

# NEWS RELEASE



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August 23, 2022

**For immediate release**

## Contacts:

Michael MacFee | [mmacfee@mpt.org](mailto:mmacfee@mpt.org) | 410-581-4262

Emily Greco | [egreco@nevinspr.com](mailto:egreco@nevinspr.com) | 443-686-1331

**NOTE:** A complete program schedule can be found at [mpt.org/hbcu](http://mpt.org/hbcu). Interviews with MPT management and producers are available upon request. Additional program information, logos, and graphics can be found [HERE](#).

## MPT presents third annual HBCU Week September 5-11

*Special program lineup places spotlight on historically Black colleges and universities*

**OWINGS MILLS, MD** – Maryland Public Television (MPT) will again celebrate historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) in September during its third annual HBCU Week, a slate of programs sharing informative and inspirational stories about HBCUs and the people who attend, graduate, administrate, and advocate for these important institutions of higher learning.

During the week of September 5-11, MPT will deliver more than 22 hours of content exploring the past, present, and future of HBCUs in the statewide public TV network's viewing area and throughout the United States.

# HBCU WEEK

HBCU Week offers stories of sacrifice, courage, innovation, and hope found in the archives of these important American institutions. This year, MPT will expand its coverage beyond history and education to present films covering HBCU contributions to the arts, music, and sports. Highlights include special one-hour episodes of *Direct Connection* and *State Circle*, a profile of former Morgan State University student Calvin Tyler, an evening of music-related programs, and a day of sports culminating with "The Battle for Greater Baltimore" football game between Morgan State University and Towson University.

Viewers can find more information about HBCU Week offerings and view trailers for upcoming programs at [mpt.org/hbcu](http://mpt.org/hbcu). Throughout the week, audiences are encouraged to contribute to the conversation on social media using the hashtag **#HBCUWeekMD**.

HBCU Week is part of the statewide network's Standing Against Racism: Fostering Unity Through Dialogue initiative. MPT began this long-term initiative in 2020 to stimulate thoughtful discussion and increase understanding of race-related issues in communities across Maryland. More information and resources are available at [mpt.org/racism](http://mpt.org/racism).

In Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress defined an HBCU as a school of higher learning that was accredited and established before 1964 and whose principal mission is the education of African

Americans. Today, more than 100 HBCUs educate nearly 300,000 enrolled students. The six HBCUs in MPT's viewing area are [Bowie State University](#), [Coppin State University](#), [Howard University](#), [Morgan State University](#), [University of the District of Columbia](#), and [University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#).

HBCU Week is sponsored by Bowie State University, the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®) 2023 Basketball Tournament, and STEM City USA.

### **HBCU Week 2022 program highlights**

#### ***Direct Connection Special: Welcome to HBCU Week – Monday, September 5, 7-8 p.m.***

Hosted by Comcast Newsmakers anchor [Tetiana Anderson](#), this one-hour *Direct Connection* special features interviews with students from area HBCU students who share the purpose of HBCU Week with viewers and preview programs airing throughout the week.

#### ***The Calvin Tyler Story – Monday, September 5, 8-9 p.m.***

This one-hour documentary tells the remarkable story of Baltimore native and former Morgan State University student Calvin Tyler. Starting as a UPS delivery truck driver, Tyler rose to become one of UPS's highest-ranking executives and largest shareholders. His \$20 million gift to Morgan was the largest ever made to an HBCU by a former student.

#### ***A Legacy of Opportunity: The History of Delaware State University – Tuesday, September 6, 8-9 p.m.***

This one-hour documentary commemorates Delaware's only HBCU and its 125-year legacy. The film traces the history of the university from its earliest days in 1891 through 2017, using contemporary footage, archival photos, and personal interviews with university alumni and executives to explore the university's changing role over time and highlight key moments throughout its history.

