



July 10, 2014

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor, State of Maryland  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: MSAR#6075 - 2013 Maryland Commission for Women Annual Report**

Dear Governor O'Malley:

On behalf of the Maryland Commission for Women, I am pleased to submit the enclosed 2013 Annual Report pursuant to Human Services Article §2-406(b), which requires the Commission to submit an annual report including recommendations based on the Commission's studies to the Governor and to the General Assembly.

The Department will continue to work collaboratively with the Commission. If you should have any further questions or require additional information, please contact me at 410-767-7109 or Netsanet Kibret, Executive Director of Government Affairs at 410-767-6886.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theodore Dallas', written over a horizontal line.

Theodore Dallas  
Secretary



July 10, 2014

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
State House, H-107  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

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Theodore Dallas  
Secretary



July 10, 2014

The Honorable Michael E. Busch  
Speaker of the House  
State House, H-101  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**RE: MSAR#6075 - 2013 Maryland Commission for Women Annual Report**

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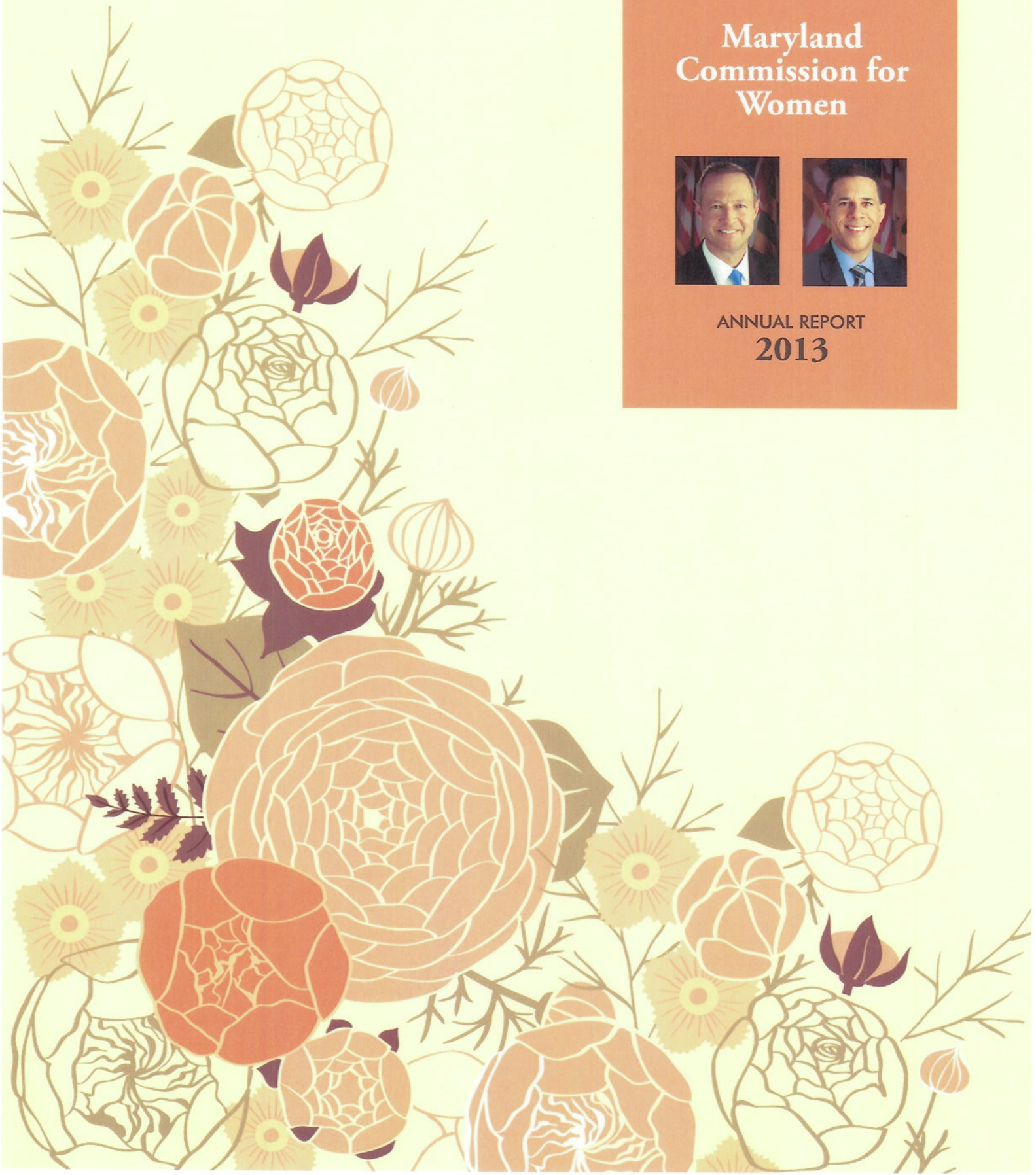
Theodore Dallas  
Secretary



