



NEWS RELEASE

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Six BCPS educators to serve as National Staff Developers for AVID college readiness program

Will lead sessions at AVID DigitalXP™

Towson, MD – Six Baltimore County Public Schools staff members have been selected to serve as AVID National Staff Developers for the [2021 AVID DigitalXP™ training sessions](#). AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a schoolwide system that closes opportunity gaps and prepares all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

AVID DigitalXP™ offers three-day virtual professional development sessions for AVID educators throughout the summer. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, AVID educators from across the nation will participate in DigitalXP rather than the traditional in-person AVID Summer Institute.

The following BCPS staff members will be National Staff Developers leading professional development sessions for the 2021 AVID DigitalXP:

- **Lesley Beavers**, AVID resource teacher in the Office of College and Career Readiness, whose area of focus is new elective teachers. This will be her seventh year as a National AVID Staff Developer.
- **Jessica Cuozzo**, AVID coordinator at Dundalk Middle School, whose area of focus is digital teaching and learning. This will be her second year as a National AVID Staff Developer.
- **Erica Franklin**, AVID coordinator at Holabird STEM, whose area of focus is AVID Elementary Grades 3-6. This will be her first year as a National AVID Staff Developer.

- **Molly LaBricciosa**, AVID coordinator at Pikesville High School, whose area of focus is fostering an equitable and engaging culture in classrooms. This will be her third year as a National AVID Staff Developer.
- **Sara Mullin**, mentor facilitator and AVID resource teacher in the Office of College and Career Readiness, whose area of focus is science. This will be her first year as a National AVID Staff Developer.
- **Dr. Heather Wooldridge**, coordinator & AVID district director, in the Office of College and Career Readiness, whose area of focus is AVID elementary foundations Grades 3-6. This will be her third year as a National AVID Staff Developer.

“Not only is it an honor to be selected by AVID Center to provide high engagement and relevant professional learning to educators from across the nation, but these AVID National Staff Developers are also empowered to provide the same high-quality professional learning to teachers, counselors, and administrators throughout BCPS,” said Michael Barberesi, supervisor in the Office of College and Career Readiness and BCPS AVID District Director. “AVID professional learning is designed to provide participants with strategies that empower educators to close opportunity gaps systemwide and is available to BCPS year-round.”

BCPS has 23 high schools, 24 middle schools, and 11 elementary schools implementing the AVID college readiness system. In 2020, AVID reported that 90% of BCPS AVID seniors enrolled in a two- or four-year college or university; that 79% of BCPS AVID seniors were accepted into a four-year college or university; and that 59% enrolled into four-year colleges or universities. New Town High School and Pikesville High School are the only AVID National Demonstration High Schools in the state of Maryland and, along with Dundalk Middle School, have been certified as AVID Schoolwide Sites of Distinction.

AVID is a nonprofit organization that changes lives by helping schools shift to a more equitable, student-centered approach. AVID trains 85,000 educators annually to close the opportunity gap, so they can prepare all students for college, careers, and life. More than 7,500 schools rely on AVID to transform the lives of nearly 2 million students each year. According to the AVID website, “first generation, low-income AVID alumni who go to college are four times more likely to graduate than their national peers.”

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 25th largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).