

Career Pathways Program

January 2018 Newsletter

Office of Human Resources and Development

PREPARE. PLAN. DETERMINE. DISCOVER.

SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL TO TEACHER PATHWAYS: PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ANNOUNCED!

MCPS has identified new partnerships for support professionals interested in pursuing teaching certification. We will be hosting a special information fair February 7th, 2018 from 4:30-6:00. At this information fair our higher education partners will be available to provide additional information about their programs as well as the application process. If a future in teaching is something for you, sign up via PDO, course #87005. We hope to see you there!



**Support Professional
to Teacher
Partnership Fair:
February 7, 2018**

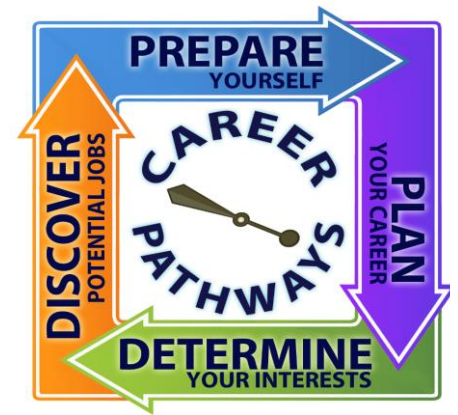
Johns Hopkins University Master's Degree in Special Education Information Session

Johns Hopkins University in collaboration with MCPS seeks candidates for the SET-IT (Special Education Teacher Immersion Training) two-year program that leads to a Master of Science in Education Degree and Generic Certification in Special Education, grades 1 through 12. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree and have at least a 3.0 GPA. Participants will work for MCPS as special education paraeducators during the day and take JHU courses in the evening at their Columbia campus. MCPS tuition reimbursement will be available to qualified MCPS employees. Interested persons should email Dr. Laurie deBettencourt for more information (debetten@jhu.edu).

The final deadline is February 1, 2018.

Additional Information about Partnership Opportunities:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/teacherprep/>



Teacher Pathway Partnership Options

Montgomery College

- Alternative Certification Pathway
- AA in Teaching

Notre Dame of Maryland University

- Various Teacher Certification Areas
- Bachelor's & Master's Programs

Johns Hopkins University

- Special Education
- Master's Program

Towson University

- Special Education
- Master's Program

University of Maryland

- Special Education & ESOL
- Master's Program

University of Maryland University College & University of Maryland Baltimore County

- Various Teacher Certification Areas
- Bachelor's & Master's Programs

For more information, contact Nathalie Bourdereau, Career Pathways Program Specialist, at 301-217-5115 or Nathalie_C_Bourdereau@mcpsmd.org

CAREER ADVANCEMENT PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT: ALICIA DEENY

What was your first position within MCPS?

My first position was as a part-time media assistant in Takoma Park Middle School. I had previously been a program manager for a non-profit organization that served migrant farm workers. At the time I was in my late twenties, and I wanted a position that would enable me the flexibility of pursuing a music career. I worked part-time as a media assistant while I was a performing singer/songwriter. I enjoyed working as a media assistant because I was able to contribute to the organization of the library and work directly with students.

What led you to pursue other opportunities?

After working in a school, I became interested in pursuing my teaching degree in Spanish. In my role as media assistant, I enjoyed working directly with students and realized I would really enjoy teaching. I decided to obtain my teaching certification and Master's degree through a partnership program between MCPS and Johns Hopkins University to become a Spanish teacher.

What was your pathway to your current position? What were the ups and downs?

After becoming a teacher I became involved in school leadership. I was the World Languages Resource Teacher as well as a team leader. Through these roles in school leadership I became interested in working with the teaching staff to improve instruction and focus on improving the success of groups of students. I eventually obtained my degree in administration

and became an assistant principal at Blair High School. I have always enjoyed teaching and sometimes have missed this part of the work since I have become involved in administration; however, I create opportunities to give lessons to students and make sure that I am working directly with students on a regular basis to stay connected to teaching. Now, as a current principal, I also see my role as one in which teaching is a crucial element as I focus on making sure that the professional development of the staff is always at the forefront of my work. I actually became principal of the same school where I began my journey, Takoma Park Middle School, and my first meeting with the community as the new principal was in the media center. It was surreal and pretty amazing to start the new part of my career from the same place it began.



What advice would you give others who are looking to advance in their current positions as support professionals?

My advice to anyone who is interested in advancing is to do great work in your current role. If you focus on being excellent in what you are currently doing, people will notice and think of you when opportunities for future positions arise. When the opportunity presents itself for advancement, listen to the advice of your colleagues and don't underestimate your potential.

OPERATIONAL CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently working to develop a needs assessment for support professionals interested in pursuing career advancement opportunities on the operational side of MCPS. More information will be shared in upcoming newsletters.