

**WESTERN  
MARYLAND  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

Member Information

Name | Tiffany Arnett  
County | Allegany

Tiffany is a recent graduate from Frostburg State University with a background in English and history. She spends her free time with historical research projects, drawing portraits, and writing. She began advocating for mental health during her career as a college student; she wanted to see change how mental health was treated on campus. Since then, she has extended her advocating to the community because of the lack of mental health resources available. She manages a blog to normalize talking about mental health while advocating for women and LGBTQ issues. Her intention is to bring the issues most important to her and those of the community to the attention those who can make regulation and policy changes to protect civil rights.



Name | Lynn Groesbeck Bowman  
County | Allegany

Lynn Groesbeck Bowman is a retired associate professor of English and Speech at Allegany College of Maryland and a member of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture. In response to the deficiencies she saw in Western Maryland's diversity education, she began to research the area's African American history through primary documents and first-person interviews. Her research has led to five books: *Being Black in Brownsville: Echoes of a "forgotten" Frostburg* (2011), *Crossing into the Promised Land: An Appalachian African American History* (2012), *Living the Lie: Separate but Equal in Cumberland, Maryland* (2013), *Everyone Counts: A history of African American enslavement in Allegany County, Maryland* (2018) and *Ten Weeks on Jonathan Street, the Legacy of 19th Century African American Hagerstown, Maryland*. In addition to researching and writing, Bowman also lectures regularly in Western Maryland, northern West Virginia and southwestern Pennsylvania.



Name | Rae Gallagher  
County | Frederick

I am a Program Director for a national non-profit focusing on partnering with schools in Maryland, Delaware, and Washington, D.C. I am a resident of Frederick County and have a strong passion for youth development, social, economic & racial justice, and a deep desire to continue building cross-system collaboration to advance equity across the state of Maryland. Participating in WMAC allows me to elevate conversations, concerns, or issues that I encounter in my professional life as well as from my volunteer roles with organizations supporting women & girls in Frederick and Washington Counties.



Name | Erum Marfani  
County | Frederick

My name is Erum Marfani. Living in Maryland almost my entire life, I grew up in Baltimore and moved to Frederick in 2010. I am a proud UMBC alumna and have over 13 years of experience teaching math in higher education, nine of which at Frederick Community College. I was an active volunteer with the Islamic Society of Baltimore as a student and served on the ISB Funeral Committee as well as on the Al-Rahmah School Board of Education. I also volunteered with the American Red Cross and St. Agnes Hospital. Currently, I have the privilege of volunteering with MIST Math Olympics as judge at the regional and national levels since 2009 and with the Islamic Society of Frederick since 2015 and was recently elected to their Board of Directors. I am fluent and semi-fluent in seven languages. Being a firm believer in “Service to others is the rent we pay for our time here on Earth” and “Good work always has a long life,” I look forward to serving on the WMAC and helping the residents of Frederick County and Western Maryland advance civil rights issues.



Name | Shelley M. Menear  
County | Garrett

Shelley Menear is a resident of Garrett County and serves as the Director of Equity and Compliance at Garrett College. Ms. Menear has a Bachelor's in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland- College Park and a Master's in Management from the University of Maryland University College. Ms. Menear has a passion for working with youth and has done so at the pre-school level up to higher education. Ms. Menear serves locally in Garrett County on the Local Emergency Planning Committee, participates in Drug Free School and Community efforts, and serves as the 2nd Vice President for the Maryland Crime Prevention Association. Ms. Menear applied for the WMAC because she wishes to make her community, both the college and county, more welcoming and accepting to all.



Name | Tereance R. Moore  
County | Washington

Tereance is the owner of Tereance Moore Consulting, LLC which provides start-up, sustainability, and growth consultations to aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. Tereance is also a co-founder of Mediation First, Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides awareness of and access to affordable, high-quality mediation and restorative practices services. Before his entrepreneurial endeavors, Tereance spent nearly two decades in the financial sector working in Project Management supporting operations and technology globally. Tereance credits his work experience for providing the financial education he was neglected growing up and believes financial literacy is instrumental in obtaining social equality. He uses his knowledge, experience, and position to promote financial literacy and minority entrepreneurship in his family and communities in Western Maryland and his hometown of Far Rockaway Queens, NY. Tereance also advocates for access to essential human services, restorative practices as a means of resolving conflict, the preservation of historic communities and the arts. He advocates through his board and committee service with the United Way of Washington County, Leadership Washington County, Maryland Symphony Orchestra, Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, SCORE and other philanthropic initiatives. Tereance also champions the Hagerstown “Cease Pain” movement, a sister to Baltimore “Cease Fire”, Cease Pain challenges community members to “Be the Change” they want to see in their community by avoiding acts of pain and healing those that exist. Serving as an example of a change agent is precisely why Tereance accepted his appointment to the Western Maryland Advisory Council. He aims to serve as a community resource and foster the necessary relationships to further the MCCR mission in Western MD. Tereance holds a BA in Organizational Leadership from the University of Charleston, as well as several professional certifications in his field.



Name | Caterina W. Pañgilinan  
County | Washington

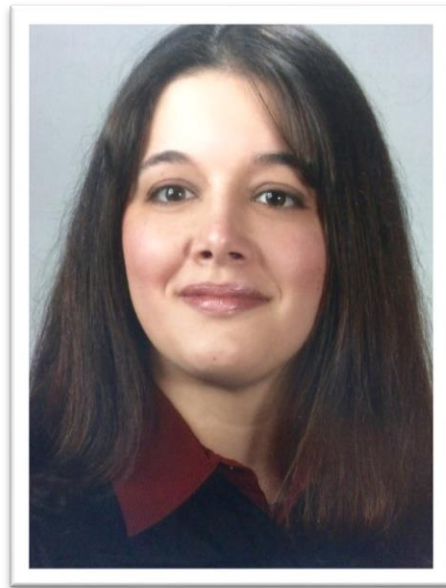
Caterina Pañgilinan has advocated for the physical and mental health of Maryland citizens through leadership positions in not-for-profit and public agencies for over 29 years. She currently serves as Chief Compliance and Privacy Officer for the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. Ms. Pangilinan's belief that education, outreach and community engagement are fundamental to exercise and protect people's civil rights led her to volunteer as a WMAC member.





