



Stronger Together: Leading with Vision, Voices, and Values

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

10:00 AM – Chair's Networking Breakfast: Invitation Only

12:00 PM *BUILDING II – Multipurpose Room*

11:30 AM General Registration & Resource Fair Opens

BUILDING II (General Registration) & BUILDING III (Resource Fair)

12:30 PM – Welcome and Introductions

BUILDING II – Multipurpose Room

- **Sheena Foster:** Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women
- **Dr. Anne Khademian:** Executive Director, The Universities at Shady Grove
- **Betty Romero:** First Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women & Women's Legislative Briefing Co-Chair
- **Janet LaValle:** Second Vice Chair, Montgomery County Commission for Women & Women's Legislative Briefing Co-Chair
- **Patricia Prather:** Chair, WLB Emerging Leaders Committee
- **Nina Nassiri:** Emerging Leaders Speaker
- **Honorable Marc Elrich:** Montgomery County Executive
- **Honorable Natali Fani-González:** Montgomery County Council President, District 6

1:00 PM – Keynote Panel: Visionary Women: Shaping Tomorrow Together

- **Honorable Angela Alsobrooks:** U.S Senator, State of Maryland
- **Honorable Aruna Miller:** Lieutenant Governor, State of Maryland
- **Honorable Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk:** Speaker of the House, Maryland House of Delegates

Moderator: Marissa Mitchell: News Anchor, Fox 5 D.C.

2:00 PM – Break & Resource Fair

BUILDING III – First Floor



2:30-3:30 PM • BREAKOUT SESSION 1

All breakout sessions will be held in Building III (unless otherwise noted)

Empowering Women's Wellness: Cycles, Change, and Choice

Room 2230

- **Honorable Laurie-Anne Sayles**, Councilmember, Montgomery County Council, At-Large
- **Dr. Carol Botts**, Member, AARP Maryland Speakers Bureau
- **Ana Rodney**, President and Legislative Director, Maryland Families for Safe Birth

Moderators: Commissioners Shannon Owens Harden and Mital Gajjar

Advocacy Essentials: Turning Passion into Action

Room 3241

- **Honorable April McClain Delaney**, Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives, D-6
- **Sara Morningstar**, Legislative Analyst, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, Montgomery County
- **Kelli Dominique Hudson**, Founder, Peridom Insights

Moderator: Commissioner India Hunter

Women's Work, Women's Worth: Closing the Gap

Room 3202

- **Kate Bahn**, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President, Institute for Women's Policy Research
- **Julie Kashen**, Senior Fellow and Director for Women's Economic Justice, Century Foundation
- **Honorable Pamela Queen**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-14

Moderators: Commissioners Mia DeMezza and Tiffany Boiman

Voices for Safety: Ending Violence Against Women

Room 3230

- **Lisae Jordan**, Executive Director and Counsel, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- **Laure Ruth**, Public Policy Director, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
- **Joyce King**, Deputy State's Attorney, Frederick County State's Attorney's Office

Moderator: Commissioner Lakshmi Darbha

2:30-3:15 PM • EMERGING LEADERS SESSION 1

Middle School (6th-8th Grade): Speak Up! Building Confidence, Communication, and Leadership

Room 4212

- **Gabe Albornoz**, Director, Montgomery County Recreation
- **Isabel Argoti**, Deputy Director of Programs, Community Bridges
- **Isabella Wise**, Street Outreach Network
- **Sheryl Freedman**, Leadership Academy for Social Justice Lead Teacher, MCPS

Moderator: Nina Nassiri, Senior, Northwest High School

High School (9th-12th Grade): Mic Check: Youth Voices in Advocacy

Room 4215

- **Honorable Joe Vogel**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-17
- **Danielle Blocker**, Executive Director, Young People for Progress
- **Anuva Maloo**, Student Member of the Board, MCPS Board of Education

Moderator: Ansuya Bisbey, Senior, Richard Montgomery High School

3:30-4:00 PM • BREAK

Resource Fair and Refreshments - BLDG III

4:00-5:00 PM • BREAKOUT SESSION 2

All breakout sessions will be held in Building III (unless otherwise noted)

Unlocking Care: Solutions for Women's Health Access

Room 2230

- **Robyn Elliott**, Managing Partner, Public Policy Partners
- **Honorable Lesley Lopez**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-39
- **Stephanie Klapper**, Deputy Director, Health Care for All

Moderator: Commissioner Michelle Buteau

The Future is Female: Women Leading Change

Room 3202

- **Angela Franco**, President and CEO, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC)
- **Karen Sippel**, Managing Director, Maryland Women's Business Center
- **Honorable Julie Palakovich Carr**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-17

Moderators: Commissioners Mital Gajjar and Jodi Danis

Amplify Your Voice: Digital Tools for Modern Advocacy

Room 3241

- **Danielle Moxley**, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection
- **Katie Peterson**, Communications Director, Office of Congresswomen Sarah Elfreth
- **Amaya Smith**, Vice President for Marketing & Communications, National Partnership for Women and Families

