



**MAKING YOUR CAREER GREEN:  
ENVIRONMENTAL CAREERS ROUND TABLE**

Wednesday, October 10th | 10 - 1 pm  
Rosen/Nease Municipal Board, Center for Human  
Sciences, Materials, & Heating

Join the roundtable for an essential career tip show to help  
you explore careers that will reduce the environmental impact  
of your work and help you advance your professional  
and personal goals.

# HBCU/MSI CHESAPEAKE BAY SUMMIT

September 9 & 10, 2023

*Pecometh Retreat Center*



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We thank the Steering Committee members for their energy and coordination support over the past six months to help plan and promote this Summit. Your efforts and collective energy are invaluable and have made this inaugural HBCU/MSI Chesapeake Bay Summit into an exceptional and impactful event.

## Summit Steering Committee Members

Dr. Janelle Burke, Howard University

Ms. Emma Gregory, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Dr. Shizuka Hsieh, Trinity Washington University

Ms. Julie Lawson, DOEE (University of the District of Columbia)

Dr. Eric May, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Dr. Patrice Nielson, Trinity Washington University

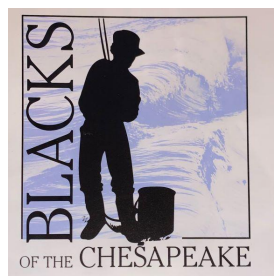
Dr. Christopher Rivera, Coppin State University

Dr. Mercy Shenge, Coppin State University

Ms. Tameka Taylor, Morgan State University

Mr. Jabari Walker, Bowie State University

**The Summit also would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors:**



# WELCOME REMARKS

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Welcome to the inaugural HBCU/MSI Chesapeake Bay Summit!

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is excited and honored to help host this event. We are so glad you're here. The idea for this Summit was inspired by the Alliance's annual Chesapeake Watershed Forum and co-created through conversations with our partners at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in Maryland and Washington, DC. In these conversations, our partners have consistently wanted to know more about the environmental work being done at other HBCUs/MSIs in the watershed. The Summit is intended to serve as a platform for students and faculty from each university to answer these questions together. This is a space to connect with one another, share knowledge, and exchange expertise.

Thanks to the collective vision of the Steering Committee members, the HBCU/MSI Bay Summit is also one strategy for chipping away at the 'green ceiling'. This term was identified in Green 2.0's report "The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations: Mainstream NGOs, Foundations & Government Agencies". According to this report, People of Color comprise 36% of the US population, and 29% of the science and engineering workforce, but do *not exceed 16% of the staff in any of the environmental organizations surveyed*. One of the major goals of this Summit is to empower students through peer connection and experiential learning, to ultimately elevate your influence in the environmental sector. By focusing on our HBCU and MSI partners, we hope this weekend will contribute to a more inclusive and expansive conservation movement now and into the future.

While the Alliance's programming inherently focuses around restoration, stewardship, and environmental resilience, it is with social justice efforts that we see the sustained impacts of this work, and in turn communities that are better able to address environmental challenges. The Alliance is committed to creating a more diverse, inclusive, equitable, and just environmental movement because it is the only way to ensure all communities are resilient in the face of our changing climate. We know that an inclusive approach and diversity of mindsets lead to more creative and permanent solutions.

We hope that this Summit is just the beginning of deeper and more fruitful connections between HBCUs, MSIs, and the Bay restoration effort.



