MEDIA ADVISORY

Historically Black colleges and universities focus of MPT’s State Circle

Appearances on Friday, Dec. 4 are part of HBCU Week program lineup

What: To cap off Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) HBCU Week, State Circle will feature interviews with members of Maryland’s Legislative Black Caucus about their experiences while attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and an interview with the president of Coppin State University.

For the first time in the statewide public TV network more than 50-year history, MPT is presenting HBCU Week. The special slate of programming is part of the network’s Standing Against Racism: Fostering Unity Through Dialogue initiative, launched earlier this year.

When: Friday, December 4. State Circle airs Fridays on MPT-HD at 7 p.m. and online at mpt.org/anywhere/live-stream-mpt/. The program will also be available on demand after airing on Friday.

Who: HBCU graduates scheduled to appear on State Circle are:

- Howard University graduate, State Senator Melony Ghee Griffith (District 25), Prince George’s County
- Bowie State University graduate, State Senator Joanne Claybon Benson (District 24) Prince George’s County
- Howard University graduate, Delegate Jay Walker (District 26), Prince George’s County
- Bowie State University graduate, former Delegate Darren Swain (District 24), Prince George’s County
- Howard University graduate, Maryland Lt. Governor Boyd K. Rutherford

Also appearing on the program is Dr. Anthony L. Jenkins, president, Coppin State University, who will speak with host Jeff Salkin. Coppin State produces the largest numbers of African-American nurses in Maryland, a healthcare profession in great demand as Maryland and the nation continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic.
Background: Marylanders have turned to MPT’s *State Circle* for more than 30 years. No other source brings viewers as much legislative news during the General Assembly session and year-round. Host Jeff Salkin and a team of veteran reporters deliver up-to-the-minute, in-depth analysis of major issues and pending bills. Viewers can also watch previous episodes of *State Circle* at video.mpt.tv/show/state-circle/.

Historically Black colleges and universities are institutions of higher education in the United States that were established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with the intention of primarily serving the African-American community. There are 101 HBCUs, with 27 offering doctoral programs, 52 offering master’s programs, 83 offering bachelor’s degree programs, and 38 offering associate degrees.

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