



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 23, 2018



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Gubernatorial Candidates Address Community College Leadership
Support Expressed for a Maryland Promise Program

Annapolis, Md. – A Gubernatorial Forum focused on community colleges was hosted by the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) at the Governor Calvert House in Annapolis on Monday, January 22, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Candidates spoke in turn, and were asked about the ways community colleges benefit Maryland and whether they would support and fund a Maryland Promise program, if elected.

Candidates were unanimous in their support of community colleges and several shared stories of their own experiences as community college students or professors. There was less agreement among the candidates about how to make community college more affordable for students, but several did express support for a Maryland Promise program that would provide free tuition for eligible students.

Candidates in attendance were: Rushern Baker, county executive of Prince George's County; Ben Jealous, former president and chief executive officer of the NAACP; Kevin Kamenetz, county executive of Baltimore County; Richard Madaleno, Maryland state senator from the 18th district; Alec Ross, former senior advisor in the Obama administration; Jim Shea, former chair of the Board of Regents at the University System of Maryland; and Krishanti Vignarajah, former senior adviser and policy director in the Obama administration.

"Rapid advancements in technology mean equally rapid changes in necessary workforce skills," said Dr. Bernie Sadusky, MACC's executive director. "Maryland needs more workers with today's skills, otherwise we limit our businesses and economy. A Maryland Promise program would expand Maryland's skilled workforce by making training at community colleges accessible to more students."

The Gubernatorial Forum followed MACC's annual Trustee Leadership Conference, and preceded MACC's annual Legislative Reception. Several candidates stayed for part of the evening's legislative reception which was attended by numerous state senators and delegates.

About Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC)

The [Maryland Association of Community Colleges \(MACC\)](http://www.mdacc.org) is an advocate for the state's 16 community colleges and the educational needs of their almost half million students. Our [WorkSmart](#) initiative offers customized workforce training to employers. For more information, please visit www.mdacc.org or call (410) 974-8117.

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