Name | Sarah Layne Parsons  
County | Allegany

Sarah Parsons is from Cumberland, Maryland in Allegany County. She was born and grew up in Cumberland. Sarah has always tried to be an active member of her community, as a child and adolescent she volunteered to help with such organizations as the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Animal Welfare Society among others. Upon graduation from Allegany High School, she pursued her undergraduate degree at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. While at Hood Sarah majored in Political Science, with minors in History and Sociology. While on campus, she served as a peer counselor, peer tutor, member of House Council, and the President of Students Against Driving Drunk. Sarah then attended the Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit School of Law, where she was active in the American Constitutional Society, worked as a peer advisor, and served as President of the Legal Association of Women. In 2005 she graduated from Ohio Northern with her Juris Doctor. She then began her career in legal advocacy as a law clerk at the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, before moving on to a position as a case handling Paralegal at Maryland Legal Aid in Cumberland. Sarah is still active in her community, working with various organizations and Boards in Allegany County. Ms. Parsons is very excited to be part of MCCR's Western Maryland Advisory Council as the furtherance of civil rights, and working to better her community are both passions she enjoys.



Name | C. Scott Robinson  
County | Garrett

I am pastor at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Oakland. My wife Laura and I live at Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County. She recently retired after a long career as an Occupational Therapist working in a state psychiatric hospital. My first career was spent in health care as a dentist in private general practice. I also taught part-time in dental auxiliary education programs and was a part-time contract dentist for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. I have been active in the Civil Rights, Women's Rights and LBGTQIA Rights Movements for decades, believing that if you are not doing anything about racism, bigotry and discrimination then you are part of the problem. I keep busy in my community, serving on various boards of directors and with agencies that address poverty, hunger, health care, and education.



Name | Elesha L. Ruminski, Ph.D.  
County | Allegany

Elesha L. Ruminski (Ph.D., Duquesne University) is a Professor of Communication Studies and Coordinator of Leadership Studies at Frostburg State University (FSU). Dr. Ruminski researches, teaches, and supports facilitation of communication strategies within organizations and communities. In addition to authoring chapters and encyclopedia entries on a range of communication topics, she co-edited *Communicative Understandings of Women's Leadership Development: From Ceilings of Glass to Labyrinth Paths* (Lexington Books, 2012). Ruminski, a past chair of the National Communication Association's Public Dialogue and Deliberation Division, served as the project manager of the Sustaining Campus and Community in Frostburg Dialogue Series, funded by the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office. She also participated in a Kettering Foundation research exchange to support the development of FSU's Communication Leadership Lab. An advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as democratic engagement, she is a steering committee member of the Choose Civility chapter of Allegany County, MD, and was recognized in 2016 by the Allegany County NAACP for "Building the Community that Empowers Us." In 2019 she was appointed to serve as a member of both the Allegany County Commission for Women and the Western Maryland Advisory Council of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.



Name | Tracey Solomon  
County | Frederick

Hi, I'm Tracey Thomas, soon to be going back to my maiden name Tracey Solomon, Originally from West Baltimore, I moved to Frederick, Maryland 12 years ago to give my daughter a better way of life as well as to begin my own studies. I am a 53-year-old mother of a 15-year old daughter and a grown son, as well as a grandmother to my lovely grandchildren and a friend to many in the Maryland/Western Maryland area. Being a Frostburg State University Psychology Student as well as a George Washington University Student, I am happy to be graduating this December. My goal and heart in life have always been to helping others overcome, encourage & help guide one to the resources and people in position that may very well be able to help in ANY situation. The main ingredient in my life has been, "believing in God and knowing this too shall pass" while having a positive mind set & always keeping a smile on my face no matter how hard it may get. Recently I was appointed to serve as a member of the new Western Maryland Advisory Council (WMAC) of the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR). The council is composed of 15 members from Garrett, Allegany, Washington and Frederick counties and is a volunteer extension of MCCR, which investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and state contracts. MCCR established WMAC to bolster relationship-building efforts among Western Maryland communities around issues of opportunity, inclusion and equity. I look forward to helping and making a difference during my term.



Name | Reggie Turner  
County | Washington

Reggie Turner is the Founder and President of Turner Wealth Management located in Hagerstown, MD. He has been a financial advisor for 19 years. Turner is a graduate of Mount St. Mary's University, where he received a BS in business administration. Turner was appointed by Governor Larry Hogan to the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) in 2018. He also serves on the board of the Washington County Historical Society and the Maryland Symphony Orchestra. Turner resides with his family in Hagerstown and he continues to be involved in his community as an advocate for African American historical preservation and economic empowerment.



Name | Robin V. Wynder  
County | Allegany

A native of Baltimore City, Robin V. Wynder is an educator in the area of Diversity and Inclusion. As a trained facilitator of the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) with more than twenty-five years of experience, she conducts workshops and lectures for educational institutions (K-College), non-profit organizations and civic groups. Over the course of her professional life, Ms. Wynder has volunteered with numerous local organizations and served on organizational boards here in the Western Maryland area and is looking forward to bridging the civil rights concerns and issues of Western Marylanders with the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights.

