



NEWS RELEASE

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Seven BCPS educators to serve as national staff developers for 2022 AVID Summer Institutes

TOWSON, MD – Seven Baltimore County Public Schools staff members have been selected to serve as National AVID Staff Developers for the 2022 AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Summer Institutes.

As National AVID Staff Developers, the following BCPS educators will facilitate professional learning workshops, called Communities of Practice, across the country and also online:

- **Michael Barberesi**, supervisor, College and Career Readiness; AVID district director, will teach “New AVID Site Leaders”
- **Lesley Beavers**, AVID Title I resource teacher, College and Career Readiness, will teach “AVID Implementation – Foundations of Instruction”
- **Jessica Cuzzo**, AVID coordinator, Dundalk Middle School, will teach “AVID Digital Teaching” and “Learning and AVID for Instructional Coaches and Elective Teachers”
- **Erica Franklin**, AVID Site coordinator, Holabird STEM Middle School, will teach “AVID Elementary Grades 3-6”
- **Christal Higgins**, AVID elective teacher, Pikesville High School, will teach “Transforming Literacy Through Content-Area Reading”
- **Lauren LaPorta**, AVID elective teacher, Pikesville High School, will teach “Fostering an Equitable and Engaging Culture in Classrooms”
- **Sara Mullin**, AVID resource teacher, College and Career Readiness, will teach “Computer Science for the Content Classroom-Combined” and “AVID - Science”

While BCPS educators have served as national staff developers since 2008. This year's class is the largest group of BCPS educators to be named national staff developers in a single year.

AVID is a nonprofit organization that assists schools in shifting to a more equitable, student-centered approach. AVID trains 85,000 educators annually, and more than 7,500 schools employ AVID to reach more than 2 million students each year.

BCPS implements the AVID College Readiness System at 56 elementary, middle, and high schools reaching more than 7,000 students. AVID students in Grades 6-12, who are identified as "students in the academic middle" when they join AVID, have higher attendance rates, and enter advanced courses at a faster pace than their non-AVID peers. In 2021, more than 570 BCPS AVID seniors earned more than \$36 million in scholarship and grant offers, most of them the first in their family to attend college.

AVID National Staff Developers are master practitioners of the AVID College Readiness System, facilitators of adult learning, and ambassadors of year-round AVID. They are contracted to lead courses during the annual three-day AVID Summer Institutes, which take place between June and August in 12 different cities across the United States.

The AVID Summer Institute is an annual professional learning event where thousands of educators come together to learn the latest in AVID strategies to successfully implement AVID in their schools.

"Having seven AVID National Staff Developers in BCPS will ensure that our professional learning is delivered by high-caliber educators who have access to the most up-to-date strategies and resources," said Dr. Heather Wooldridge, BCPS coordinator of College and Career Readiness. "It also means that we can offer in-district two-day paths trainings at cost. This means we can provide a multitude of opportunities for BCPS staff to become AVID Center Trained certified through our own professional learning system."

AVID reports that, for the Class of 2020, students who participate in AVID are more likely to attend college than their peers in every high school environment: low-income, students of color, urban, rural, and suburban. First-generation, low-income AVID alumni are nearly four times more likely to graduate than their peers. In Maryland, based on 2019-2021 data, 100 percent of AVID seniors graduate from high school and 78 percent are accepted to four-year colleges.

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation's 25th largest school system, emphasizes literacy across all subject areas and warm, healthy school climates to prepare every student for college and careers. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, and staff, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).