  
**KATE FRITZ**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



# SUMMIT SCHEDULE

## Saturday, September 9

8:00 am to 9:30 am	Arrival & Breakfast	Faith & Grace Retreat Houses
10:00 am to 11:30 am	Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address:	Fellowship Hall
11:30 am to 11:45 am	10-Minute Break	
11:45 am to 12:15 pm	Ice Breakers & Team Building Activity	Fellowship Hall
12:15 pm to 12:30 pm	10-Minute Break	
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch	Dining Hall
1:30 pm to 1:45 pm	10-Minute Break	
1:45 pm to 2:00 pm	Team Building Activity	Fellowship Hall
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm	Environmental Justice Panel	Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm to 3:30 pm	10-Minute Break <i>*It takes about 20 minutes to walk from Fellowship Hall to Retreat Houses*</i>	
3:30 pm to 4:15 pm	Student Lightning Talks	Faith & Grace Houses
4:15 pm to 4:30 pm	10-Minute Break	
4:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Environmental Careers Breakout Sessions (choose 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Academia &amp; Research</li> <li>● Policy &amp; Advocacy</li> <li>● Education &amp; Interpretation</li> <li>● Restoration</li> <li>● Finding Your Path: Chesapeake Conservation Corps</li> </ul>	Faith & Grace Houses
5:30 pm to 6:00 pm	10-Minute Break	
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Dinner	Dining Hall
7:00 pm to 7:15 pm	10-Minute Break	
7:15 pm to 8:15 pm	Environmental Storytelling Panel	Fellowship Hall
8:15 pm to 9:00 pm	Student Art Showcase & Networking	Fellowship Hall

