

# News Release: FUTURE-READY: PGCPS Students Make Strides, Overcome Challenges on Path to Graduation

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For Immediate Release

**CONTACT:**

Office of Communications

301-952-6001

[communications@pgcps.org](mailto:communications@pgcps.org) ( <mailto:communications@pgcps.org>)

**UPPER MARLBORO, MD** – Graduation season in Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) is a time of celebration for students, schools and families. There will be multiple celebratory events highlighting student success over the next few weeks:

**Wednesday, May 10 – Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Senior Celebration  
Prince George’s Community College Community Room, 301 Largo Road, Largo  
6 p.m.**

More than 80 graduating seniors will be honored at the May 10 celebration. [Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection of Prince George’s County \(https://www.hillside.com/about-us/family-agencies/hwsc/hwsc-pgc/\)](https://www.hillside.com/about-us/family-agencies/hwsc/hwsc-pgc/) helped students like **Fairmont Heights High School senior Michelle Adams** overcome obstacles through support from school-based youth advocates. Adams, who struggled with behavioral issues, has received scholarships to attend Stevenson University. Nearly all of the students who participate in the program graduate from high school.

**Thursday, May 11 – FACTS Student Built House Dedication Ceremony  
8202 Student Drive, Clinton  
11:30 a.m.**

The Foundation for Applied Construction Technology for Students (FACTS) will host its annual dedication ceremony for the completed student-built house. Students will receive scholarship awards during the ceremony to support their transition to college and careers. Students in the PGCPS construction trades, maintenance, interior design and Cisco technology programs build and design all aspects of the house, from the roof to the living room curtains. Students have built more than 40 houses since the program’s inception.

**Monday, May 15 – Valedictorian and Salutatorian Dinner  
Camelot by Martin’s, 13901 Central Ave., Upper Marlboro  
6:30 p.m.**

Valedictorians and salutatorians at 27 high schools will be honored for their outstanding academic achievements at the annual PGCPS dinner.

**Thursday, May 18 – Board of Education Awards  
Martin’s Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt  
6 p.m.**

The Prince George’s County Board of Education will honor students, staff and community partners at its annual awards night. The Comeback Kid Award recognizes a student who has succeeded against tremendous challenges. Among the nominees are **Croom High School senior class president Isaiah Murrey**, the youngest of four siblings who lost both parents in 2016.

**Tuesday, May 23 through Monday, June 5 – High School Graduation Ceremonies**

**Frederick Douglass and Surrattsville high schools** will kick off PGCPS graduation ceremonies (<http://www.pgcps.org/schools/graddate.aspx>) on May 23. Both schools are in the “90 Percent Club” (<http://www1.pgcps.org/Communications/Press-Releases/2016---2017/January/PGCPS-Graduation-Rate-Reaches-Record-High/>) with graduation rates of 92 percent and 90.8 percent, respectively.

**Academy of Health Sciences @ Prince George’s Community College** will again graduate nearly an entire class on May 25 receiving their associate’s degree and high school diploma the same day. **Cancer survivor Alyiah Ellsworth** spent most of freshman year in the hospital. Through persistence, perseverance and the support of faculty and staff, she was able to complete her studies. She will attend Howard University on scholarship this fall.

**Chesapeake Math & IT (CMIT) Academy North Public Charter School**, the county’s first charter middle and high school, will graduate its first class on May 30 with 67 students. The six-year-old school boasts a perfect college acceptance rate with students receiving more than \$5 million in scholarships.

**Fairmont Heights High School senior Anne Alfa** has the highest number of college acceptances in her class and the second-highest scholarship total at nearly \$525,000. She has also battled sickle cell anemia for most of her high school years, which has required frequent hospitalizations. She will graduate May 31 with her classmates and attend St. Mary’s College in the fall.

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Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation’s 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

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