

Women Making a Difference

Courtesy of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center

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The State of Maryland is home to many women "firsts" and "founders" who are highlighted and honored at the Maryland Women's Heritage Center.

In addition to the renowned women who are known far beyond our state, there are innumerable women in each of our lives who have sustained our families, taught or volunteered in our schools, worked for social justice and shaped our communities—often behind the scenes, serving anonymously, without recognition and praise. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is committed to telling and preserving the stories of these unsung heroines and honoring their many contributions.

One such woman "Making a Difference" is Diana M. Bailey of Columbia, Md.

She has more than 30 years experience as an educator in Howard County and administrator with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Currently, she works in the Division of Career & College Readiness to provide career development, workforce development, and transitional skills focused on youth in the juvenile justice system, returning to their schools, communities and employment.

An advocate for underrepresented populations in educational programs and the workforce, Diana Bailey has facilitated creative partnerships to better address the needs of employment readiness and re-entry programs.

In addition to her work at MSDE, she has served on the Maryland Commission for Women, as an advisory board member of the Howard County Women's Giving Circle, and a board member of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, among others.

Because of her work as an educator, as well as her community involvement, she noticed that although there was an interest on the national and state levels to encourage girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and

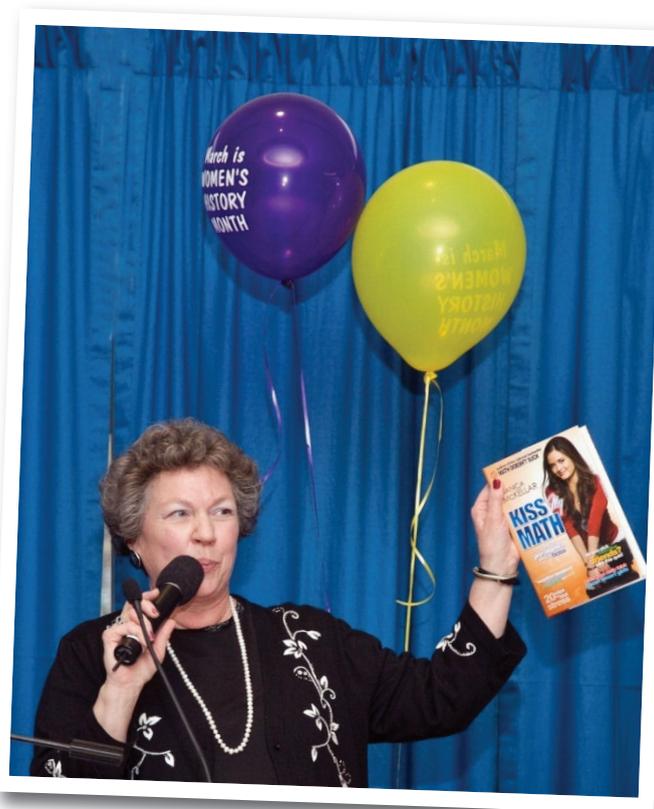
Mathematics (STEM), there was a lack of emphasis locally on STEM career services and career development for girls. She saw the importance of encouraging

girls, especially those in their middle and high school years, to become interested in these types of careers, fields where they would have many opportunities.

She approached the Howard County Women's Giving Circle, where she was a member of the board, and they provided some funding to begin the first "Girl Power" STEM Career Expo in Howard County in 2008. The STEM Career Expo supplied hands-on activities to get girls excited about careers in all of the STEM career areas. Additional funds were awarded by the Maryland Space Business Roundtable.

The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory also became one of the primary partners of this event and, in addition to others (including the Maryland Women's Heritage Center), who came out to share their passion of science at the first Expo on a Sunday afternoon in February 2008. More than 300 girls were in attendance. Each year since, not only has professional participation increased, but the number in attendance has risen as more and more girls are inspired to consider these important fields.

Now in its fourth year, the STEM Expo continues to help empower girls to believe that science-based careers are within their reach. The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory is taking the lead for this year's event with continued support from the Howard County Women's Giving Circle. However, additional partners are needed! Please become involved! Reach out to Diana Bailey at the Maryland State De-



partment of Education at 410-767-0531 or d Bailey@msde.state.md.us if you are interested!

With women having been underrepresented in STEM and other higher salary careers throughout the years, it is important that girls are encouraged to pursue their interests. Diana believes that "with access people get to fly!" 

For more information about the Maryland Women's Heritage Center or to become involved with the Center, visit our website at www.MDWomensHeritageCenter.org, call 410-767-0675, or e-mail mwhcjill@comcast.net. The Maryland Women's Heritage Center is located at 39 West Lexington Street in Baltimore. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is free.



MARYLAND
WOMEN'S
HERITAGE
CENTER

Adding Herstory to History to Tell Ourstory

The first comprehensive state-based center and museum of its kind in the nation to celebrate the women of Maryland's past, present, and future!

We invite all who wish to honor the history and contributions of our diverse foremothers to join us in supporting the creation of this historic first.

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