#### ***The Morgan Choir: A Joyful Celebration – Wednesday, September 7, 9:30-11:30 p.m.***

Taped at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, this 2004 concert special features one of the nation's most prestigious university choral ensembles and salutes Dr. Nathan Carter, who led the choir for 34 years. The two-hour presentation also features interviews conducted in 2021 with experts, supporters, and members of HBCU choirs. A preview is available [HERE](#).

#### ***Conversations for Change: HBCU Awakening and Revival – Thursday, September 8, 8-9:30 p.m.***

Watch MPT's national conversation that focuses the contemporary view of historically Black colleges and universities through the eyes of the people who power them. (Recorded in 2021).

#### ***State Circle Special: Innovative Programs at Maryland's HBCUs – Friday, September 9, 7-8 p.m.***

Hosted by MPT's Jeff Salkin and Dr. Karsonya "Kaye" Wise Whitehead of Morgan State University's WEAA 88.9 FM, this one-hour *State Circle* special provides an in-depth look at new and unique academic programs being offered by HBCUs in and around Maryland.

#### ***Breaking Ground: A Story of HBCU Football and the NFL – Friday, September 9, 9:30-10:30 p.m.***

Narrated by late HBCU alumnus and actor Chadwick Boseman, *Breaking Ground* is an in-depth look at the legacy of HBCUs within the NFL. NFL legends and groundbreakers, including Jerry Rice, Doug Williams, Mel Blount, and Marquette King, share stories of the impact HBCUs have had in not only shaping their careers, but in laying the crucial foundation for what the NFL has become.

#### ***Sounds of the Game – Saturday, September 10, 4-4:30 p.m.***

Hosted by cultural historian Bryant "BeMo" Brown, this half-hour MPT special report offers an inside look at what makes HBCU homecomings unique. The program includes the short film *Blue and Gold Marching Machine*, which follows the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University marching band, as

well as interviews with members of the Morgan State University, Howard University, and Bowie State University bands.

***The Battle for Greater Baltimore: The Towson vs. Morgan Football Game – Saturday, September 10, 7-10:30 p.m.***

The Morgan State University Bears visit Johnny Unitas® Stadium to take on the Towson University Tigers in this annual matchup between regional rivals. The football game will be immediately preceded by a pregame show from the MPT Sports Desk previewing the matchup and taking a look at preparations underway for the CIAA basketball tournament returning to Baltimore in February 2023.

The Towson-Morgan football game culminates an afternoon of sports-related programming on Saturday. Other productions airing that day are *The Morgan Lacrosse Story* at 2:30 p.m.; *Our Blues Make Us Gold* at 3:30 p.m.; *Sounds of the Game* at 4 p.m.; *Black College Football Hall of Fame: Journey to Canton* at 4:30 p.m.; and *Breaking Ground: A Story of HBCU Football and the NFL* at 5:30 p.m.

Other notable HBCU Week premieres include *Our Blues Make Us Gold* on Monday, September 5 at 8 p.m.; *All the Difference* on Monday, September 5 at 9:30 p.m.; *Back in Time: Langston University* on Tuesday, September 6 at 9 p.m.; *Walk Together Children: The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fisk Jubilee Singers* on Wednesday, September 7 at 8:30 p.m.; *Foot Soldiers: The Class of 1964* on Thursday, September 8 at 9:30 p.m.; and *George Washington Carver: An Uncommon Life* on Friday, September 9 at 10:30 p.m.

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**About Maryland Public Television**

Maryland Public Television (MPT) is a statewide, public-supported TV network and Public Broadcasting Service member offering entertaining, educational, and inspiring content delivered by traditional broadcasting and streaming on TVs, computers, and mobile devices. A state agency, it operates under the auspices of the Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. MPT creates local, regional, and national content and is a frequent winner of regional Emmy® awards. MPT's commitment to educators, parents, caregivers, and learners of all ages is delivered through instructional events and [Thinkport.org](http://Thinkport.org). MPT's year-round community engagement activities connect viewers with resources on a wide range of topics. For more information visit [mpt.org](http://mpt.org).