

# *Coppin State* **COURIER**

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Fall Festival 2019, Courtesy of Coppin  
State Communication Team

# STAFF



## KEYLIN PEREZ

is a senior nursing major and military science scholar from Mount Airy, Md. She currently serves as the editor for the Coppin Courier, and the current reigning Miss Coppin State University – the first Latina in the university’s history to hold this honor. Her passions include long-distance running, journaling, and modeling. Keylin aspires to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner and to conduct research on soldiers’ mental health. In her leisure, she enjoys long car drives, listening to music, and community service.



## KYNDALL JOHNSON

is the managing editor of the Coppin Courier and an Austin, Texas native. She currently serves as SGA Secretary and a member of NAACP. Her passions include poetry, music and sports, and her plans after graduation include, pursuing her passions as a poet and author.



## JAMIE REED

is a senior at Coppin State University that will soon obtain a degree in Elementary Education. The Courier staff writer represents Coppin as an HBCU White House Scholar and is a member of the Honors Program. In her time at the University, she has joined the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and most affectionately, the Coppin Courier newspaper.

Creative Director - Lance Plummer

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# FEDS AWARD MILLIONS TO COPPIN FOR TEACHER DEVELOPMENT

The U.S. Department of Education chose to provide Coppin State University millions of dollars to help shore up the teacher shortage in Maryland.

By Keylin Perez, Editor

Funding urban higher education is paramount for the institution's growth and student retention, and at Coppin State the university that is known for their educational and nursing degree pathways are now being provided with additional grants to ensure students success.

In November 2022, Coppin State University announced a \$3.7 Million Federal Grant Award to Support

Diverse Educators in Maryland. Specifically the grant will be aimed to assist the Pathways to Professions (P2P).

"The P2P aims to build capacities in delivering high-impact clinical practice and induction experience in both rural and urban settings, while simultaneously bridging opportunity and achievement gaps through improvement of

teacher effectiveness and student achievement," reads a statement from the DOE.

At Coppin alongside the program, the increase of diversity and inclusion is vital as they put the grant into effect. Unfortunately, there has been a shortage of teachers in urban education.

"We are developing a national model for how to prepare and retain

great teachers by prioritizing their professional well-being. This is how we reverse the ongoing teacher shortage negatively impacting schools across our nation," said university President Anthony L. Jenkins in a statement.

Since Coppin's founding in 1900, it has been known as a teaching college, and with this grant the program will continue to produce strong, empowering, future educators in America that will help increase the educational professors and erase their shortage.

## NURSING GRANT

Coppin State is also known for their prestigious nursing program, and Coppin has now received a \$25,000 grant where did this money come from? to prepare students for updated Licensure Exam, and to address a longstanding nursing shortage.

The grant will be used towards the new examsoft technology to provide exposure to undergraduate nursing students for the National Council Licensure Examination.

"Our nurses are among the best in Maryland, because of our outstanding faculty and the guidance they provide. This software is a new tool in their toolkit to serve our students and help them secure a career that will transform their futures, as well as health outcomes for entire communities," Jenkins said.

Moreover, implementing the new technology will also assist in elevating and maintaining the current NCLEX passing rate at Coppin State which is 84% pass on first attempt, and a 100% employment within six months.

The U.S. Department of Education, located in Washington D.C., grants millions of dollars to institutions of higher education each year  
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



# MAJOR DEVELOPMENT ON CAMPUS IN 2022

Coppin saw many substantial changes take place during the last calendar, meant to help bolster the long-term health of the institution.



By Keylin Perez, Editor

Photo of Health and Human Services building, Courtesy of Coppin State University

Strategic planning has shaped Coppin State University to be a monumental undertaking change, diversity, and inclusion.

The past year has been filled with major developments occurring at the great Coppin State, and has brought elevation for new upcoming opportunities for many. Such as, Expanding partnerships with other educational institutions, Partnerships with the business community, Inaugural Gala, and a new brand campaign.

## COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

All these major developments are assisting in highlighting the institution with positivity. For Coppin this past year, increasing student engagement and education access has been vital and Coppin has been forming relationships with other counties to create accessible opportunities for community college students to finish their business bachelorette degree.

Coppin State partnered with Carroll County Community College to align their degree offerings. In all, this partnership works by having students automatically accepted to Coppin to finish their degree.

## NEW GALA

An exciting new initiative occurring in 2023 that was confirmed in 2022 is the Coppin Inaugural Gala that will be held in May.

“This partnership is a major part of our plan to not only grow the College of Business but grow our greater Coppin Community and make more of an impact here in Baltimore,” said President Jenkins.

The May celebration will be considered a fundraiser in which funds will go towards the growth of the institution. The gala will also be celebrating achievements in the past school year, and celebrating monumental impacts that Coppin has had in urban higher education.

## NEW BRANDING CAMPAIGN

As a student leader, the new brand campaign has been vital in understanding how to represent the university and encourage students to apply to Coppin.

“The In campaign, funded by resources received through the HBCU settlement fund, and created in collaboration with The SAX Agency, will be interwoven throughout academics, student life, athletic events, admissions, and external advertising campaigns,” said university spokesperson Robyne McCullough.

Apart from this new initiative Coppin has made efforts to bring exposure beyond Baltimore, Coppin State flyers and more are now found at local airports, billboards, T.V, newspapers, and more. What a great time to be an Eagle, the opportunities are endless and there’s so much in store within the upcoming months.

# WES MOORE VISIT AMONG YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

Then governor-candidate Wes Moore visited the Coppin campus late last year in the midst of an ultimately successful campaign.

By Jamie Reed

Coppin State University prides itself on providing opportunities to become members of society. One of such opportunities was presented on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, when our campus was visited by Wes Moore, the then-Democratic nominee running to become Governor.

The nominee expressed that education was important to him and that he had family members that were educators. Coppin faculty expressed the work they have been doing, including teacher preparation. Wes Moore not only granted numerous faculty and students the floor to speak but interacted with them and wrote down their thoughts.

"I really enjoyed meeting Wes Moore today," said education major Jocelyne Lawson. "He took the time to address all our questions in the education department and gave us reassurances that we are not alone in this battle we are fighting."

President Anthony L. Jenkins mentioned that thousands died in years past to give others the opportunity to vote. Speaking of his plans for the state, he drove home

the point that the city of Baltimore is especially important to the fiscal health of Maryland.

"I thought what Moore said was inspiring," said Khala Cameron. "To finally have someone who understands what minorities go through not only in the United States but in Maryland."

Garyn Mercer agreed: "It was good seeing him show face at Coppin State University, one of the smaller HBCUs in Maryland and show us he knew where we are coming from."

On Election Day, shuttles ran throughout the day to voting centers for students. Regardless of political affiliation, it is important as a community that we get together and discuss our issues and how to combat them.

Wes Moore was inaugurated as the third ever black Governor and the First Black Governor of Maryland on January 18. With the positive and hope filled energy, we are hoping that the energy he brought to our campus can be expanded to his term as Governor. We also hope he enjoys the framed photograph of Coppin students and himself as a gift.



Above: Photos of Governor Wes Moore during his visit to Coppin State University. Courtesy of Coppin State

# IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

## One of Coppin's oldest students took quite an interesting path

By Doris Cannon-Mackins

Over four decades ago, I was a full-time student at Coppin State College. Coppin was located at its present location: 2500 West North Avenue. After completing a few semesters, I withdrew due to my desire for financial freedom from my family.

While I left Coppin in good academic standing, I was equally thrilled to enter the workforce in Baltimore City. As a young black woman, asserting my economic independence mattered to me because it was a way for me to establish myself as a professional.

I always remembered Coppin fondly and, in the summer of 2022, when I had the opportunity to return to CSU, I fully embraced it. I am 68 and I qualify for the Senior Citizen Waiver here at Coppin; anyone 62+ qualifies for up to nine credits per term of free education through the

University System of Maryland.

