

For Immediate Release

WOMEN LEADERS TO BE HONORED APRIL 5 IN HISTORY MONTH EVENT

CUMBERLAND, Md. – Women leaders of Western Maryland will be honored for their service Wednesday, April 5, in a celebration that also features portrayals of historical female figures by a professional actress.

This sixth annual Women's History Celebration and Networking Event begins at 6 p.m. at Allegany College of Maryland. Free and open to the public, it will be held in the College Center's Zimmer Theatre.

A highlight of the evening will be actor and educator Kate Campbell Stevenson presenting characters in "Petticoats in Politics," a one-woman musical she created to celebrate the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Campbell Stevenson uses music and theater to portray historical figures in the women's voting right struggle and to inspire girls and young women to become more active in the local, state and national political process.

She will play first lady and women's right advocate Abigail Adams, early 20th century suffragist and National Women's Party co-founder Alice Paul and first lady, civil and human rights advocate and U.N. ambassador Eleanor Roosevelt.

The program, titled Women and Politics, recognizes area women for their contributions to the public good in such areas as government and public affairs, human service, economic development and education and the arts.

The evening includes a panel discussion by women leaders that is designed to raise awareness of the duties of public service and motivate others to follow their path.

Panelists include: Dr. Joy Kroeger-Mappes, Frostburg State University emeritus professor of philosophy; Betsey Hurwitz-Schwab, retired business leader; the Rev. Marsha Bell, pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cumberland; the Rev. Caroline Kelly, pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland; and Bernice Friedland, higher education leader.



Special recognition will be accorded to Friedland, a former high school teacher and retired Cumberland small-business owner who has been highly active in a wide variety of efforts to better the community over the decades.

She served from 1984 to 1998 on ACM's Board of Trustees, including seven years as the governing body's vice chair and two years as chair. She continues serving the college as a board member of the ACM Foundation.

Friedland has also been active in issues pertaining to women and the family. She served on the Maryland State Commission for Women and chaired its Hall of Fame, and was among founders of the Allegany County Commission for Women. She also was a founder of the Allegany County Women's Refuge and a Child Abuse Task Force member.

Friedland is likewise a leader in her faith community. She is a past president of B'er Chayim Temple, a Reform Jewish congregation in Cumberland, and was the first woman to serve in that post.

Concluding the program is a video presentation created by ACM students with interviews of women being recognized. It will explore how women can be inspired and supported in public service and leadership.

This Women's History Celebration and Networking Event is presented by the Maryland National Organization for Women and ACM with support from the college's Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement, Human Service Club and Student Government Association.

Youth groups, women's organizations, students, families and young men and women are especially encouraged to attend and take the opportunity to make connections.

Reservations are encouraged but not required. They can be made and more information obtained by emailing to Irish20901@yahoo.com. Light refreshments will be served at the reception that concludes the event.

Local inquiries can be directed to Dr. Diane McMahon, ACM service learning and civic engagement coordinator, at 301-784-5113 or at dmcahon@allegany.edu. Information is also available on the college website, www.allegany.edu.

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First lady and women's rights advocate Abigail Adams is among the historical figures to portrayed by actress Kate Campbell Stevenson as part of a sixth annual Women's History Celebration and Networking Event. Free of charge and open to the public, it will be held Wednesday, April 5, at Allegany College of Maryland, starting at 6 p.m.