Maryland  
Commission for  
Women



ANNUAL REPORT  
2013





## Message from the Governor and Lt. Governor

We are pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report for the Maryland Commission for Women. This year, the O'Malley-Brown Administration recognizes some of Maryland's most outstanding citizens through the induction of five women into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. With contributions in the fields of education, advocacy and politics, the actions of these tremendous women are moving Maryland forward.

The Maryland Commission for Women is charged with expanding social, political and economic opportunities for women. The Commission is focused on the future by honoring Women of Tomorrow – girls and young women who will help lead our state in the years ahead. By working together, we can ensure that Maryland remains a great place for women of all ages and backgrounds to succeed.

We look forward to continuing the work of the Commission and building on its efforts to serve and recognize the women of our state.

*Martin O'Malley, Governor*

*Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor*



## Message from the Secretary

Maryland has a history of strong female leaders. We recognize the significant role women play to move our state forward. Women have made and continue to make unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state, and are role models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

The Maryland Commission for Women plays a vital role through their work to advance social and economic equity and to support women's achievements, hopes and dreams through their annual Women of Tomorrow and the Women's Hall of Fame recognition ceremonies.

I thank the co-chairs and subcommittee chairs for their participation on the Maryland Commission for Women. Their individual and collective efforts to acknowledge women who are making a difference is captured in this report.

*Theodore Dallas, Secretary*

*Department of Human Resources*





## *Message from the Chair*

The Maryland Commission for Women works with Maryland state government to advance solutions and to expand social, political and economic equality, with the vision that all Maryland women have full social, political and economic equity.

In 2013, the Commission was composed of 21 members of diverse backgrounds, from a variety of careers and interests. They serve their local communities in many non-profit and volunteer organizations. We are geographically diverse, hailing from all parts of the great state of Maryland.

We held our annual signature events: the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow. Our committees were active on a host of activities that are detailed in the reports which follow. The Strategic Plan was built upon and expanded during a Commission Retreat in September where a detailed action plan was developed and a focus for 2013 of Health Care Reform Implementation was selected. At that retreat, committee assignments were selected and commissioners chose their liaison to one of the commissions in the State of Maryland.

We continue our close relationship with the Maryland Women's Legislative Caucus and the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, involving both organizations in our signature events. Throughout the year, our members participated in meetings of the local Women's Commissions and attended events throughout the state.

We are privileged to work with this motivated group of impressive Maryland women.



*Patricia Cornish, Chair  
2012-2014*

## *Maryland Commission for Women 2013 Membership*

NAME	COUNTY	TERM
Tanesha Boldin	Baltimore	1st
Darlene Breck	Charles	1st
Kimberly Brown, PhD	Anne Arundel	2nd
Patricia E. Cornish	Talbot	2nd
Susan Elgin, Esq.	Baltimore City	2nd
Lynn R. Fitrell	St. Mary's	2nd
Helen Holton	Baltimore City	2nd
Elizabeth Kinney	Anne Arundel	1st
Ginger Miller	Prince George's	1st
Patricia Omana	Howard County	1st
Patricia Owens	Frederick County	1st
Anita Riley	Carroll	1st
Deborah Risper	Baltimore	2nd
Varsha Mathur Sharma	Charles County	1st
Cara Tenenbaum	Montgomery	1st
Roseanna Vogt	Calvert	2nd
Dr. Kathleen White	Baltimore	2nd
A. Diane Williams	Prince George's	2nd

