.0 GPA**
- **Student Athlete**
- **Upcoming Freshmen at
University of Maryland Eastern
Shore**



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