My major is Interdisciplinary Studies, and I am scheduled to graduate with my B.S. in May 2023; my husband, Billy Mackins is also a Coppin alum (Class of '76) and I share my educational journey to inspire others to know that it is never too late to achieve your dreams.

Upon leaving Coppin, I immediately went to work for the Baltimore City Circuit Court, and I successfully worked there for the next 35 years. The experience is truly unique in that I was a young black woman in the 1970s entering the workforce that was hardly ready for women, let alone for women of color.

Although I had no previous work experience, I quickly adjusted to the office lifestyle. At the time, the office consisted of two white male bosses, six white women clerks, and four

black women clerks.

The white women were essentially allowed to work in the courtroom, while the black women were relegated to the office space: we typed, we answered phones, and we filed documents.

Basically, anything that was not public facing was the task of black women. Both bosses were white men and even with the challenges we faced in the office, I eventually grew to love the experience.

It took almost twelve years before black women were welcomed into Baltimore City courtrooms. It is important to note that the late Sandra Banks was the first black clerk in the Baltimore City Circuit Court. Her winning the election made way for the rest of us!

Around 1987 black women were finally granted the opportunity to work in courtrooms. With new advances in Civil Rights and Women's Liberation Movements, we began to receive better (though not equal) pay, and more professional experiences that would forever have an impact on our careers.

I see myself as a trailblazer for all women, and for black women, in Baltimore. I formally and happily retired in 2010 as the lead assistant in the office. With pride and honor,

I reap the benefits of a life's work in civic duty and committed to ethics.

Although I accomplished my own version of greatness, I still yearned for my undergraduate degree. Education matters to me fundamentally and I understood the real and symbolic value of obtaining my B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies.

Because my husband graduated Magna Cum Laude from Coppin, his journey continues to inspire my progress towards completion in the spring term of 2023. In fact, in 2016, I was diagnosed with an incurable eye disease known as Macular Pattern Dystrophy (MPD).

This year, because of all my reading and studying, my eyes saw a 14% decrease in functionality. On the one hand, the information is disheartening, but on the other hand, it shows that even in the face of physical adversity, I can, and I will, succeed.

With the continued love and support of my husband, I know that I will walk across the stage in May 2023. With love and devotion, he drives me to all my classes, appointments, and on occasion, he will join me in Dr. Rivera's class to contribute his breadth of knowledge and experiences to our intellectual environment.

In closing, I say a heartfelt thank you to so many wonderful people that make this process possible: firstly, to God, then to Dr. Synethia Green and Dr. Christopher Rivera, Deidre Johnson and Breanna Piller, and finally, to my husband of twenty-five years, Billy Mackins (Class of '76).

I share my story in the hopes that y'all find your happy place in life and in education. If my journey teaches us anything, it is simply that it's never too late--whatever your mind can conceive and believe, it can then achieve.

Multiple photos of Doris Cannon-Mackins throughout her life.  
Courtesy of Doris Cannon-Mackins.



# LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE AT COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Campus leaders are looking forward to an array of happenings on campus this calendar year. Can you concur with any of them?



## GIOVANNI CANALES

**Notables:**

2021 Baseball Season All Academic, 2021 Spring Honor Roll, 2022 Fall Honor Roll

**This year:**

“I’m looking forward to all the events that are going to get me out of the stresses of being a student athlete.”

## CHANTEL CHARLES

**Notables:**

President of Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc., Miss Omega Psi Phi 2022-2023, full-time EMT for Baltimore Fire Department

**This year:**

Graduating May 19. This is my second degree, so I am surprised I was able to do this again. Also, COVID-19 restrictions are decreasing, so I can’t wait to see more student engagement on campus!