### *2013 Commission Staff*

Crystal Young, *Program Administrator*

Ellie Elgin, *Director of Outreach*





## History of the Commission

The Commission originated in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

As issues of equality and social change continued to impact women, the Commission was reactivated in 1968 as the Maryland Commission on the Status of Women. Governor Spiro Agnew directed the Commission to review the previous Commission's recommendations on education, employment, and community and civic participation, and implement those most pertinent.

The Commission also cooperated with state and local organizations to identify problems and improve opportunities for women to serve in a variety of fields. In 1971, State Senator Rosalie S. Abrams introduced SB 190, "calling for the creation of an independent state commission on the status of women." As a result of these efforts, the law creating the "Maryland Commission on the Status of Women" went into effect on July 1, 1971 and the Commission became part of the Department of Human Resources. The Commission adopted its present name in 1976 (Chapter 119, Acts of 1976).

The Commission consists of 25 bi-partisan members (women and men) appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission are elected by its membership. The Executive Director of the Commission is a merit employee of the Department of Human Resources appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Human Resources (Chapter 9, Acts of 2006).

## Mission

The Maryland Commission for Women works with Maryland state government to advance solutions and to expand social, political and economic equality.

## Goals

- Advise government, as a voice for Maryland women in the development of executive, legislative and judicial policies.
- Promote solutions that address the needs of women in Maryland.
- Serve as a statewide resource center for Maryland women.
- Choose one area each year for focus.
- Develop an Annual Report.
- Be an influential leader that Maryland women come to for assistance, advice (conducts selective research).
- Be recognized as an authoritative leader with which to partner.
- Have a dedicated and professional staff.

## Maryland Women's Heritage Center

The Mission of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center is to preserve the past, understand the present, and shape the future by recognizing, respecting and transmitting the experiences and contributions of Maryland women and girls. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center currently houses an exhibit of 63 of the 148 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame inductees.

The Maryland Commission for Women is represented on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center. It is with the continuous support of the Maryland Commission for Women and the State Department of Education that the center's growth and development is maintained. The center is located at 39 W. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Docent opportunities are available at the Heritage Center. For more information call 443-708-2442.



*Susan Carol Elgin, Chair  
2012-2014*

## Public Relations Report

The Maryland Commission for Women increased its social media presence through spotlighting personal and professional accomplishments of the Commissioners and community on Facebook and through other media outlets.

The two main events hosted by the Maryland Commission for Women, the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and the Women of Tomorrow, are promoted on Facebook and LinkedIn. Representing the Maryland Commission for Women, commissioners participate in events that increase awareness and understanding of issues that impact women and girls in Maryland. Also, the Maryland Commission for Women was also mentioned in the newsletter for the Women's Heritage Center.

The three officers and several recipients of the 2013 Women of Tomorrow awards were interviewed for the "Top of the Morning Show", which can be viewed on YouTube.



*Patricia Omana, Chair  
2012-2013*



## Legislative & Public Policy Committee



*Anita Riley, Chair  
2012-2013*

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee began meeting in September 2013 to participate in working with the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW). The MLAW 2012 Conference was held in October where bills were proposed by various lead groups for consideration and support from MLAW for the 2013 Legislative Session. As a member of the Board of Directors of MLAW, the Maryland Commission for Women has the opportunity to vote for the 2013 legislative priority bills that support women and families the Commission supports as well. It was the responsibility of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee to follow these supported bills and update the Maryland Commission for Women on their status throughout the 2013 Session. Below is the legislation that the Maryland Commission for Women tracked and supported through MLAW for 2013.