Moderator: Commissioner Elizabeth Richards

Your Rights, Your Power: Understanding Legal and Civic Protections

Room 3230

- **Camille Brewer**, Delegate, UN Commission on the Status of Women, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County
- **Honorable Natali Fani-González**, President, Montgomery County Council
- **Michelle Whitaker**, Executive Director, Ranked Choice Voting Maryland

Moderator: Commissioner Shannon Owens Harden

4:00-4:45 PM • EMERGING LEADERS SESSION 2

Middle School (6th-8th Grade): Speak Up! From Learning to Leading

Room 4212

- **Gabe Albornoz**, Director, Montgomery County Recreation
- **Isabel Argoti**, Deputy Director of Programs, Community Bridges
- **Isabella Wise**, Street Outreach Network
- **Sheryl Freedman**, Leadership Academy for Social Justice Lead Teacher, MCPS

Moderator: Nina Nassiri, Senior, Northwest High School

High School (9th-12th Grade): Digital Power: Using Social Media to Create Change

Room 4215

- **Joseph Hooks**, Founder and Director, 480 Club
- **Honorable Teresa Woorman**, Delegate, Maryland General Assembly, D-16
- **Matt Post**, Former Student Member of the Board, MCPS Board of Education

Moderator: Ansuya Bisbey, Senior, Richard Montgomery High School

Thank You for Attending the 2026 WLB

Thank You to Our 2026 WLB Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor:



The Universities AT SHADY GROVE

Topaz Sponsor:



Amethyst Sponsor:



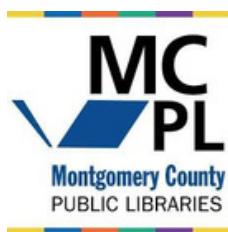
Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Pearl Sponsors:



P M C D x
Personalized Medicine Care Dx

Translate Genes To Your Health



MONTGOMERY
COUNTY, MARYLAND

WOMEN'S
DEMOCRATIC CLUB

Opal Sponsors:

P otomac Legal Group



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®
Xi Sigma Omega Chapter



M&M
WEALTH ADVISORY

NCNW
Potomac Valley Section

divorce
by Allison



Child
Justice



Women
Business
Owners
of Montgomery County



Salta with us

Thank You to Our 2026 Community Co-Sponsors

Level 4 Community Co-Sponsors

HR Boutique
In memory of Elaine Boiman
Largo MD Financial Center with The National Campaign for Financial Literacy
Montgomery County Education Association

Montgomery County MD National Council for Negro Women, Inc.
Montgomery Women
Trans Maryland
VOBG Cares

Level 3 Community Co-Sponsors/Friend of the WLB

2 Black Moms & A Mic
AAUW Maryland
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Theta Omega Omega Chapter
Community Bridges
Crittenton Services of Greater Washington
HomeSmart
League of Women Voters of Montgomery County
MD
Lincoln Park Historical Foundation, Inc.
Luminary Branded Solutions
Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Maryland Commission for Women

Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW)
Montgomery County Business and Professional Women (MCBPW)
Montgomery County National Organization for Women
National Association of University Women, Inc., College Alumnae Club
PERIDOM INSIGHTS
Your Fitness & Wellness Accountability Partner
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. - Tau Delta Zeta Chapter
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated - Eta Pi Zeta Chapter

Level 2 Community Co-Sponsors

Alpha Gamma Chi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Cindy Gibson
Commissioner Sheena Foster
Eta Theta Sigma Alumnae Chapter – Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
Frederick County Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Friends of Pete Fosselman
Friends of Tazeen Ahmad
HHELP > Helping Hands Empowering & Lifting People
Montgomery County Chapter of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland
We RISE USA

Level 1 Community Co-Sponsors

Aavanee
BANO
Code Her Rising
National Coalition of 100 Black Women Prince George's County Chapter
PVAC Fund, Inc.
Rainwater Growth
Robert & William, LLC
The Career Strategy Group

Commission for Women Social Media



MoCoWomen



MoCoWomen



mococfw

Follow us on social media and tag us in your photos from today!

#WLB2026 #MoCoWLB

Please take a few minutes to complete our post-event survey!



[surveymonkey.com/r/WLB2026](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLB2026)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

SPRING PROGRAMS

Separation and Divorce: What Do I Need To Know?
Feb. 4 • Mar. 4 • Apr. 1 • May 6 • Jun. 3

Girl Power Contest
March 1 - March 31

Financial Health and Wellness
May 12th • May 19th • May 26th • June 2nd

Career Series
Dates TBD

Self Defense Classes
Dates TBD



If you are interested in sponsoring the 2027 Women's Legislative Briefing, please email cfwinfo@montgomerycountymd.gov or visit our website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw

A special thanks to our photographer David Ris!