# MIAJAVON COLEMAN

**Notables:**

Volleyball rookie of the year (2018), MEAC player of the year (2021), Participated in ocular disease research and presented at a neuroscience conference at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County

**This year:**

“I look forward to enjoying my last semester here at Coppin. I want to have fun as much as possible before graduation with the people I love. I love living in Baltimore and want to make the best of every minute. Lastly, I look forward to my last spring semester of volleyball and keep developing my skills.”



# GARYN MERCER

**Notables:**

Reactivated Coppin States NAACP chapter, led the “Sexual Assault Lock-in”, led multiple clothing and food drives, was one of 3 Coppin State students to represent at the NAACP Fired Up Civic Leadership summit, was awarded “The Omega Psi Phi Undergrad Omega Man Of The Year”

**This year:**

“Overall, I’m looking forward to graduating from Coppin State! I’m also looking forward to being the best I can be and make sure I’m giving my all this semester. I not only want to graduate but also be prepared for life after graduation. Also looking forward to seeing Coppin grow as a University.”

# KEYLIN PEREZ

**Notables:**

1st Latina in History to be Miss Coppin 91st Miss Coppin State University. Formally Miss Junior and Miss Sophomore. Top 10 Miss Maryland USA 2021. Coppin State Honors College, Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc. Fall 21 initiate. Enlisted in the Army in 2017, Soldier of the Year 200th MP Command 2019, Sergeant in the military. Will become a 2LT in the Military in May. Nursing & Military Science Major. Editor, Coppin Courier.

**This year:**

“Continuing to see the campus grow and see the new changes in store for the community and be able to leave a mark on campus as I continue to finish my reign.”



# ASHLEY ROMAN

## Notables:

Biology Pre-Med student-athlete for the past four years at Coppin State. Dean's List every year. Named the MEAC conference Defensive Player of the Year (2020, 2021, 2022). Currently ranked second in the MEAC's all-time history list in digs per set and only a few digs away from being ranked first in conference history. 10-time MEAC'S defensive player of the week. Named Coppin State's Female Athlete of the year, first volleyball player in school history to earn an AVCA All-Region honor. Coppin's student-athlete representative for the MEAC's Hispanic/Latinx Committee. Member of Coppin State's SAAC Committee.

## This year:

"I am looking forward to being an outstanding leader student-athlete while inspiring other students to always push themselves to be the best version of themselves and to never give up on their dreams. Also, I would like to find more ways to do multiple community services because to me, that is such an amazing and humble way to spread support and love to others in multiple ways."

# SAM SESSOMS

## Notables:

Totaled over 2,000 points in his college basketball career. 7-time winner of MEAC player of the week. Top 10 scorer in the nation.

## This year:

"When I enrolled at Coppin for my last year, I was looking forward to two things, graduating and winning the MEAC championship. Graduating would be a huge honor because no one in my immediate family had graduated from college. It'll make my family proud. As far as winning the MEAC, that's all I got my mind set on. I did not come to Coppin to join the team and not be remembered. I want to leave a legacy that involves a championship level team."



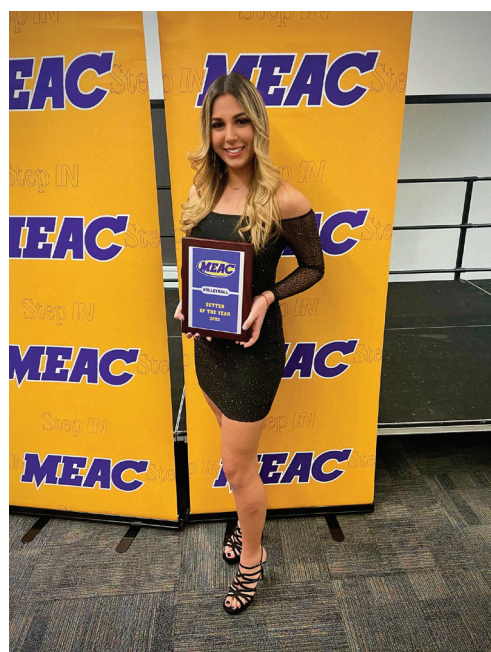
# ANDREA TSVETANOVA

## Notables:

Named MVP during the Liberty tournament which we also won as a team. 6-times Setter of the Week, First team All-Meac, Setter of the Year, and All-tournament after the MEAC tournament. She lead the NCAA for aces per set (0.86) and as well as for total aces (114). Broke Coppin State records for total aces and assists as well. All-American Volleyball.

