

MABE NEWS BRIEF

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

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Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Honors Laura Mitchell, M.B.A., with MABE's 2024 Excellence in Education Award

Annapolis, MD – [The Maryland Association of Boards of Education \(MABE\)](https://www.mabe.org) proudly announces that Laura Mitchell, M.B.A., has earned its **2024 Excellence in Education Award**. Mitchell's outstanding dedication to educating communities about mental health crises and substance use hazards – encompassing students, families, caregivers, staff, and the wider community – embodies the spirit of this prestigious biennial award, according to nominators.



*Laura Mitchell, M.B.A.,
recipient of MABE's
2024 Excellence in
Education Award*

Established in 2012 as a tribute to Dr. Carl W. Smith, the former Executive Director of MABE, the Excellence in Education Award recognizes individuals whose contributions align closely with MABE's vision to champion excellence in public education. Recent award recipients have included author, advocate and former UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III, and Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools.

Mitchell's longtime efforts in helping address substance use and mental health issues have significantly impacted the community, her nominators emphasized. Through her participation in influential councils like the Montgomery County Alcohol and Other Drug Addiction Advisory Council (AODAAC), Mitchell advocates strongly for prevention, equitable access to treatment, and recovery supports.

As AODAAC Chair, Mitchell organized impactful Family Forums focusing on Fentanyl, which addressed the surge in youth overdoses and substance-related fatalities. The forums, held at various high schools, attracted attention from media outlets and the White House, while fostering crucial dialogues involving school administrators, Parent-Teacher-Student Associations, parents, legislators and students.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, her unwavering dedication was evident in securing grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with National PTA, to support vaccination efforts for underserved populations. She also champions implementation of the Handle with Care Program, and co-founded the Montgomery Goes Purple Community Coalition to end substance- and mental health-related harms and deaths.

MABE is proud to grant Laura Mitchell this year's Excellence in Education Award for her exceptional contributions to education and community wellbeing. Her unwavering dedication and innovative approaches serve as a source of inspiration to educators and communities alike.

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About MABE:

Founded in 1957, The Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state. All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.