

# PRIDE & Joy Newsletter

Maryland State Department of Education  
Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools

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Issue 3

## HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to MSDE \* Achievements \* Special Deliveries \* Education 411

"Generosity is giving more than you can and PRIDE is taking less than you need." ~ Kahlil Gibran

## MSDE's Headliners & Legends

In February 2010, **Woody Grant**, was recognized during a 3-day event in Richmond, VA as one of the "Richmond 34" - individuals who made civil rights history some 50 years ago by leading sit-ins to integrate restaurants and stores. While hundreds of people participated in the sit-in movement, Woody and 33 others led the 1960 Richmond civil rights protests and were arrested for challenging Jim Crow Laws. The lawyer defending the group of protesters was Thurgood Marshall on behalf of the NAACP. A tribute memorial honoring the protesters was dedicated on the campus of Virginia Union College, where Woody was a student activist and leader. As part of the commemorative event, Woody spoke to students about his civil rights experiences and about the importance of activism for social justice. – Submitted by L. Shevitz

### Did you hear?

**Paula McCoach**, in the Youth Development Branch, was featured in the USDE's Fall 2009 publication for developing the book titled, "*Character by Design: A Blueprint for Successful District and School Initiatives*" to enhance character education implementation. She was also lauded for her research publication titled, "*Growing*

*Character, Cultivating Achievement*," which documented gains made as a direct result of a federal grant awarded to MSDE. Paula is an enthusiastic colleague that lends her expertise to every program, and she is highly respected by her peers. – Submitted by V. Diggs

**Dr. Marcie Taylor-Thoma**, in the DOI, was awarded a *Korean-American Fellowship Grant* by the Korean Society. This prestigious award is a part of the partnership with MSDE, the Howard County Elementary Social Studies Office and the Korean-American Group. Teachers in Korea and in Maryland gather oral history stories from veterans and democracy workers. In the summer of 2010, teachers will be trained to collect oral histories, and these oral histories will be posted on the Civic Mosaic, Civic Voices websites, and made available to the World History Online Hybrid course writers. – Submitted by D. Olszewski

**Vanessa Jennings**, in the DBS, is proud to announce that her daughter, **Shalonda Jennings**, made the Honor's List at Anne Arundel Community College for the fall semester of 2009. – Submitted by V. Jennings

**Karen Bowman**, in the DCCR/JS, was awarded her Associate of Arts Degree from the Community College of Baltimore County in December 2009. This degree represents much hard work and Karen has moved forward with her plans to continue her education by pursuing a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. The Juvenile Services Branch applauds her for her excellent MSDE work, as well as for her commitment to reach higher educational goals. – Submitted by R. Reasoner and D. Bailey

**Jamie De Atley**, son of **Cheryl De Atley** in the DECD and **Chris De Atley** of Waldorf, was named to the Dean's List at McDaniel College for the fall semester of 2009. Jamie is a junior majoring in Communications with a minor in History. Jamie's uncle is the late Dr. John H. Cox, who was Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for Charles County Public Schools. – Submitted by C. De Atley

Best wishes to all of them on their professional and academic accomplishments!

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## ***"PRIDE Hall of Fame"***

Let's give a 'Shout-Out!' to this quarter's Shining Stars profiled in the Liberty Street Lobby...  
*Annette Mallory Donawa, Claudette Harvey, LeeAnn Hutchison, Katharine Oliver, and Luke Rhine.*

### ***Education Tidings***

#### **Welcome to the MSDE Family!**

Olaekan Babatunde, JS/DCCR  
Clayton Best, DAA  
Sharon Dobie-Lewis, JS/DCCR  
Frederick Fox, JS/DCCR  
April Ghalami, JS/DCCR  
Janet Jacobs, DSE/EIS  
Stephanie Jones, OIT  
Allen Perrigan, DSE/EIS  
Constance Streett, DBS  
Phyllis Trettien, JS/DCCR  
Jacquelyn Turner-Mixon, JS/DCCR  
Tchacona Wells, DECD  
Tyra Williams, DSE/EIS

#### **Excellence in Education**

Donna Watts and Linda Kaniecki, in the DOI, were selected by *Achieve, Inc.* to play a significant role in the development of the Draft Common Core K-12 Mathematics Standards. In their role they have reviewed draft documents, joined group conference calls to weigh-in on design issues/questions, and contributed to group discussions on specific aspects of the standards. **Sylvia Edwards**, also in the DOI, was selected by *Achieve, Inc.* to provide similar feedback on the Draft Common Core K-12 English/Language Arts Standards. Each of these professionals is recognized nationally for their expertise in subject matter and their willingness to contribute to the completion of quality national standards. These fine representatives of MSDE will be listed as contributors in the final document. – *Submitted by C. Seremet*

**Donna Mazyck, Alicia Mezu, and Richard Scott**, in the DSFSS, mobilized to form a state crisis intervention team that was dispatched to Cheltenham School, a state facility for serious at-risk students, located in Prince George's County. The crisis team, which formed within one hour, provided grief and loss counseling to approximately twenty-two adolescent boys who experienced the sudden loss and tragic death of one of their teachers. – *Submitted by G. Tucker*

**Peggy Carroll, Carol Crouse, Carol Hepler, and Teresa Knott.**, Specialists in the DSFSS, presented "*Drilling for Success-Proactive Steps and School Improvement Lessons Learned in Maryland*," at the National Title I Conference. The team defined how schools in improvement are using MSDE's root cause analysis tool, the Teacher Capacity Needs Assessment (TCNA), to inform decisions for school improvement. The TCNA has become one of the keys to sustained success.— *Submitted by G. Tucker*

#### **A Rising Star**

**Nazirah Taylor**, granddaughter of **Pamela Brown** in DAP, is only 11-years-old and already a young ballet prodigy in Seattle, Washington. Now, in her third year with The Pacific Northwest Ballet, Nazirah had a starring role in its annual well-known event "*Nutcracker Ballet*" and she recently auditioned and was chosen for a 5-week intensive summer study program in Chicago. At the age of 1, she barely talked or walked, but she was always twirling around—she was born to dance! – *Submitted by P. Brown*



#### **Special Deliveries**



**There is round-the-clock  
Instruction and Diaper-Duty taking place in DOI!**

**Sheila Cox**, Executive Associate, became a proud grandmother on February 1st to *Justin Christopher*.

**Sheila LoCastro**, Online Teacher Professional Development Specialist, welcomed her 4th *grandchild*, *Cassandra Jean LoCastro*, on January 14th. Cassie joins big brother Tristen.

**Michael Mason**, Physical Education Specialist, was full of love on Valentine's Day, as he welcomed his grandson, *Zachary Millard*, on February 14th.

**Shawanda Smith**, Office Secretary, delivered a bundle of joy named *Devin*, on February 22nd.

**Dixie Stack**, Director of Curriculum, is beaming over her granddaughter, *Caitlyn Piper*, born on February 9th.

For more information about **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools visit  
[www.MarylandPublicSchools.org](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org)