

# Maryland's Civil Rights Journey: Then & Now

## 2025 Spring Conference Program

**March 15, 2025**  
Perdue School of  
Business  
Salisbury University  
Salisbury, Maryland

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## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT SALISBURY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SITES**

Salisbury University Housing and Residence Life acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional lands of the Wicomico peoples. The University occupies the past lands of the Tundotank Reservation (Tony Tank) created during colonization of the Eastern Shore. The halls in which you live are named for the major waterways of Maryland and were the lands of the Wicomico, Pocomoke, Nanticoke, Manokin and Choptank tribes. With gratitude for the land itself and the indigenous people who have stewarded it throughout the generations, we commit to continue to learn how to be better caretakers of the land we inhabit today.



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## Message from the MDCSS President

March 15, 2025

Hello Fellow Educators,

Welcome to the annual Maryland Council for Social Studies Spring Conference! We are so excited to be hosting you again at Salisbury University. We want to thank co-sponsors for Maryland Council on Economic Education, we love working with you and helping educators through the school year. We look forward to creating an opportunity for teachers to develop their skills and expand their expertise. If we are seeing you again, welcome back, we know that you will find great sessions and resources. If you are new to us this year, welcome! You are about to embark on a great day of professional development.

I have been a classroom teacher for the last 18 years, and while I cannot say I loved every minute of every day, I can say that I have loved the time in the classroom helping students understand the world around them and how to become engaged citizens. These past few years have been heavy, and we have weathered many challenging times, but the work we are doing with our students, to create informed citizens who actively participate in their communities is so important. We are supporting the next generations of leaders and the work we do, whether is it through curriculum development, professional development or school based has never been more crucial than it is now. I am so honored to be a part of this profession that shows students their past, while defining the present and preparing for the future.

Please feel free to visit the MDCSS website ([www.mdcss.org](http://www.mdcss.org)) and check out several amazing opportunities. We will continue to uplift professional development opportunities around the state. MDCSS also plans to create chances for us to gather in a social setting to enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other as an integral part of this work. At our conference this year we are recognizing our Educators of the Year, who were honored at the Maryland General Assembly. In addition to building community, we will also be advocating for a Seal of Civic Excellence for our students.

As a new or returning member of the Maryland Council for Social Studies, you are a part of this important work, and your support is deeply appreciated. On behalf of the MDCSS Board, I would like to once again thank you for attending this year's conference and wish you a wonderful and productive day.

Best wishes,



Kate Volpe  
President, Maryland Council for Social Studies

## ABOUT CONFERENCE PARTNERS



The Maryland Council for Social Studies (MDCSS) is dedicated to the promotion and support of social studies education in Maryland and the United States. MDCSS works to build a community of social studies educators in the state of Maryland, and through this network, advance cultural understanding, respect for human differences, and an appreciation of diversity. MDCSS provides high quality professional development and instructional resources for Maryland social studies teachers and works to recognize excellence in social studies instruction at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.



MDCSS is a proud affiliate of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS). This affiliation allows MDCSS to provide members with access to national resources, professional development, and a network of educators. Together, MDCSS and NCSS support and enhance social studies education in Maryland and beyond.



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maryland Council on Economic Education is to equip Pre-K - 12 educators with tools and resources to build their students' financial capability and economic understanding, creating financially empowered Marylanders.

### WHAT WE DO

The Maryland Council on Economic Education provides:

- Free resources and professional development to public and private Pre K-12 teachers to improve the quality of instruction
- Interactive hands-on student programs that offer transformational learning
- Convene individuals and organizations interested in advocating for the expansion of personal finance and economics education in Maryland's schools.

# The DBQ Project

DBQ  
Online

Helping ALL Students to  
Read Smarter, Think Straight  
and Write Clearly

The DBQ Project, established in 2000, fosters critical reading, thinking, and writing skills among students. Through consistent instruction and practice, we believe all students can develop high-level critical thinking abilities. Our curriculum centers on Document-Based Questions (DBQs), guiding students to explore historical and literary themes, analyze diverse sources, and construct evidence-based arguments, promoting transformative educational experiences in schools.