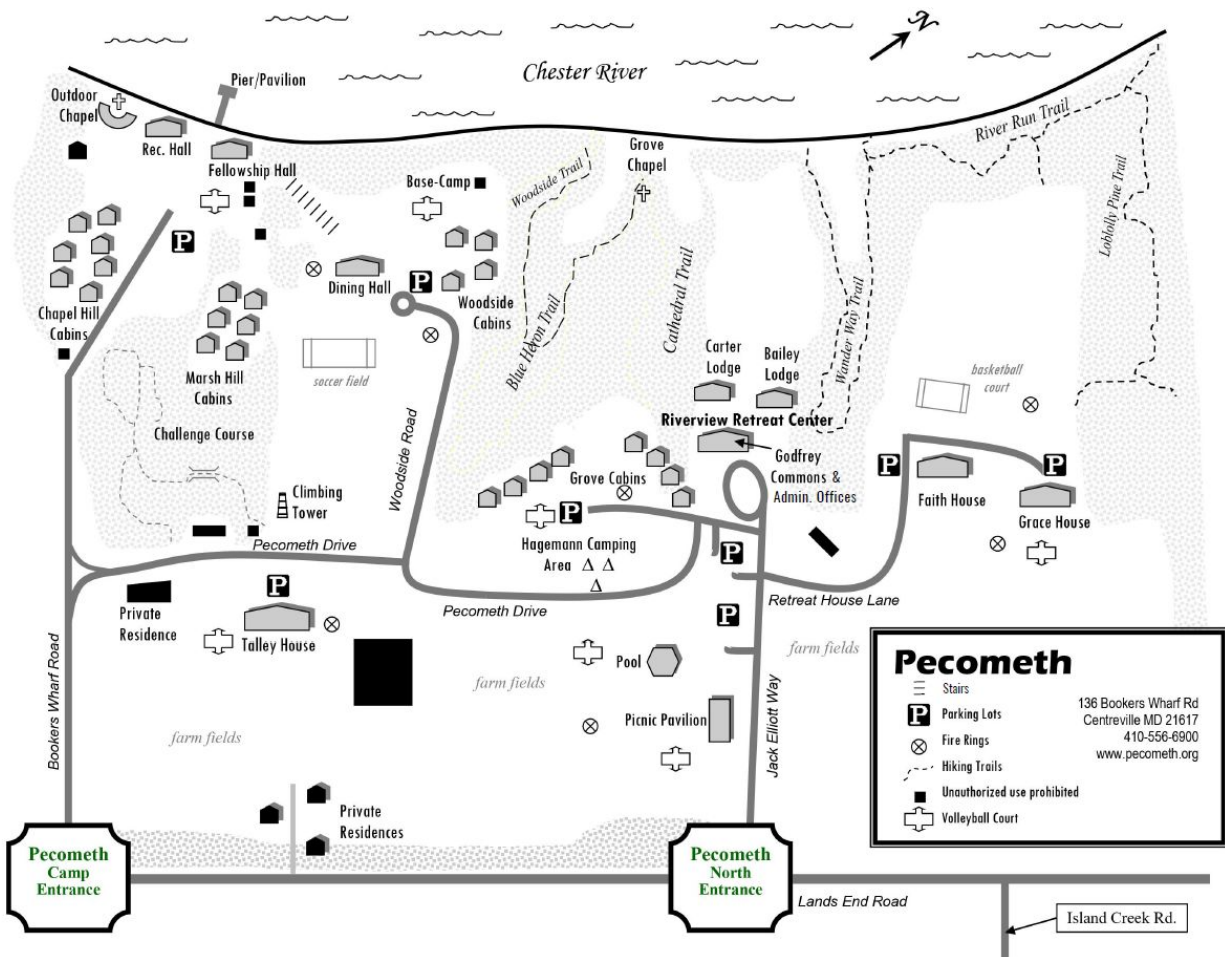




# SUMMIT SCHEDULE

## Sunday, September 10

9:00 am to 10:00 am	Breakfast	Dining Hall
10:00 am to 10:15 am	10-Minute Break	
10:15 am to 11:15 am	Closing Presentation	Fellowship Hall
11:15 am to 11:45 am	Break & Preparation for Excursions	
11:45 am to 2:45 pm	Outdoor Adventures (Assigned at Registration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided Kayak Trip</li> <li>• Birding Hike</li> <li>• Fishing Trip</li> <li>• Climbing &amp; Zipline Experience</li> <li>• Water research Excursion</li> </ul>	
2:45 pm to 3:45 pm	Packing Up & Check-out Process	Faith & Grace Houses
4:00 pm	Buses Depart	



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Saturday, September 9

### Arrival & Breakfast | 8:00 am to 9:30 am

*Faith & Grace Houses*

Use this time to settle into accommodations at Faith and Grace Retreat Houses. Coffee, tea, and bagged breakfast will be provided during this time in the common rooms at each house.

### Welcome Remarks & Keynote Address | 10:00 am to 11:30 am

*Fellowship Hall*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall as Kate Fritz, CEO at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, and Emma Gregory, Equity & Inclusion Projects Specialist at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, open the inaugural HBCU/MSI Chesapeake Bay Summit. The Summit welcome will be followed by our keynote speaker, Vince Leggett, founder of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Project. Mr. Leggett will discuss the rich history of Black watermen and farmers within the Chesapeake Bay region. Beyond serving as an important lesson in our interconnection with the Bay, this keynote address will teach us how to lean into this historically close relationship in order to engage with - and solve - Environmental Justice and conservation issues today.



**Vince Leggett** is the founder and president of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation (BOCF), which documents, promotes, and educates on the significant contributions of African Americans to the bay's maritime industries and culture. In 2000, the Library of Congress designated BOCF as a Local Legacy Project, and in 2003, Maryland Governor Glendening commissioned Vince an honorary Admiral of the Chesapeake. As a book author, a cultural historian and a planner, Vince has been leading efforts to preserve the rich heritage of Maryland's traditionally African-American waterfront communities and immortalize the legacy of such sites as Carr's, Sparrows and Columbia beaches. Through this work, Leggett is taking advantage of the expanding interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion to further BOCF's mission.

### Ice Breakers & Team Building Activities | 11:45 am to 12:15 pm

*Fellowship Hall*

Get moving and get to know other attendees with an entertaining and thought-provoking team building exercise designed to foster connections and bolster energy levels.

### Lunch | 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

*Dining Hall*

Break bread with us and continue getting to know your fellow Summit participants. We challenge you to introduce yourself to someone you haven't met yet!



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Environmental Justice Panel | 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

The Environmental Justice movement has been led for decades by individuals, primarily People of Color, seeking to address the inequity of environmental protection in their communities. This panel will discuss the EJ issues that impact local communities in Maryland and Washington, DC, the work that's being done to solve these challenges, and how students can get involved.



**Mark Conway** represents Baltimore's Fourth District on the Baltimore City Council and chairs the Public Safety and Government Operations Committee. Before joining the council in 2020, he served as Deputy Director of CitiStat and Executive Director of the Baltimore Tree Trust. He is currently the Executive Vice President at the Chesapeake Conservancy, where he oversees programs and the work of its Conservation Innovation Center. He holds a B.A. and Master of Public Policy (MPP) from the University of Maryland.



**Dr. Patrice Nielson** grew up in New Hampshire and had a love of plants and animals from a very young age. She has a BS in Biology, MS in Wildlife Conservation, and a PhD in Environmental Science. She currently teaches Biology, Environmental Justice, and Environmental Science courses at Trinity Washington University with research interests in urban wildlife, native plants, and environmental literacy.