**HB 713 Criminal Procedure – Seizure and Forfeiture – Property Used in Human Trafficking** This bill authorized a state or local law enforcement agency to seize specified property used or intended for use in connection with a crime relating to human trafficking. **Outcome: PASSED**

**SB 94 Child Abuse and Neglect – Notice and Reporting Requirements, Disclosure and Task Force** This bill would have expanded immunity from civil liability or criminal penalty to a person who provides or participates in providing notice of child abuse or neglect to the appropriate authorities. It required the medical examiner to send an autopsy report to specified officials in cases of child abuse or neglect, and made it a misdemeanor for a specified person to knowingly and willfully fail to make a report of abuse. **Outcome: No vote in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.**

**HB 735/SB 698 Labor and Employment – Maryland Earned Sick and Safe Leave Act** This bill would have required employers to allow employees to earn a certain number of annual paid sick and safe days. The safe time component required employers to allow survivors of domestic abuse or sexual assault to use paid sick leave to care for their health after these incidents or seek legal protections or new housing. The bill provided for the manner of accrual, use for specified purposes, and described the process for requesting and notifying the employer. **Outcome: House bill received an unfavorable report in Economic Matters Committee. Bill withdrawn. No vote in Senate Finance Committee.**

**HB 478/SB 861 Crimes – Committing a Crime of Violence in the Presence of a Minor – Penalties** This bill enhanced the penalty for persons who are convicted of a crime of violence and the person knew or should have known that a minor was within sight or hearing of the crime of violence. The penalty was to be separate from and consecutive to the sentence for the crime. **Outcome: Passed by both House and Senate with amendments. Different versions not reconciled before the end of the Session.**

**HB 715/SB 620 Family Law – Denial of Paternity, Custody, and Visitation [Akin’s Law]** This bill would have allowed rape victims who become pregnant as a result of the rape to ask the family law court to end the parental rights of the rapist. **Outcome: No vote in House Judiciary Committee or in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.**

**HB 1230/SB 490 Domestic Violence – Persons Eligible for Relief and Orders to Vacate Home** This bill would have moved dating violence and sexual assault out of the Peace Order statute and into the Protective Order statute. **Outcome: No vote in House Judiciary Committee or in Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.**

## Health & Wellness Report

The Maryland Commission for Women attended a retreat in the fall to discuss strategic planning, where we decided to continue to focus our efforts on engaging the community in health care reform. Some provisions of health care reform were already in effect by the close of 2012, but significant changes were taking place in 2013 in preparation for two large programs that began in 2014: health insurance marketplaces and Medicaid expansion. Leni Preston from the Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform, of which the Maryland Commission for Women is a member, gave the commissioners an update of the status of health reform in Maryland. The commission decided to move forward as part of the coalition in sharing the important changes happening due to health reform.



*Cara Tenenbaum, Chair  
2012-2014*

The Maryland Commission for Women invited state commissions throughout the state of Maryland to join us in assisting and educating state residents in an effort to prepare for implementation of the Affordable Care Act beginning in January 2014. The commissioners sent similar invitations to their personal and professional networks, including non-profits and faith-based organizations.

In partnership with the Maryland Women's Coalition for Health Care Reform, we collaborated and partnered with state commissions to help people learn how to navigate health care reform implementation and use it in their daily lives. These are important changes that will affect people in Maryland as our state expands Medicaid and runs its own Exchange.

The goal is to aid Maryland residents by hearing from local, state and federal leaders on health care reform implementation and to participate in interactive panel discussions and presentations.

We offered assistance in obtaining speakers, publicizing the events and tailoring a presentation for their specific audiences. We encouraged state commissions to take advantage of this partnership opportunity and offered to support state commissions in this effort.



## Education and Outreach Committee

The Maryland Commission for Women, Education Committee continues to serve as a catalyst to empower Maryland's women and girls in various educational endeavors. During 2013, members of the commission were engaged with the implementation of the Commission's Strategic Plan that outlined a plan of action to educate the public about the importance of the Health Care Reform initiative. Throughout the state, local commissions and commissioners were engaged with ongoing sessions to inform women and families about health care reform. To further enhance Maryland's STEM Programs, the commissioners attended statewide programs to support the need for the increased attendance of young girls in the areas of Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology.



