EASTERN SHORE
HIGHER EDUCATION
CENTER

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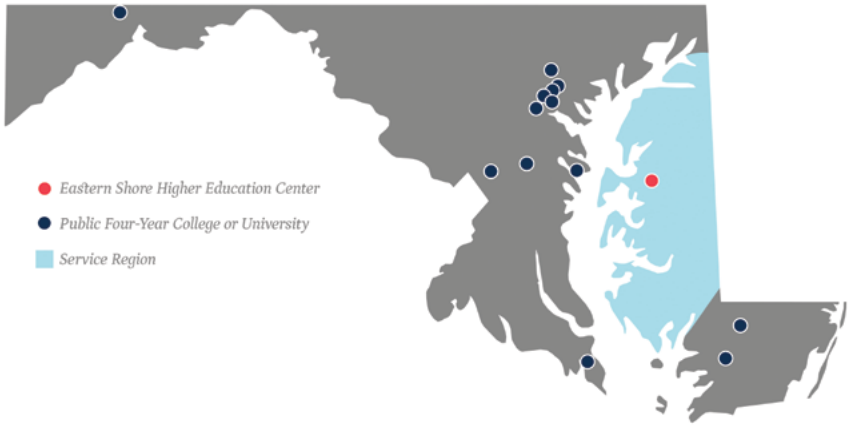
LIGHTING THE WAY FORWARD ON MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE

MHEC ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING | 2026

Serving the Upper Shore & Beyond



Driving regional change to increase postsecondary attainment and lifelong success

The Eastern Shore Higher Education Center (ESHEC) advances Maryland's Moment: Lighting the Way Forward (2026–30) by bringing affordable, accessible postsecondary education directly to Eastern Shore communities. Through coordinated partnerships with four-year universities, Chesapeake College, local school systems, and community organizations, ESHEC creates clear pathways from high school and workforce training to credentials, degrees, careers, and economic mobility.

Measurable Regional Impact

Streamlining pathways and advancing affordability

- Creates seamless high school-to-community college-to-university pathways.
- Connects noncredit credentials to credit programs through Credit for Prior Learning (CPL).
- Provides local access to four-year degrees—reducing travel, relocation costs, and time to completion.
- Creates articulation agreements to preserve credits and prevent unnecessary duplication.

Building the education workforce

- Collaborates with seven Eastern Shore counties, Salisbury University, UMES, and the University System of Maryland for the recent MSDE Grow Your Own initiative.
- Supports apprenticeship and alternative-licensure pathways for up to **415** educators through a recently created Education Navigator position.
- Addresses regional shortages in elementary, special, and early childhood education.

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Creating a direct pathway to social work careers

- Through ESHEC's university partnerships and Chesapeake College's new associate degree in Social Work, students can earn associate, bachelor's, and master's degrees in Social Work without leaving the Chesapeake College campus.
- Saves students time and money while increasing the likelihood of degree completion.
- Strengthens the pipeline of qualified professionals serving Eastern Shore communities.

Connecting education with talent and economic development

- Expands access to workforce credentials, including CDL programming.
- Developing a Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center connected to skilled-trades education—helping tradespeople gain the business skills needed to launch and grow companies.
- Aligns education with regional workforce shortages and emerging economic opportunities.

Advancing public impact and community vitality

- Provides educational, civic, cultural, and workforce-development access to more than **6,500 community members annually**.
- Offers affordable space for workshops, training, public programs, and community partnerships.
- Strengthens civic participation, economic vitality, and lifelong learning across the region.

- **ESHEC is a regional access point that brings institutions and partners together around the learner.**
- **Our pathways lower costs, reduce duplication, and allow Eastern Shore residents to earn credentials without leaving their communities.**
- **State investment in ESHEC supports measurable progress in attainment, workforce development, educator preparation, community impact, and innovation.**
- **ESHEC turns statewide priorities into coordinated regional action—serving every learner, advancing public value, and championing collaboration and innovation.**

Aligned with the goals and strategies of MHEC's 2026–30 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education