

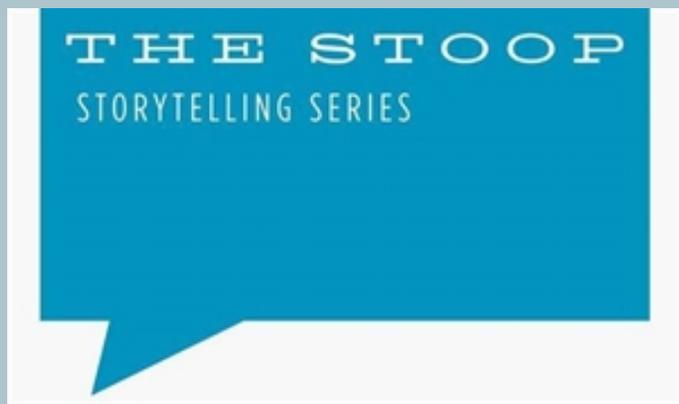
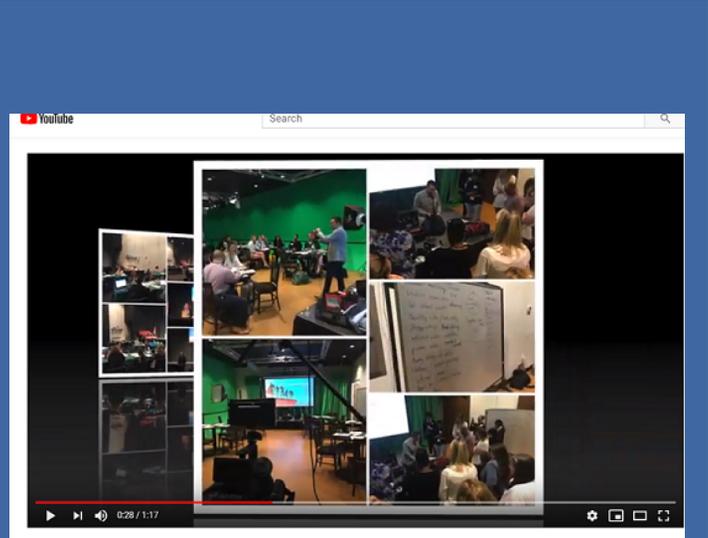


INSIGHTS

COMMUNICATE - SHARE - CONNECT

January 2019 View this newsletter online by [clicking here](#).

This Fall was a record-breaking year for professional development opportunities at AIMS, and you all came out in force. As our **Executive Director Peter Baily** explained in his December 2018 email, "This fall, **AIMS sponsored 47 professional development and networking events**, attended by **over 1500 professionals and trustees** in our schools. We conducted three ten-year accreditation visits and six five-year visits, and we reviewed six action plans." We captured a lot of the action in photographs, and made a slideshow of highlights. You might be in one! Click the slideshow to the right to check it out.



Independent School Teacher Featured on NPR's Stories From The Stoop

Mike Molina, English Instructor at Gilman School, tells his Stoop Story about the power of forgiveness, humility and how those small acts can do a lot for humanity. [You can listen to this radio segment here.](#)

Legislative Update

The **2018 - 2019 Legislative Session for the Maryland Legislature** is set to kick off soon. Please be sure to reach out to your local representatives so that you can help



them better understand your school and its role in the community. You could do this by inviting them to visit your school or you might visit your legislator in her or his local field office. **AIMS is attending Maryland Nonprofit's Annual Legislative Preview with keynote Britt Kirwan on January 7th** and will continue to monitor any legislation that may impact independent schools.

During the month of December, AIMS joined in conversations led by **Amy McNamer** and her staff regarding pending legislation before the **DC City Council**. AIMS welcomes the opportunity to assist with AISGW's important advocacy work on behalf of its member schools.

Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference

[\(See a longer version of this article here\).](#)

The Key School in Annapolis hosted, for the first time, the **AIMS Baltimore Student Diversity Leadership Conference (BSDLC) in November 2018**, welcoming over **400 students and faculty** from independent schools from Maryland and Washington to a day filled with speakers and student-led workshops focusing on educational equity, diversity and inclusion. The keynote speaker, **Dr. Joshua Bennett**, a young poet, activist and Dartmouth College professor, spoke about his education in an independent school as one of the few students of color. He also recited a selection of his poetry and took questions from an audience eager to connect with him.

The rest of the morning was filled with student-led workshops dealing with a wide-range of topics such as **combating hate in American schools, racism, taking a knee in sports culture, xenophobia, cultural appropriation, gender identity, and sexual violence**. The commitment of the young people to gather and freely discuss these weighty topics was incredible. Afterwards, lunch and an open mic session gave the students a chance to unwind and express themselves through music, rapping, dancing, and poetry.



Reaccreditations Earned in Fall 2018

One of the Association's central purposes is to support efforts by its member schools to improve pedagogy, curriculum, and school operation. Accreditation is one powerful means to achieve that end. Member schools engage voluntarily to commit to these high standards and ongoing self-improvement.