**Dr. Shizuka (Zukes) Hsieh** is Associate Professor of Chemistry at Trinity Washington University, and teaches in its women's liberal arts college. While her training was in laser spectroscopy and quantum mechanics, a 2009-10 AAAS Science and Technology Fellowship at US EPA inspired her to shift her focus to environmental justice. Since 2013, she has been working with activist groups and local atmospheric chemists to bring air quality monitoring to communities that bear a disproportionate burden of pollution in Washington, DC. She serves on an advisory board for the Center for Environmental Policy at American University. She has taught courses in environmental chemistry and pollution, for the Associated Kyoto Program in Japan at Oberlin, Smith and Trinity. Hsieh attended Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, and holds a D.Phil. in Physical Chemistry. Her B.A. in Chemistry is from Carleton College.

## Student Lightning Talks | 3:30 pm to 4:15 pm

Faith & Grace Retreat Houses

Join these sessions to hear a series of short (~3 minute) presentations about some of the incredible and important environmental work being done by students at HBCUs and MSIs across Maryland and DC. These talks will cover a broad array of topics from research to internships. Review the list of lightning talks on pages 10 and 11 and decide which session to attend.



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Environmental Careers Breakout Sessions | 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Faith & Grace Retreat Houses

How do you translate your passion for environmental and environmental justice issues into a career that makes a difference? Join professionals from 5 different career paths within the environmental sector as they discuss their work, the journey that led them to where they are now, and what careers in the field might look like in the future. Be sure to bring your questions because this will be an interactive session with lots of time for discussion.

Choose the session that most interests you:

### Academia & Research

Faith House, Common Room



Born and raised in Washington, DC, **Dr. Victor McCrary** is the Vice President for Research at the University of the District of Columbia. Concurrently, he is a member of the National Science Board, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2016, and re-appointed by President Joe Biden in 2022. He is a change agent and serial innovator, always seeking to make a difference by unlocking the creative potential in individuals and organizations. He has held executive positions at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Morgan State University, and as division chief at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

### Policy & Advocacy

Faith House, Basement Meeting Room



As Deputy Director of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, **Mariah Davis** manages outreach and grassroots advocacy efforts to support the Coalition's policy priorities. Mariah coordinates conservation organizations efforts in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New York, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. In an effort to grow and mobilize a more inclusive clean water movement, Mariah has a lead role in expanding partnerships and strategic relationships with diverse stakeholders. She manages collaborative partnerships with funders to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen environmental justice initiatives in the region. She is a resource to Coalition members and partners who seek to enhance their advocacy and professional development skills.

### Restoration

Grace House, Common Room



**Carmen Tucker** is a Baltimore native currently working in the environmental field as a Special Projects Coordinator. With a bachelor's degree in marine science and a master's degree in environmental science and policy, she has found herself employed by Ripley's Believe it or Not Aquarium, The Smithsonian Institution's Natural History Museum, and now GreenVest, LLC, an industry leader in environmental conservation and restoration. Carmen has been guided by a quote from Robert Frost throughout her career, "...I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference", which has opened her eyes to different opportunities in her field and encouraged her to grow.





# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Environmental Careers Breakout Sessions (continued) | 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

### Education & Interpretation

Faith House, Outdoor Meeting Space



**Brittany Hall** is Education Coordinator and Training Specialist for the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office. Her background includes studies and service in the public humanities at numerous cultural institutions, including the National Park Service. She has used her academic work on African American history and culture to educate audiences of diverse backgrounds on the importance of preserving Black spaces and telling Black stories. As part of the NPS Chesapeake Gateways team, she provides technical and financial assistance to NPS partners by developing and supporting education programming throughout the watershed. Brittany believes strongly in promoting stewardship of the Bay and empowering its residents to tackle environmental issues by incorporating the tenets of environmental justice, trauma informed education, and cultural responsiveness.

