



# USM WOMEN'S FORUM

## NEWSLETTER



***Save the Date!***

### **The USM Women's Forum (USMWF) Annual Conference**

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**Friday November 14, 2014**

**Bowie State University**

**Student Center**

**9am – 4pm**

**Conference Theme -**

**“#USMWF Bridging the Gap”**



This year's annual conference will promote the USMWF's mission to enhance the status of women and to foster networking, and to encourage and strengthen the participation of women in all facets of the University System of Maryland. Interesting and engaging speakers will encourage and inspire conference attendees to achieve new levels in the workplace.

The USMWF's annual conference brings together students, staff, faculty and administrators who have an interest in issues that relate to enhancing the status of women. Look for more information in your inbox next month! We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

**Summer 2014**

### **What is the USM Women's Forum?**

#### **History of the USM Women's Forum**

A new era began in Maryland in 1988 when the State created the University System of Maryland (USM), uniting eleven separate universities and colleges and two research institutes. A new era began for the women in the new System when Fay-Tyler M. Norton, wife of Interim Chancellor James A. Norton, founded the Women's Forum on December 3, 1989.

At that time, most USM Institutions had no organized group that addressed issues of special concern to women. The Forum encouraged the formation of campus chapters and galvanized women across the System in an unprecedented way. It provided an opportunity for networking and gave women a System-wide impact on issues affecting female employees. This was the first organization to represent the various communities of women - staff, faculty, students, and their partners - of the new University System of Maryland.

#### **Our Mission**

The mission of the Women's Forum is to bring together the women of the University System of Maryland in order to enhance the status of women, foster networking among women, and to encourage participation of women in all facets of the USM. It is the express purpose of the Women's Forum to respect and to value the diversity and richness of the perspectives and experiences of all communities of women within the USM.

#### **What We Do...**

The Women's Forum has a rich menu of activities that align with our mission. Some of these activities include:

- Supporting the professional growth of women within the USM through annual faculty research awards, staff development awards and student scholarships.
- Bringing the women of the USM together during our annual conferences to network and learn
- Highlighting the accomplishments of women within the USM during Women's History Month
- Advocating for women and the issues that women may encounter within the USM
- Researching issues of concern to the women of the USM



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### Laurels and Accolades...

#### Amanda M. Knapp



Having served on the USMWF Executive Council since 2009, we wish to recognize Amanda Knapp for several notable achievements which include completion of a Ph.D. in Education Policy at the University of Maryland, College Park in which her research examined the relationship between best online instructional practices and undergraduate student perceptions of instructor credibility. Knapp's research was recognized by the Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) in which she was presented with an Effective Practice Award in 2013. She was also promoted to Assistant Vice Provost, Academic Standards and Policy Administration at UMBC where she has served since 2011.

### Recognition

A special thank you goes out to several USM Women's Forum members who have recently stepped down from the Executive Council. Each member was recognized with a volunteer certificate from the Governor's Office for all of their contributions to the Women's Forum and the women of the University System of Maryland. These individuals made great contributions during the time they served on the Executive Council, and they will be missed very much.

The recognized individuals include:

- Nancy Jones, UMCES
- Kelly Arthur, UMCES
- Hermetta Hudson, UMCP Extension
- Courtney Gasser, UB
- Jeurel Singleton, UMES

### Articles of Interest to Women

- [On International Women's Day: Do we know what academic success looks like?](#)
- [Four Executives on succeeding in business as a woman](#)
- [Harvard Case Study: Gender Equity](#)

### Presidential Fellowship Opportunity

The Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) program seeks the best and brightest master's and doctoral graduates who have demonstrated a breadth and quality of accomplishments, a capacity for leadership, and a commitment to a career in the management of public programs and policies.

The PMF Program has a rich history going back to 1977 when President Carter issued an Executive Order establishing "The Presidential Management Intern Program." Several follow-on Executive Orders, including one from President Obama, renamed and refined the program, laying out the rules by which the program would be administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM).

Applicants must pass a rigorous multi-phase assessment process at the federal level. Once selected, they are eligible for a leadership-track fellowship appointment with a federal agency. The paid fellowship includes a full-time placement, agency rotations, and the opportunity for accelerated promotions to a long-term leadership position. Interested students can find detailed information about this exciting opportunity on the PMF web site available at [www.pmf.gov](http://www.pmf.gov).

### Women's Issues in the News

#### President Obama Addresses Pay Equity

In April, 2014, President Obama signed a pair of executive orders earlier this year aimed at encouraging conversation about men's and women's pay scales. It's a talk that Democrats hope will yield political gains this year. Specifically, the executive orders were created to prevent workplace discrimination and empower workers to take control over negotiations regarding their pay.

Click [here](#) for more information on Pay Equity and the recent action by the President.

#### Ideas or news to share?

Do you have news, ideas, articles, or events to share in future newsletters? Please contact the Marketing Committee Chair via email at [pilowite@af.umaryland.edu](mailto:pilowite@af.umaryland.edu)