*Helping teachers help students read smart, think straight, and write clearly.*

## CONTACT US

 [dbqproject.com](http://dbqproject.com)  [info@dbqproject.com](mailto:info@dbqproject.com)  1-847-475-4007

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**The Maryland Council for Social Studies  
Spring Conference Schedule – March 15, 2025**

- 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.   **CHECK-IN & BREAKFAST**  
Participant Registration  
*MDCSS Point of Contact: Mr. Scott McComb & Mr. Rich Malt*
- Vendor Registration  
*MDCSS Point of Contact: Ms. Kim Eggborn*
- 9:30 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.   **OPENING**  
Welcome with **Joey Landgraf**  
*MDCSS President-Elect*
- Social Studies Professional of the Year Awards  
*Conferred by MDCSS*
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.   **SESSION I**
- 11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.   **SESSION II**
- 11:55 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.   **LUNCH & VENDOR SESSION**
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.   **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
by **BRIT KIRWAN**
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:25 p.m.   **SESSION III**
- 2:30 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.   **SESSION IV**
- 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.   **POST-CONFERENCE HAPPY HOUR & TRIVIA**  
Hopper’s Tap House  
*1400 S Salisbury Blvd, Salisbury, MD*

# Conference Opening

**Welcome & Awards Ceremony: 9:30 a.m. – 9:55 a.m.**

**Maryland Council for Social Studies** presents  
Social Studies Professional of the Year Awards Ceremony

AWARDS TO BE CONFERRED

**Elementary Social Studies Teacher of the Year** – The nominee must be a current elementary educator who has made a significant contribution to social studies in a public or private Maryland school. The nominee shall have exhibited outstanding professional qualities in working with students, colleagues, and the community.

**Secondary Social Studies Teacher of the Year** – The nominee must be a current middle or high school educator who has made a significant contribution to social studies in a public or private Maryland school. The nominee shall have exhibited outstanding professional qualities in working with students, colleagues, and the community.

**Promising New Social Studies Teacher of the Year** – The nominee must be a current elementary or secondary educator in their first five years of teaching who has demonstrated an exceptional commitment and made significant contributions to social studies instruction.

**Social Studies Instructional Leader of the Year** – The nominee must be a social studies supervisor, resource teacher, or other instructional leader in a Maryland school system who has made outstanding contributions to curriculum and/or resource development, teacher professional development, or system-wide organization.

**Outstanding Professional at a Social Studies-related Organization** – The nominee must be a current professional at an organization whose mission is closely related to the field of social studies, such as a historic site, history museum, social studies educational alliance, or social studies advocacy organization. The nominee shall have exhibited outstanding professional qualities in working with students, teachers, and/or the community in the areas of education and/or advocacy.

**MD Civic Education Coalition Civic Leader of the Year** – The nominee must be an elementary or secondary social studies educator that has demonstrated exceptional commitment and made significant contributions to teaching for civic engagement. Winner will be selected and honored by the [Maryland Civic Education Coalition](#).



**Thank You to Our  
Breakfast Sponsors!**





# Concurrent Sessions Schedule

	Session I 10:00 - 10:55 am	Session II 11:00 - 11:55 am	Session III 1:30 - 2:25 pm	Session IV 2:30 - 3:25 pm
<b>Room 249</b>	<b>ECONOMICS &amp; CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <i>Maryland Council on Economic Education Workshop</i>			
	The Economics of Civil Rights Using Children's Literature  <i>Flo Falatko, MCEE</i> <b>Elementary</b>	Indigenous People: The Economic Effects of Their Journey  <i>Flo Falatko, MCEE</i> <b>Middle School</b>	Using Inquiry to Teach the Economics of African American History  <i>George Toepfer, MCEE</i> <b>High School</b>	Redlining and Blockbusting  <i>George Toepfer, MCEE</i> <b>Secondary</b>
<b>Room 251</b>	Ethnic Joy in United States History  <i>Gibbs Smith Edu.</i> <b>All Levels</b>	Teaching the Cambridge Movement: Connecting the Civil Rights Movement to Maryland  <i>Kate Ehrlich, FCPS</i> <b>All Levels</b>	Digging Deeper - The Power of Place and Perspective: Teaching Civil Rights through Global Struggles for Equality  <i>Julia Berg &amp; Sarah Mason, Gibbs Smith</i> <b>Middle School</b>	Accessing the Diverse History of Southern Maryland  <i>Hugh &amp; Diane Davies, Southern Maryland Equity in History Coalition</i> <b>All Levels</b>
<b>Room 258</b>	Ancient Civilizations Spotlight: Ancient Israel  <i>Casey Finch, Institute for Curriculum Svcs.</i> <b>Middle School</b>	Unlocking Student Agency through Civic Inquiry  <i>Kelly Reichardt, Center for Civic Education</i> <b>Elementary</b>	General Harriet Tubman  <i>Dr. Julie Shively, Maryland National Guard</i> <b>All Levels</b>	Intersection of Project Citizen & Civil Rights Policy  <i>Samantha Fowler, Project Citizen</i> <b>High School</b>
<b>Room 263</b>	Engaging Students in Civil Rights History: A DBQ Inquiry Approach  <i>The DBQ Project</i> <b>High School</b>	Teaching How to Address Anti-Semitism at Home and Abroad  <i>Bryna Toth, HCPS</i> <b>Elementary</b>	Power Mapping: A Tool of Liberatory Pedagogy  <i>Jordan Davis, JD Speaks LLC.</i> <b>High School</b>	Sparking Curiosity & Engaging with Inquiry & Collaboration  <i>Christa Talbott, Imagine Learning</i> <b>All Levels</b>
<b>Room 268</b>	<b>ONLY Session III - 1:30 – 2:25 pm</b> Blueprint Coordinators Forum <b>Special Session for System Blueprint Coordinators</b>			