### Finding Your Career Path with the Chesapeake Conservation Corps\*\*

\*\* This breakout session is targeted for attendees who are 18-25 years old

Grace House, Basement Meeting Room

The **Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps** supports and trains the next generation of stewards in professions that restore and protect our environment and natural resources ensuring a healthy place for all of us to live. In the Corps young adults (ages 18-25) are provided with hands-on environmental and leadership experience, training, and support network of other young environmentalists.



**Carlton Burns** joined the Chesapeake Bay Trust in December 2021. He serves as the Program Coordinator for the Education and Outreach team. Carlton has been involved in Environmental Education and Youth Program Development for over a decade. Prior to joining the Trust, he served San Juan County, WA as a Field Specialist and Steward where he helped to manage and maintain multiple environmental preservation initiatives. Carlton has also worked with the National Park Service, Northwest Youth Corps, AmeriCorps, and Student Conservation Association.

## Dinner | 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Dining Hall

Share a meal with Summit attendees and speakers. We challenge you to introduce yourself to someone you haven't met yet!



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Environmental Storytelling Panel | 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm

Fellowship Hall

Our ability to respond to environmental challenges hinges on our ability to communicate those challenges - as well as their solutions. Join journalists Rona Kobell and Allyson Finch-Wilson in a panel discussion about how to communicate complex environmental issues in a way that will not only inform your audience about the issue but also empower them to take action. They will also share insight into their career journeys and screen some of their recent work.



**Rona Kobell** is the co-founder of the Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative. She has covered the Chesapeake Bay and its people for 19 years, beginning at *The Baltimore Sun*, then at the *Chesapeake Bay Journal*, and most recently as the managing editor for *Chesapeake Quarterly* magazine. She is an adjunct professor at Loyola University, Towson University, and the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, where she recently earned her Master's of the Arts in Journalism. Her writing has appeared in *Slate*, *Grist*, *The Washington Post*, *National Parks Magazine*, among other publications. She has also written and produced three films, including *Eroding History*. Rona was named a 2023-2024 SNF AGORA Fellow at Johns Hopkins University for the 2023-2024 academic year, where she will continue to work on the topics explored in *Eroding History*.



**Allyson Finch-Wilson** is a climate change storyteller and strategic communications professional. Her career has spanned television and print news and strategic communications for sustainability and environmental justice issues. Allyson is a freelance journalist for NBC News' *Climate In Crisis*.

## Student Art Showcase & Networking Session | 8:15 pm to 9:00 pm

Fellowship Hall

Art is a powerful way to tell environmental stories and raise public interest in important environmental topics. Connect with Day 1 speakers and fellow attendees during an exhibition of environmental artwork from students and faculty members at HBCUs across the watershed.

## Free Time | 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Faith & Grace Retreat Houses

Unwind after a busy first day at the Summit by connecting with other students on-site at Pecometh. To respect the sleep schedules of all Summit attendees, quiet hours will begin at 10:00 pm, and all students are expected to be in their accommodations with the lights out by that time.



# SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

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## Sunday, September 10

### **Packing Up | 8:00 am to 9:00 am**

*Faith & Grace Houses*

Use this time to begin packing up your belongings.

### **Breakfast | 9:00 am to 10:00 am**

*Dining Hall*

Fuel up for the day ahead by sharing a meal with other Summit attendees. Breakfast will only be served during this period so be sure to arrive on time.

### **Closing Remarks | 10:15 am to 11:15 am**

*Fellowship Hall*

Join Tykee James, co-founder of Amplify the Future, for a closing presentation centered on the importance of Black joy in the outdoors. The goal of this session is for every attendee to leave the Summit feeling empowered and invigorated to pursue activities that fulfill them in their personal and professional lives.



**Tykee James** has been a leader in the birding community for over a decade as an advocate for equitable access to the benefits of nature. From his first job as an environmental educator in his own neighborhood, to his current role as a lobbyist at a land conservation organization, Tykee shares his passion for birds to build trust, coalition, and power to make a difference every day.

### **Outdoor Adventures | 11:45 am to 2:45 pm**

*Fellowship Hall*

Participate in a half-day outdoor adventure. Due to space constraints, attendees must participate in the adventure they were assigned at acceptance. These assignments can be found on your name tag.