Successful completion of AIMS Accreditation represents a stiff challenge and a major accomplishment for any school. Continued enthusiasm of AIMS member schools for a vigorous self-study process is evidence of the dedication and high standards to which they hold themselves in the pursuit of excellence.

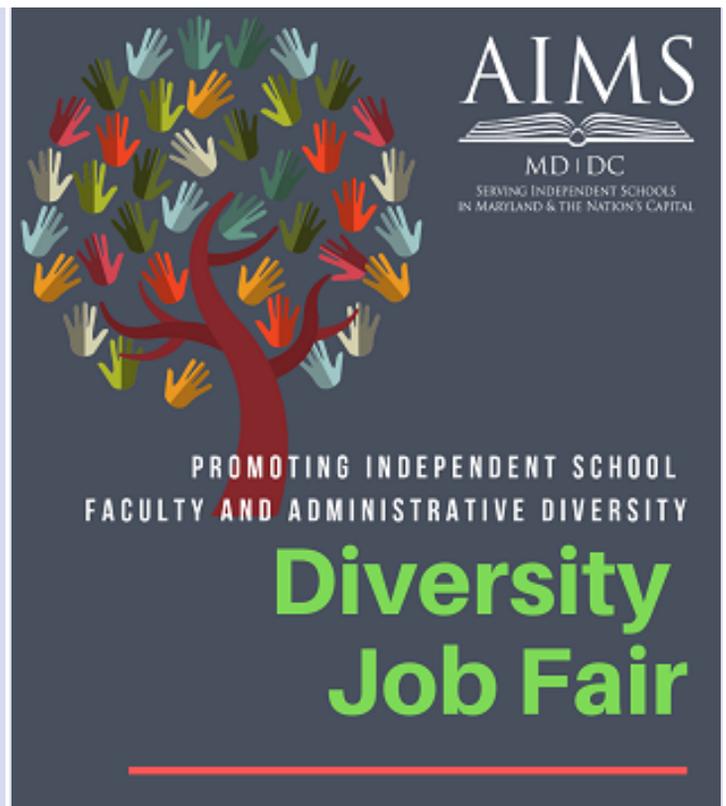
Congratulations to the following schools for successfully earning decennial re-accreditation fall 2018!

*Connelly School of the Holy Child
Edmund Burke School
Garrison Forest School
Green Acres School
Friends Meeting School
The Woods Academy*

AIMS Diversity Job Fair

Is your school looking to hire qualified candidates of color for the coming school year? The very best way to do that is to register for the **AIMS Diversity Job Fair, to take place on February 23rd at The Gilman School.** You must reserve a table by January 31st in order to participate. [You can register your school by visiting this page.](#) If you are a job seeker, [you can](#)

[register for this fair as an applicant by visiting this page.](#)



Gunston School Institutes Experiential Environmental Education Program As Graduation Requirement

As an institution whose campus and program are deeply intertwined with the Chesapeake Bay region, **The Gunston School** has long prioritized innovative and intensive environmental education. With the impact of higher temperatures and rising seas readily visible on our campus, they recently developed a meaningful curricular response to the growing climate crisis. Three years ago, as part of their annual week-long Chesapeake Bay Studies experiential education program, they began offering the elective "Islands Out of Time: Climate Science and the Chesapeake." Moving forward, commencing in the 2019-2020 school year, and starting with current 9th and 10th graders, a climate science-focused course will now become one of the two requirements (along with a Chesapeake Bay foundations course) that students must take in order to meet their Bay Studies graduation requirement. [You can learn more about their landmark program here.](#)

--from a Press Release from The Gunston School

AIMS and Loyola University of Maryland Spring Microcredentials Announced!

February 4th begins the next cycle of fully online Microcredentials open to AIMS Educators only! **What's a microcredential?** Think: Online certificate for a program of study that's self-paced, more intensive than a single day of PD yet less intensive than a whole semester long college course--yet results in a certification from a well-known and well-respected Maryland University! Win-win-win! Below you will find information about the four upcoming certifications offered, as well as a short video sharing successes from the first go-round this Fall. Sign up now, at only \$150 it can't be beat!



- Spring Micro-credentials Registration is now open!
Visit www.loyola.edu/MicroCreds for more information and to register.
- Need a flyer to show your admin? Or to post in your faculty lounge for your staff? [Spring Micro-credentials 1/2 Page Flyer for printing](#)
- Spring Micro-credentials will be open from February 4 - March 15, 2019
- We're also looking for ideas on which Microcredentials you would really like to see developed in the future. Let us know what topic for which you'd love to be certified:
 - [Future Micro-credential Topics Interest Form](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

[The Organized Child](#), 1/18 at Krieger Schechter Day School

[AIMS and Independent Dance Network Workshops and Performance](#), 1/20 at Notre Dame Preparatory School

Navigating Challenging Conversations [101](#) and [201](#), 1/22 at St. James Academy

[Social Media Roundtable](#) (for Marketing/Admin) at 1/22 at St. James Academy

[Real Talk: Contextualizing Injustice with Students](#), 1/29 at Bryn Mawr School

[Making Schools Safe 2019](#), 2/5 at Beth Tfiloh Dahan Community School



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