## Concurrent Session Details Start on Next Page

**Session I : 10:00 a.m. - 10:55 a.m.**

**MCEE Workshop Part 1: The Economics of Civil Rights Using Children's Literature**

**Presenter:** Florence Falatko, *MCEE*

**Level:** Elementary

**Room:** 249

**Session Description:** Children's literature is a perfect way to teach about the civil rights movement. Literature will be shared in this session along with lesson plans, activities, and resources that help to explore the economics associated with the various stories. There are also STEM connections for the various lessons.

### Ethnic Joy in United States History

**Presenter:** Jessie Gillooly, *Gibbs Smith Education*

**Level:** Elementary

**Room:** 251

**Session Description:** This session will take a deep dive into the importance of representing ethnic joy and creative expression in the classroom. Teachers will discuss theories supporting the study of joy and resistance in historically marginalized groups and explore activities that access prior knowledge, engage primary resources, and employ the inquiry arc. The information in this session is adaptable for teachers of state history, US history, or ethnic studies.

### Ancient Civilizations Spotlight: Ancient Israel

**Presenter:** Casey Finch, *Institute for Curriculum Services*

**Level:** Middle School

**Room:** 258

**Session Description:** Explore Israelite society in the context of ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations and develop a fuller picture of its role in the ancient world through focusing on daily life, religion, law and literature of ancient Israel, lasting contributions to the Western world, and the development of Judaism as we know it today. Participants will explore free interactive, digital activities and leave with classroom-ready lessons and resources. This session is ideal for teachers of ancient civilization, world history, and world religions.

### Engaging Students in Civil Rights History: A DBQ Inquiry Approach

**Presenter:** Jackie Migliori, *The DBQ Project*

**Level:** High School

**Room:** 263

**Session Description:** This session explores how teachers can use Document-Based Questions (DBQs) as mile-markers in the American story of Civil Rights to more effectively engage students critically in the topic. Participants will examine sample DBQs that highlight key moments, figures, and movements that shaped the fight for social justice and learn how to implement these strategically across a history course. Attendees will gain practical strategies for

scaffolding lessons to make challenging texts accessible to all students, fostering meaningful classroom discussions, and developing students' historical thinking skills.

## Session II : 11:00 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.

### MCEE Workshop Part 2: Indigenous People: The Economic Effects of Their Journey

**Presenter:** Florence Falatko, *MCEE*

**Level:** Middle School

**Room:** 249

**Session Description:** The journey of the Indigenous people in the United States will be explored with focus on the economic impact on Indigenous people both past and present. This exploration and study will be related to Standards 2.0, 3.0, and 4.0. Participants will be provided with literature connections, activities, and lesson templates for this study.

### Teaching the Cambridge Movement: Connecting the Civil Rights Movement to MD

**Presenter:** Kate Erlich, *FCPS Oakdale High, 2024 MDCSS TOY Award Winner*

**Level:** ALL

**Room:** 251

**Session Description:** The efforts of civil rights activists in Cambridge, Maryland are often overlooked by historians. This presentation will discuss how the Route 40 Movement led into the Cambridge Movement and provide details about the major events that unfolded in Cambridge during the 1960s. A unit plan for high school teachers will be shared during the presentation as well as other instructional materials. All teachers can benefit from learning about this significant period in Maryland's history.