*Dr. Kathleen White  
Chair*

Since 2008, commissioners participated in The "Moving Women Forward" conference for incarcerated women at the Maryland House for Correction for Women by serving on the Steering Committee. At this conference, incarcerated women who will be released within 6 months to 1 year were given opportunities to interview for jobs which may help to reduce the recidivism rate in Maryland. Commissioners served as employers for mock interviews, staffed a resource table and presented a workshop.

As a method to inform the public about the Education and Outreach initiatives of the Commission, the Chair of the Education and Outreach Committee attended a Public Broadcasting Announcement and shared information about the extensive education missions that the Commission has been involved with to support Maryland's women and girls. Maryland Women were informed about the Fair Minimum Wage Act and were able garner support.

Additional Community Outreach activities included Commissioners attendance at meetings at community functions, women's clubs and local Boards of Commissioners.

The Education and Outreach Committee future plans include more work with STEM programs and the development of a framework to advance solutions to expand the educational needs of Maryland's women.

### Education and Outreach Committee Co-Chairs



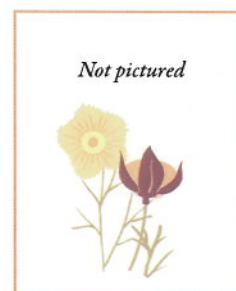
*Lynn Fitrell*



*Tanesha Bouldin*



*Diane Williams*



*Elizabeth Kinney*

## Education and Outreach Committee The Women of Tomorrow Program

Lynn Fitrell, Tanesha Bouldin, Co-Chairs 2012-2013



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Diana Vanessa Perez, Regina Tompros, Danyell Pender, Eelaaf Zahid, Taylor Gresham, Delaney Hancock.

### GRADES 7-8 HONOREES

*First Place:* Danyell Pender,  
Inner Harbor East Academy, Baltimore City

*Honorable Mention:* Eelaaf Zahid,  
Annapolis Middle School,  
Anne Arundel County

### GRADES 9-10 HONOREES

*First Place:* Taylor Gresham,  
Grace Brethren Christian School,  
Prince George's County

*Honorable Mention:* Delaney Hancock, Great  
Mills High School STEM Program,  
St. Mary's County

### GRADE 11-12 HONOREES

*First Place:* Regina Tompros,  
Meade Senior High School, Anne Arundel County

*Honorable Mention:* Diana Vanessa Perez,  
Oakdale High School, Frederick County

The Women of Tomorrow Awards was established in 1997 to honor and acknowledge talented young women in grades 7 through 12 from throughout Maryland who have demonstrated academic excellence, extraordinary community service and outstanding leadership skills. Each year two young women, one Honoree and one Honorable Mention, are selected in each of three categories: 7th and 8th grades, 9th and 10th grades and 11th and 12th grades. Since the inception of the awards 98 young women have been recognized.

Nominations are solicited from public, private and parochial schools, home schooled, women's and civic organizations, churches and public institutions and private citizens throughout the State of Maryland via direct invitation and the media. An independent, all volunteer selection committee representing a variety of backgrounds reviews the applications and selects the six honorees based not only on their outstanding scholastic achievement and volunteer services above and beyond that required for graduation and proven leadership skills, but also their stated future goals and objectives.

In 2013 the Awards Dinner was held at the Officers and Faculty Club at the United States Naval Academy with Lillian M. Lowery, PhD, Superintendent of the Maryland State Department of Education as the keynote speaker and Scott Canuel, Sr. Vice President representing the event's major sponsor, PNC Financial Services. Among the over 80 guests attending were Laura Bush, representing Cover Girl, Christine Wray, Vice President of Medstar Health Services and CEO of Medstar St. Mary's Hospital, and Debra Bright Harris, Associate Dean for Student Services, Montgomery College.

## 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees



*FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Helen Delich Bentley, The Honorable Ellen R. Sauerbrey, Beatrice Tignor, Ed.D., Cryor Family for Jean B. Cryor posthumously inducted, Linda A. Shevitz and Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes.*

## Education and Outreach Committee

# Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Program

Diane Williams, Elizabeth Kinney, Co-Chairs 2012-2013

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 through the efforts of the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland. The purpose of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame is to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural and social life of the state and to provide role models of achievement for our future women leaders. The annual ceremony acts to enhance the visibility of women's contributions to the communities they serve, the state of Maryland and to the wider world.

