



SPRING 2017

A Publication of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

CONVENE CULTURE PARTNERSHIPS
ANALYSIS **GOALS** STAKEHOLDER **VISION**
STRATEGIC PLANNING
MISSION STUDENTS ADVOCATE **EDUCATION**
ORGANIZATION **OBJECTIVES** STATEMENT

THE ROAD AHEAD: MBRT, 2018-2020

An essential function of any collaborative organization is strategic engagement with a variety of partners and stakeholders. The nature of the work at our Business Roundtable for Education is to convene those partners on a regular basis – indeed, we’ve been doing so successfully for more than 25 years. Embedded within that history were many strategic resets, which MBRT conducted every three years to ensure it was meeting the needs of its members and audiences.

2017 provides us with the next opportunity to approach this important task. Thanks to generous In-Kind support and workshop facilitation from MBRT board company IBM, we will be convening a series of in-depth conversations this year to explore our key components. These will address

the mission, vision, goals and value propositions that draw so many growing companies in Maryland to this work, and strengthen the bridges and connecting points we have built to expand educational excellence in our schools statewide. We’re well on our way in the first quarter of the year, co-hosting a new Million Women Mentors launch in March, and partnering to lead an Education Summit this spring in Annapolis.

We invite you to share your expertise, experiences and ideas with us as we look toward a new 2018-2020 MBRT Strategic Plan. Ultimately, we strive to offer a framework for a more competitive Maryland, one that sustains vibrant workforce development by guiding students on a path to successful and fulfilling careers.

P2 | MBRT welcomes Steven Hicks, the new Executive Director of Ready At Five. Steven, a former USDE Senior Policy Advisor on Early Learning, will advance Ready At Five’s mission to ensure all children in Maryland enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

P3 | Students from MBRT partner schools enjoyed screenings of the Hidden Figures film this winter, thanks to support from MBRT board member Booz Allen Hamilton. The accomplishments of NASA mathematicians during the 1960s were celebrated and discussed, offering inspiration to our next generation of scientific leaders.

P4 | Learn more about “ocean acidification,” along with seventh-grade science students, the National Aquarium, and MBRT board member Battelle. These real-world experiences stretch beyond the classroom, providing young learners with access to exciting careers that impact the world around them.

READY AT FIVE

Ready At Five (www.readyatfive.org) is a dynamic, statewide program of MBRT that elevates the discussion, practice and quality of early childhood education in Maryland, so that all children will be ready for school. It shares an office with MBRT, and its staff and partners work collaboratively with the MBRT network to serve a broad community of stakeholders.

In February, Steven Hicks began as the new Executive Director of Ready At Five. He succeeds Louise Corwin, whose leadership for 15 years elevated the outcomes for Maryland's youngest learners, their families and the early childhood workforce. Steven, a former Senior Policy Advisor on Early Learning at the U.S. Department of Education, has spent nearly 30 years teaching, building and improving quality early



Ready At Five Staff: (Front row) Former Executive Director Louise Corwin; new ED Steven Hicks; (back row, L-R) Robin Hopkins; Andrea O-Hara; Monique Baskerville

Congratulations to Nona Carroll for being named in the Top 100 list.

DAILY RECORD
MARYLAND'S
TOP 100
WOMEN



learning systems

for America's young children. His background is a perfect fit for Ready At Five's mission, and its partnership with MBRT. He will maintain the organization's standing as a vibrant and well-respected leader in Maryland and advance the organization's mission to elevate the discussion, practice and quality of early childhood education so that all children in Maryland enter kindergarten ready to succeed. MBRT welcomes Steven, and shares best regards on behalf of many in appreciation of Louise's leadership.

MWM • MD
Million Women Mentors® – Maryland
Advancing Women and Girls in STEM Careers Through Mentoring



In recognition of International Women's Day in early March, our network of partners joined MBRT to co-host the Million Women Mentors Maryland launch. Fifty guests from among the corporate, education and government communities attended, including Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford and Sec. of Labor Kelly Schulz.

Million Women Mentors (www.millionwomenmentors.org) is a national organization that aims to increase the presence of women in science, technology, engineering and math. At the event, MBRT emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships, and demonstrated how the STEM Innovation Network (www.thestemnet.com) is engaging business professionals and students in meaningful, real-world application of STEM content.



Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford and Brian Dulay of MBRT



Dawnetta Van Dunk, Lead Associate at BAH & students from Bladensburg High School

HIDDEN FIGURES

Booz Allen Hamilton hosted several local screenings this winter of the acclaimed movie *Hidden Figures*, including interactive panels and discussions as part of the events. These included technology, community and business leaders from organizations dedicated to advancing diversity and opportunity in many areas of innovation.

Hidden Figures tells the true story of three brilliant African-American women at NASA - Katherine Goble Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson—who worked as mathematicians during the Space Race of the 1960s. Against the backdrop of civil rights, they were critical in the mission that launched astronaut John Glenn into space. These pioneers laid the foundation for many of today's technological advances.



Students from Elkridge Landing Middle School, ELMS Science Teacher Ms. Belsky and ELMS Math teacher Ms. Degnan

Nearly 100 students from Bladensburg High, North County High and Elkridge Landing Middle school attended the special screenings, which included interactive discussions focused on inspiring our next generation.

“The screenings were a terrific way for students to consider the connection between what they’re doing today, and what they can accomplish in the future,” said Nicole Funk, Senior Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton and Vice-Chair of the MBRT Board. “As a board member of MBRT, I witness students gain greater confidence in STEM, and watch them discover what is possible.”

visit STEMNet at <http://www.thestemnet.com> or for more information about MBRT, please visit our website at <http://www.mbrt.org>

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A WORLD OF SCIENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Maryland's STEM Innovation Network engaged students in learning activities with workplace professionals in March to help prepare students to meet the demands of college and the workplace.

Chandra Harvey, CEO of ESTEAAM (Environmental, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Athletics and Mathematics) and former aquarist assistant at the National Aquarium, was invited to co-teach in five of Ms. Smith's seventh-grade science classrooms during their ocean acidification unit. Through a continued financial sponsorship commitment by MBRT board company, Battelle, Edgewood Middle School teachers, such as Ms. Smith, and their students receive the support of MBRT.

"Ocean acidification is a difficult concept to understand because there are many different facets to the occurrence of it," said Ms. Harvey. "I was able to help connect the real world concept of ocean acidification to the exhibit at the National Aquarium. Students could relate to the Black Tip Reef at the Aquarium since most of them had visited the exhibit."

Prior to the visit, students were provided an article that described how half of the Great Barrier Reef had been destroyed by ocean acidification. On the day of the specialist visit, students performed two demonstrations: to learn how dissolved CO₂ in distilled and salt water creates more acidic conditions over time, they used cabbage juice as the indicator for water, blowing into a straw and creating bubbles in each solution to watch the colors change from blue-green (basic) to clear (acidic); to learn how ocean acidification causes coral to dissolve over time, students introduced chalk (coral) to saltwater and vinegar and wrote their observations.

"Having Ms. Harvey gave my students access to a career most had never considered, as well as allowed them to get hands-on experience with ocean acidification, a topic we had been covering in class," Ms. Smith said. "Her visit made it clear to students that our science discussions extend beyond the classroom, and that each student has access to a science career that could potentially impact the world!"