### Unlocking Student Agency through Civic Inquiry

**Presenter:** Kelly Reichardt, *Center for Civic Education*

**Level:** Elementary

**Room:** 258

**Session Description:** Build a world of elementary engagement with civic inquiry. Elementary educators will discover creative ways to fortify student knowledge in the constitutional principles of authority, justice, privacy, and responsibility through a series of primary source investigations. Civic inquiries are high-quality student-driven lessons which incorporate culturally responsive practices, assessment strategies and are standards aligned.

### Teaching How to Address Anti-Semitism at Home and Abroad

**Presenter:** Bryna Toth, *HCPS*

**Level:** Elementary

**Room:** 263

**Session Description:** Participants will learn about how to create a safe environment that values identify when discussing sensitive issues. This includes teaching students how to challenge perceptions and take action when they witness discrimination. Everyone will receive resources for elementary students including something to take back and use in the classroom right away.

# Visit These Exhibitors!



The DBQ Project



AMERICAN SIKH COUNCIL  
VOICE OF SIKHS IN AMERICA



Maryland Council for Civic and History Education

Promoting civic and history education in our schools and communities.



**Keynote Address:  
12:45 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.**

## **Keynote Speaker Bio**

### **William English "Brit" Kirwan**



**William English "Brit" Kirwan** is a renowned educator and civil rights advocate. With a career spanning decades, he has served as president of The Ohio State University, president of the University of Maryland-College Park, and chancellor of the University System of Maryland. He chaired the Kirwan Commission, which developed the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, aimed at transforming Maryland's public education system to ensure equity and excellence for all students. Kirwan is celebrated for his dedication to diversity, academic excellence, and social justice.

### **Thank You to Our Keynote Sponsor!**



### **Thank You to Our Lunch Sponsor!**



**SPECIAL SESSION FOLLOWING LUNCH: Maryland's Blueprint Coordinators Forum**

**Moderator:** Kim Eggborn, *MDCSS Board Member*

**Level:** Leadership

**Room:** 268

**Session Description:** Special session designed to allow open discourse of Maryland's Blueprint approaches, organization, and challenges with implementation across systems statewide.

## Session III : 1:30 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.

### MCEE Workshop Part 3: Using Inquiry to Teach the Economics of African Amer. Hist.

**Presenter:** George Toepfer, *MCEE*

**Level:** High School

**Room:** 249

**Session Description:** Reviewing the standards of the AP African American History course shows more economics than one might expect or be prepared to teach. With a mix of primary and secondary sources, the presenter will provide an inquiry experience using economics. Participants will receive ready for classroom use resources, an extensive "how to" of the inquiry experience, and detailed vocabulary connections for not just economics, but geography, political science, and psychology/sociology.

### Digging Deeper - The Power of Place & Perspective: Teaching Civil Rights through Global Struggles for Equity

**Presenter:** Julia Berg & Sarah Mason, *Digging Deeper Ed supported by Gibbs Smith*

**Level:** Middle School

**Room:** 251

**Session Description:** Maryland's new 6-7 social studies frameworks offer opportunities to highlight the ongoing struggle for equality, justice, and human rights around the world. We will provide participants with an overview of this geographic and thematic approach to world history and the context of this 2-year course within the big picture of social studies in Maryland. Participants will receive lesson seeds, discover new resources, and explore teaching strategies designed to engage middle school students. Our objective is to familiarize participants with the new standards and provide strategies for teaching topics that Maryland educators may be unfamiliar with, such as Native Americans, South African Apartheid, democratic revolutions, and globalization.

### General Harriet Tubman

**Presenter:** Dr. Julie Shively, *Maryland National Guard*

**Level:** All Levels

**Room:** 258

**Session Description:** On November 11, 2024, Harriet Tubman commissioned a Brigadier General in the Maryland National Guard. This presentation takes the audience on Harriet Tubman's journey from enslavement on the Eastern Shore to leading union soldiers on raids in enemy territory, then her fight with Congress to gain some recognition for her service, and finally her official, albeit posthumous, commission as a Brigadier General in the Maryland National Guard.

