



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Friday, May 20, 2022

**CONTACT:** Joanna Warner, [jwarner@mdfoodbank.org](mailto:jwarner@mdfoodbank.org)  
O: 443-297-5167 / C: 240-426-4633

Sandra Pierson, [spierson@worwic.edu](mailto:spierson@worwic.edu)  
O: 410-334-2943 / C: 443-783-0322

## **Maryland Food Bank and Wor-Wic Community College Celebrate First Class of FoodWorks Graduates on the Eastern Shore**

### ***Students Transform Their Lives Through Unique Culinary Workforce Development Program***

SALISBURY, MD – On **Thursday, May 26**, the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) and Wor-Wic Community College (Wor-Wic) will celebrate the accomplishments of the first-ever class of graduates from FoodWorks – Eastern Shore, the food bank’s workforce development program that prepares students for careers in the culinary industry.

In mid-March, MFB and Wor-Wic joined forces to launch this satellite location of the FoodWorks program in Salisbury. Since its inception at the food bank’s Baltimore headquarters in 2010, FoodWorks has created inroads to employment for hundreds of Marylanders interested in learning new skills in the kitchen while producing healthy meals for those in need. This site expands the culinary program’s reach onto the Eastern Shore, less than 10 miles from the food bank’s Salisbury branch, and joins the FoodWorks – Baltimore City satellite location in bringing life-changing culinary training opportunities to residents in their surrounding communities.

Over the past 11 weeks, this first class of FoodWorks – Eastern Shore students has learned a wide-range of cooking fundamentals, food safety essentials, and other important skills employers seek in hiring a well-trained work force. Program participants also receive ServSafe® food safety certification and social services support from the FoodWorks case management team, as well as assistance landing jobs that set them down a path toward financial stability. FoodWorks is a key piece of MFB’s efforts to create a future in which new pathways to sufficiency are readily available to help more Marylanders achieve lasting food security.

**WHAT:** **FoodWorks – Eastern Shore Graduation: Class #1**

**WHEN:** **Thursday, May 26, 2022**  
12:30 p.m. – Media are invited to capture interviews/photos before the ceremony  
1:00 p.m. – Graduation ceremony begins

**WHERE:** Wor-Wic Community College – 3200 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804  
Fulton Owen Hall, Room 103 ABC (Please use the parking lot closest to Route 50)

**WHO:** Carmen Del Guercio, President & CEO, Maryland Food Bank  
Dr. Kristin L. Mallory, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Wor-Wic Community College

#### **About FoodWorks**

*FoodWorks is a proven workforce development program that offers a fresh start to individuals seeking careers in the culinary industry. The 12-week, intensive curriculum —focusing on both professional and personal development —prepares graduates to thrive in any hospitality setting by providing career development skills, job placement assistance and social services support. By placing Marylanders into culinary careers, FoodWorks serves a critical role in MFB’s strategic plan to address the root causes of food insecurity and open more pathways out of hunger.*

(more)

**About Wor-Wic Community College**

*Wor-Wic Community College enhances local economic growth by addressing the educational, training and workforce development requirements of Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties. The continuing education and workforce development division works with area businesses, organizations and industries to offer customized training. Community members can prepare for a new career, upgrade existing skills or meet licensure, certification or continuing education requirements. Learning pathways include business and hospitality; education and human services; health care; humanities and social services; public safety; science, technology, engineering and math; and skilled trades and transportation.*

**About the Maryland Food Bank**

*The Maryland Food Bank (MFB) is a nonprofit hunger-relief organization dedicated to feeding people, strengthening communities, and ending hunger for more Marylanders. Since March 2020, the food bank's statewide food assistance network distributed the equivalent of 91 million meals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MFB will continue to meet the immediate needs of vulnerable communities while collaborating with partners to provide resources beyond food and address root causes of hunger so that more Marylanders can become financially stable and thrive. To learn more about the Maryland Food Bank, visit [www.mdfoodbank.org](http://www.mdfoodbank.org).*

###