Each year the Maryland Commission for Women and Women Legislators recognize women of achievement through the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The selected honorees' contributions have made significant and lasting impressions in all areas of achievement, including areas such as the environment, science and technology, education, the arts, social justice, civil rights, the armed services and religion. Through the creation of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, the Hall of Fame exhibit has a home. The exhibit provides a face and access for all Marylanders to get to know the Maryland women who have contributed so much to society and the world.

Anyone can visit the Maryland Commission for Women's website – [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org) – to access the Maryland Archives to learn more about the women who have been inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. In addition, visitors can go to the Maryland Women's Heritage Center – 39 W. Lexington St. Baltimore, MD – to see the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame exhibit. The exhibit features 63 of the 142 women who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

### **Helen Delich Bentley**

Nominated by The Honorable Gloria Lawlah  
President, Women Legislators of Maryland Foundation

### **Jean B. Cryor (Posthumously)**

Nominated by Judith Vaughan-Prather  
Executive Director, Montgomery County Commission for Women

### **Dr. Charlene Mickens Dukes**

Nominated by Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees Prince George's County Community College

### **The Honorable Ellen R. Sauerbrey**

Nominated by the Honorable Kathy Szeliga  
Ladies in Leadership

### **Linda A. Shevitz**

Nominated by Susan Shaffer  
President, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc.

### **Beatrice Tignor, Ed.D.**

Nominated by Oretha Bridgwaters-Simms  
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees Prince George's County Community College



# Maryland Commission for Women Strategic Plan: 2013

**Goal 1: Develop healthy attitudes within the framework of the Commission's responsibilities.**

**Objective: MCW Strength, Solidarity and Success**

To strengthen the MCW TEAM, focus and Committee action plans to achieve success

*Primary Responsibility: MCW Chair & Executive Committee*

**Goal 2: Inform the executive and legislative branches of the government on issues concerning women, including offering testimony on these issues before legislative and administrative bodies.**

**Objective: MCW Legislative & Public Policy**

To advise the Government, as a voice for Maryland women, in the development of executive, legislative & judicial policies

*Primary Responsibility: Legislative & Public Policy Committee*

**Goal 3: Promote more effective methods for enabling women to develop their skills, continue their education, and to be retrained.**

**Objective: MCW Education and Outreach**

To inform and educate the public about the status, concerns, and history of women through on-going programs and projects

*Primary Responsibility: Education and Outreach Committee*

**Goal 4: Direct attention to critical problems confronting women.**

**Objective: MCW Health and Wellness**

To collaborate with Women for Health Reform and Office for Health Reform with a focus on 2013 Health Care Reform Implementation

*Primary Responsibility: Health and Wellness Committee*

**Goal 5: Stimulate and encourage throughout the state study and review of the status of women and act as a clearinghouse for all activities to avoid duplication of effort.**

**Objective: MCW Public Relations and Communication**

To connect CFW to sources of knowledge about current best practices, lessons learned, new standards, training, conferences and other developmental opportunities

*Primary Responsibility: Public Relations and Communication Committee*

**Goal 6: Promote on-going development of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.**

**Objective: MCW Women's Heritage Center**

To work with the Maryland Women's Heritage Center (MWHC) and the Maryland State Department of Education on development of the MWHC

*Primary Responsibility: Women's Heritage Center Committee*

**Goal 7: Improve MCW organizational effectiveness to support long term sustainability.**

**Objective: MCW Governance**

MCW focus for 2013 is Health Care Reform Implementation

To improve governance structure and establish adequate management

*Primary Responsibility: Ad Hoc Governance Committee*





The Maryland Commission  
for Women

311 West Saratoga Street, Suite 272  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Telephone: 410-767-3049

Fax: 410-333-3980

Toll Free: 1-877-868-2196

TTY Maryland Relay: 1-800-925-4434

Web: [www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

E-mail: [cyoung2@maryland.gov](mailto:cyoung2@maryland.gov)