



## DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DSA News For You

*DSA staff honors, Indaba, UMD App additions*

Monday, February 5, 2024

Dear DSA Colleague,

Being in community with each other strengthens us. And, it was a joy to be in CommUNITY with so many during the Maryland Student Affairs Conference (MSAC). It not only reaffirmed our shared commitment to learning and growth, but also exemplified the power of collaboration and connection. Thank you to the MSAC committee for their masterful work making this 49th annual conference happen, with a special thanks to Andrea Bussler for serving as chair. I am also grateful for all of the presenters for sharing their gifts, talents and expertise—what an inspiring day!

### Terrapin Innovation and MVP Impact Award Winners from DSA

It was an absolute pleasure to celebrate the [recipients of our inaugural Terrapin Innovation and MVP Impact Awards](#) last Tuesday. I want to lift up the names of our Student Affairs colleagues who deservedly received these honors:

**Terrapin Innovation Award:** Recognized staff members for new ideas that capture the spirit of moving Fearlessly Forward with innovative and creative thinking.

- Lisa Alexander, Department of Resident Life, Coordinator for Sustainability Programs
- Erin Schlegel, Department of Resident Life, Assistant Director of Communities
- Kia Weeden, Department of Resident Life, Assistant to the Director

**MVP Impact Award:** Recognized staff members who, over the past year, have demonstrated a Fearlessly Forward attitude of excellence, amazing service and outstanding contributions.

- Veronica Turcios, Dining Services, Assistant Director for Human Resources
- Sarah Williamson, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Assistant Director of Administrative Operations

These awards are one way we are demonstrating our commitment to [investing in people and communities](#).

### Indaba: Supporting Students and Free Speech

Join the Student Affairs Diversity Initiative (SADI) for a conversation led by Dr. Andrea Goodwin, Dean of Students, and Brian Medina, Director of Bias Incident Support Services, about how we can support students navigating challenges arising from others' free speech, with a particular emphasis on understanding and addressing the impact on mental health.

We will meet on Thursday, February 29 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided. [RSVP!](#)

## Additions to the UMD App

[The UMD App](#) has had over 12,000 downloads since it was re-released this past fall! Student Affairs IT and Division of IT staff have expanded this App for the spring. Some updates include:

- RecWell: a “busy meter” showing crowds at Eppley and Ritchie, and an Active Terp module
- University Career Center (UCC): highlights the job opportunities for students, direct links to UCC’s website, social media and events, and links to Handshake.
- Integration with the [University Event Calendar](#): see everything happening at UMD!
- Winter Orientation: spring ‘24 admits downloaded the App to see orientation programming.

Please continue to share news about the UMD App throughout your networks—especially with our students!

Warmest Wishes,

Patricia A. Perillo, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Maryland

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## Save the Dates

- [Black History Month: Reconnecting AfroFutures](#) -- February 1 - 29
- [Second Look Fair](#) -- Thursday, February 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- [All Niter](#) -- Friday, February 9, 5 p.m.
- [Council Conversations: SALT Added](#) -- Yvette Lerma-Jones, Dir. of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, “Purpose, Community, and Humility: Grounding Your Work in Collective Healing”, Tuesday, February 13 at 2 p.m.
- [DSA Spring Renewal](#) -- Thursday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.