### Power Mapping: A Tool of Liberatory Pedagogy

**Presenter:** Jordan Davis, *JD Speaks LLC*.

**Level:** High School

**Room:** 263

**Session Description:** This interactive workshop introduces educators to power mapping—a Civil Rights era organizing strategy that still carries relevance in activism, education, and social innovation—as a pedagogical instrument for deeper, culturally responsive student engagement. Through a hands-on demonstration of the exercise, participants will experience how creating visual representations of stakeholder interactions can make complex real-world dynamics more accessible to students while promoting equity-centered learning. Participants will leave with the ability to implement this activity in both online and in-person learning environments and align the exercise with their course goals and curriculum standards.

## Session IV: 2:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.

### MCEE Workshop Part 4: Redlining & Blockbusting

**Presenter:** George Toepfer, *MCEE*

**Level:** Secondary

**Room:** 249

**Session Description:** Redlining and blockbusting.....ever heard of these terms? Come and find out the impact that racial decision making involving economic issues had on cities throughout the United States (including Baltimore) during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In this session participants will receive lesson plans and resources from the Maryland Council on Economic Education, the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, and the New York Federal Reserve Bank that will allow them to help students to better understand how economics is intimately tied to the fight for civil rights.

### Accessing the Diverse History of Southern Maryland

**Presenter:** Hugh & Diane Davies, *Southern Maryland Equity in History Coalition*

**Level:** All Levels

**Room:** 251

**Session Description:** Learn about the Southern Maryland Equity in History Coalition, its website and their Summer Institute. Developed with the Southern Maryland social studies leads, the website is designed to provide k-12 educators with helpful resources in their social studies instruction and classroom. Also learn about the free one-day Teachers Institute on June 25 at St. Mary's College of Maryland featuring the website and other resources available on the history of Black, Indigenous and other people of color in Southern Maryland.

### Intersection of Project Citizen and Civil Rights Policy

**Moderator:** Samantha Fowler, *Center for Civic Education's Project Citizen*

**Level:** High School

**Room:** 258

**Session Description:** The Center for Civic Education's Project Citizen (PC) is a widely used curricular program that actively engages young people in cooperative, project-based learning. This session will explore how PC can be adapted for use in classrooms serving different student populations and inspire them to address civil rights policy. The session will begin with presenting findings from Georgetown University's Civic Education Research Lab (CERL), which assessed PC's effectiveness in achieving civic learning outcomes. Samantha Fowler, an educator with experience implementing PC, will provide insights about differentiating PC with a focus on civil rights policy.

### Sparking Curiosity and Engaging Students with Inquiry and Collaboration

**Presenter:** Christa Talbott, *Imagine Learning*

**Level:** All Levels

**Room:** 263

**Session Description:** Embark on an educational journey where inquiry becomes a catalyst for change and collaboration drives progress. This session explores the synergy of inquiry-driven exploration and collaboration in classrooms. Discover how questioning strategies and collaborative learning can help students not only study history but also participate in history. Join us for an inspiring session on how educators can cultivate the next generation of advocates and changemakers through inquiry, the spark of curiosity, and the power of collaboration.

Post Conference Happy Hour  
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sponsored by

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Join us for Happy Hour &  
Trivia at

**Hoopers Tap House**

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

1400 S Salisbury Blvd

Salisbury, MD 21801

**First 2 Drinks Free!**

**Win Trivia Prizes!**

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Promoting civic and history education in our schools and  
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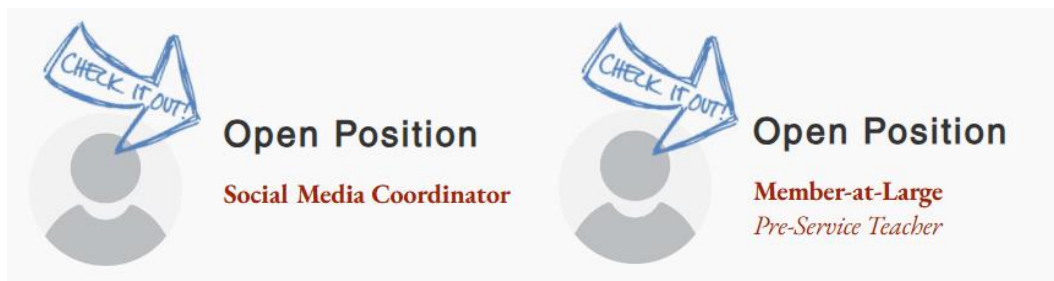


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<https://www.mdcss.org>

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Interested in Joining Our Board?  
There's a Seat for you!



Learn more at [www.mdcss.org/meet-the-board](http://www.mdcss.org/meet-the-board)

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