



NEWS RELEASE

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BCPS teacher, employer earned awards from Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council

Towson, MD – Delana Shifflett, apprenticeship program supervisor/career and technical education site-coordinator, and the firm [Clarity Cyber](#), a BCPS youth apprenticeship partner, were honored with 2022 Maryland Apprenticeship Awards by the Maryland Apprenticeship and Training Council during National Apprenticeship Week 2022. Shifflett was honored in the outstanding youth apprenticeship program category, and Clarity Cyber in the outstanding business category.

Shifflett and Clarity Cyber were nominated by Alicia Fales, supervisor of school to career transition in the BCPS Office of Career and Technical Education.

In nominating Clarity Cyber, Fales noted that the company approached BCPS about building a pipeline for students into careers in cyber security. The internships provided were converted into apprenticeships in July 2022. Fales praised Clarity Cyber for ensuring that students would feel comfortable and welcome by selecting diverse, younger employees to mentor them.

“The mentors,” Fales said, “have effectively and closely worked with apprentices, both in-person and remotely, to ensure they are developing the skills needed to be successful in the field. They have designed projects that are high-interest for high school students while teaching them the skills needed to develop secure android apps. Company leadership has also been looking for ways to partner with BCPS and with other industry partners to increase apprenticeship opportunities for students in cyber security to help meet the needs of the industry in the next few years.”

Fales nominated Shifflett for her leadership of the Apprenticeship Maryland program at Patapsco High School and Center for the Arts, including her efforts to recruit and support participating businesses and

students and to ensure that students receive driver education, [OSHA 10 certification](#), and other instruction to prepare them for work.

“Ms. Shifflett is passionate about recruiting youth apprentices who may not have training opportunities otherwise during high school,” Fales said. “She uses data to plan additional recruitment for underrepresented groups. The program ensures that they get a start on their career during high school so they can graduate with a clear career path plan. Ms. Shifflett advocated to have the program piloted at her school, and she has since taken a strong leadership role. Now she mentors program coordinators at other schools. Area business leaders know that she is their partner in working to build a pipeline into employment in their companies. Ms. Shifflett truly makes a difference in the lives of her students and their families and the local business community.”

The [Apprenticeship Maryland Program](#), designed to lead to employment opportunities and further education, offers paid working and learning opportunities to students in all BCPS high schools. The program is focused on career clusters such as information technology, health and biomedical sciences, manufacturing, construction and development, and banking, management, and finance, and it is offered in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education and Maryland Department of Labor.

(Editor’s note: A photo of the award winners can be found on [Flickr](#).)

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[Baltimore County Public Schools](#), the nation’s 22nd largest school system, is focused on raising the bar and closing gaps to prepare our students for the future. Thanks to innovative and talented leaders, teachers, staff, and students, BCPS celebrates [many honors](#).