## This year:

"I can say that I'm looking forward to the the new semester and see what it has in store for me and my whole team. It's been a long Christmas break and I'm not complaining about it, but I'm excited to start classes. I'm also looking forward to improving 1% every single day because there's always a room for improvement. And I'm also looking forward to be with my friends and just have fun with them because some of them won't be back for next season because of their last year of eligibility. I'm also excited because I will get to play next season with my teammates as well, and the later on the fall of 2023 will be my last season at Coppin since I would be using my fifth year of eligibility and I'm glad Ashley and P are going to be back for their fifth year as well, so that we get to finish together the right way."



# A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

Keylin Perez is both the outgoing Miss Coppin and the current editor of the Coppin Courier. She's on her way out with a heavy heart.



The bridge on west north ave that allows students to travel to the other side of campus. Courtesy of Coppin State University.

By Keylin Perez

As I enter my last semester at Coppin State, I am beginning to enter a phase of extreme day dreams of my last four years on the campus. When I came to Coppin I was a shy but determined young lady, and Coppin helped me branch out of my shell and truly tune in with who I am supposed to be.

In other words, my purpose grew stronger as I began to grow with my confidence and mindset. Coppin was not on my college list at the

start, I had a half-ride to a PWI, and things happened and I no longer decided to accept the offer and I encountered myself with this lovely institution that I consider my home.

My heart resonates with everything on campus, from the simple walks around the yard to feeling the adrenaline entering a home basketball game. All those small moments are circling around my mind, and I am proud of who Coppin has helped me become.

However, it is difficult to leave a place that has allowed me to shine, be a light, and most importantly be myself. With that said, this semester

is a time to go outside your comfort zone, join a new organization, experience the eagle homecoming, and so much more.

Coppin is elevating and in 2023 it is a great year to be a Coppin Eagle, so much in store at our fingertips. From social media everyone on campus may notice that we are counting down the days for homecoming, a week of uplifting events and pure eagle pride.

From the alumni tailgates, sorority and fraternities suits, step show, and of course we can not forget the homecoming concert and basketball game.

As Miss Coppin my court and I will take our walk during half-time, and I know I am going to soak in each minute as we walk and wave. Knowing that these moments are for life, and to ensure we experience genuine joy.

As your 91st Miss Coppin State University it has been my absolute honor serving this illustrious institution, thank you for the support, love, and encouragement throughout my reign. Let's make sure to enjoy these upcoming weeks with much eagle pride. Lead with a servant's heart, and take care of your mental health.

# **Congratulations, Coppin State University – and Welcome Back, Coppin Courier**

**Two decades ago, Coppin State’s student newspaper ceased publication. Now thanks to a new national effort and the incredible efforts of a new student staff – led by the editor-in-chief Keylin Perez – the Coppin Courier is back.**

**You can read more at [CoppinCourier.com](http://CoppinCourier.com), but what you hold in your hands is the result of a year of hard work from the entire CSU community. CSU also has the distinction of being the first success story for a new national program called The Renews Project.**

**The ReNews Project ([ReNewsProject.com](http://ReNewsProject.com)) seeks to revive dormant student newspapers at HBCUs and HSIs. Our sponsors include the Society of Professional Journalists, the College Media Association, and the Associated Collegiate Press – plus companies like Flytedesk and Student Newspapers Online.**

**I’ve enjoyed working with Keylin and her staff, and that won’t stop now. But I wanted you to know how it began.**

**Wesley Wright  
ReNews Project executive director  
SPJ Florida executive vice president**