



March 2009

NEWS

***Eighth Annual Young Professionals Conference Scheduled
(formerly Professional Development Conference for Students)***

On March 18, 2009, the Eighth Annual Young Professionals Conference will be held at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) in Rockville, Maryland. Sponsors of the student-centered event include Montgomery County Business Roundtable for Education (MCBRE), Montgomery County Public Schools, USG, and Montgomery College. MCBRE is proud to be the top sponsor of the 2009 Young Professionals Conference.

This event affords over 700 students, in nine career pathway programs, the opportunity to experience a real-time professional development conference complete with keynote address, interactive breakout sessions, and networking lunch. A Styled for Success fashion show will educate students about how to dress appropriately for the professional world. The career pathway programs represented at the conference are: the National Academy of Finance; the National Academy of Hospitality and Tourism; the National Academy of Information Technology; Advanced Engineering—Project Lead The Way, the CISCO Networking Academy; Early Child Development; Justice, Law and Society; Medical Careers; and the Teacher Academy of Maryland. Additionally, this year the Entrepreneurship Expo will be a part of this conference. Teams from at least nine schools will compete and showcase their projects at the Expo to earn trophies and prizes.

The interactive breakout sessions are presented by local and national business partners provided through MCBRE. Presenters include Adventist Healthcare, Booz Allen Hamilton, Clark Construction, Deloitte, Department of Homeland Security, Tip Fallon, FDIC, Foulger Pratt, Hess, Hogan and Hartson, IBM, Kaiser Permanente, Lockheed Martin, Marriott, McDonald's, NASDAC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Ritz Carlton, Sodexo, David Thompson, UnitedHealthcare, Venable, Wachovia/Wells Fargo, and several others. These exceptional business partners work through MCBRE to provide engaging experiences for the highly motivated students of Montgomery County. The primary goals of the breakout sessions are to introduce students to relevant topics in their fields of interest and to help students understand how they can plan for success after high school. These experiences are directly related to the instruction that students have been receiving through their career pathways.

The keynote address will be presented by Kathleen Matthews, former ABC evening news anchor at WJLA in Washington D.C. Ms. Matthews is currently serving as

Executive Vice President, Global Communications and Public Affairs for Marriott International, Inc. An honors graduate of Stanford University, Ms. Matthews has been awarded nine local Emmys. She was named as a “Woman Who Means Business” by the Washington Business Journal and a Washingtonian of the year by Washingtonian Magazine. Ms. Matthews is highly involved in her community. She serves on boards for the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Ford’s Theatre, and Catholic Charities Foundation.

Nine \$500 college scholarships, one for each career pathway program, are being sponsored by MCBRE and will be presented by Dr. Jerry D. Weast, superintendent of schools. Nine MP3 players donated by Dell and several FLIP cameras will be awarded to students attending the conference. The FLIP cameras will be used by students to film this exciting event.