### **Packing Up & Check Out Process | 2:45 pm to 3:45 pm**

*Faith & Grace Houses*

### **Departure | 4:00 pm**

*Faith & Grace Houses*



# STUDENT LIGHTNING TALKS

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## Faith House, Common Room

### **Little Actions; Significant Environmental Effects**

*Ndubuisi Achuko, Morgan State University*

### **Impacts of Woody Debris on Freshwater Fauna**

*Jazmine Harry, Howard University*

### **Extracting Climate Change Related Stressors**

*Javeia Johnson-McCoy, Coppin State University*

### **Mindfulness as a Tool for Improving Totality**

*Timothy Johnson-McCoy, Coppin State University*

### **Solar Panels & The Food-Energy-Water Nexus**

*Nazia Nowshin, University of the District of Columbia*

### **Takeaways from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program**

*Nia Richardson, Howard University*

### **Working towards Environmental Justice**

*Stephanie Stair, Howard University*

## Faith House, Basement Meeting Room

### **The Greener, The Healthier**

*Samson Alagbe, Morgan State University*

### **Reflections from Research on Prostate Cancer & Why It's Important**

*Mojisoluwa Awolowo, Morgan State University*

### **Youth Activism in Climate Action**

*Nnennaya Ihejirikah, Howard University*

### **Fostering Shared Environmental Responsibility Across Generational Divides**

*Dr. Theresa Mason Ford, University of the District of Columbia*

### **Could Prescribed Burns be the Answer to Managing the Spread of Fungal Pathogens**

*Amarachukwu Okongwu, Howard University*

### **Global Insights, Local Impact: Gleanings from World Water Week**

*Jaleel Shujath, University of the District of Columbia*

### **The Importance of Internships**

*Lizelle Thomas, Bowie State University*





# STUDENT LIGHTNING TALKS

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## Grace House, Common Room

### **Green Stormwater Infrastructure Distribution in Baltimore City**

*Julia Atayi, Morgan State University*

### **International Research in the Global South**

*Theo Daniels, Howard University*

### **Harnessing Mixed Media for Environmental Awareness**

*Olisa Menakaya, Morgan State University*

### **Harmful Algal Blooms**

*Jasmine Pinchinat, University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

### **Defending our Ecosystems; One person at a time**

*Kyle Smetiouk, University of Maryland Eastern Shore*

### **Temperature and Violence among Baltimore City Youth: Implications for Climate Equity**

*Kamille Trice, Morgan State University*

### **Exploring the Intersection of Environmental Sustainability & Community**

*Leyha Williams, Howard University*

## Grace House, Basement Meeting Room

### **Beyond Heat Islands**

*Jasmin Avila, Trinity Washington University*

### **Kauai Seabird Depredation**

*Alexandria DuBuclet, Bowie State University*

### **Breaking Free from Plastic Pollution: A Call to Action**

*Abubakar Isa, Morgan State University*

### **Efficacy of Densified Carbon Nanotube Membranes in Removing Micro/Nanoplastics from Water**

*Kadisha Mitchell, Howard University*

### **Effects of Global Warming & Species Extinction**

*Forrest Poindexter, Coppin State University*

### **Sustainable transportation in Urban Environments**

*Trinity Smith, Howard University*

### **A New Era of Youth Action: Centering the Voices of Historically Marginalized People**

*Isaac Vergun, Howard University*



# STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

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**Untitled**

*Vanessa Agbor, Bowie State University*

**Destroying Today and Rebuilding for Tomorrow**

*Ifeanyi Ajaebili, Morgan State University*

**Protect our lovely air, water, and sky**

*Kerry Chavarria Gonzalez, Trinity Washington University*

**Untitled**

*Kairstyn Davis, Morgan State University*

**Earth Day Poem**

*Nnennaya Ihejirikah, Howard University*

**Life is Life**

*Jewel Joyner, Trinity Washington University*

**Untitled**

*Olisa Menakaya, Morgan State University*

**Reefs in Ruins**

*Nahdia Parks, Howard University*

**Untitled**

*Jaleel Shujath, University of the District of Columbia*

**Untitled**

*Brittney Smith, Trinity Washington University*

**Untitled**

*Lizelle Thomas, Morgan State University*















## 2023 HBCU/MSI CHESAPEAKE BAY SUMMIT

*Scan the QR code to complete the Summit feedback survey*