

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Harford County Public Schools P-TECH Cohort Graduates Ten Students with Associate Degrees**

Harford County Public Schools is proud to announce ten students from the first cohort of the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program at Joppatowne High School reached a major milestone as they approached their High School graduation. These ten students graduated with associate degrees in computer information systems and information assurance and Cybersecurity from Harford Community College (HCC) in addition to earning their high school diplomas.

The ten students walked across the stage at APGFCU Arena at Harford Community College on May 23, 2024, receiving their Associate of Applied Science from HCC. Less than a week later, on May 29, 2024, these students walked across the same stage as members of the 2024 graduating class from Joppatowne High School. This remarkable achievement is the culmination of four years of rigorous academic work, encompassing 60 college credit hours, over 26 high school credits, Advanced Placement courses, internships, and industry-recognized certifications.

“This amazing partnership among Harford County Public Schools, Harford Community College, and Aberdeen Proving Ground has opened new doors for our scholars. This cohort has taken advantage of these opportunities with perseverance, style and grace,” remarked Joppatowne High School Principal Melissa Williams. “I am proud to celebrate them now and look forward to seeing all they will accomplish in the future.”

“I am amazed by the dedication and fortitude shown by these ten remarkable students,” said Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson. “These students haven’t just met the expectations set on them but exceeded them. Less than 3% of high school graduates nationwide earn an associate degree while still in high school. We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them the best of luck as they move onto the next stage of life!”

In addition to honoring these ten students, the program celebrates all P-TECH seniors graduating from Joppatowne High School. Their achievements have left a lasting impact on their families, school, community, county, and state. With their unique blend of academic and practical experiences, these graduates are well-prepared for future educational and professional endeavors. The path ahead is filled with promising opportunities in both higher education and industry sectors.

### **About P-TECH**

The P-TECH Program combines the best elements of high school, college and work-based learning. Students are immersed in high school as well as college courses while working in the field of Computer Information Systems or Cyber Security. The program empowers students to pursue advanced education and to be financially successful in a global economy. The program is offered at Joppatowne High School in partnership with Harford Community College and the U.S. Army

Communications-Electronics Command on Aberdeen Proving Ground, offering students paid internships and individualized mentorship throughout their educational journey. The program is open-source, meaning any rising ninth grader may apply.

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