



## **Learning While Earning is the Way: Real Estate Acquisition Program for Students (REAPS)**

Challenges with student retention and persistence are real issues that are complicated by life demands for many scholars. . Circumstantial demands too often create hardship and make it difficult to remain enrolled in school, especially when the demands are intertwined with financial struggles. Any serious remedy to the problem must include interventions that offer learning opportunities with real-time earnings and pathways to positive economic mobility. That is the aim of the Real Estate Acquisition Program for Students (REAPS).

REAPS was launched at the 2022 Economic Inclusion Conference @ Coppin (EICAC) with a cohort of 10 Coppin students from across disciplines. Sponsored by Hope Mims, Principal Broker at Mims Realty Group and Coppin State University College of Business alumnae, the program is a model for alumni giving and the creation of entrepreneurial pathways for those coming behind them. Eight of the 10 students completed the 60-hour course required by the State of Maryland as a prerequisite for taking the real estate licensing exam. After refocusing on the demands of the fall semester, REAPS participants are preparing to finish the road to licensure within the one year allowed by the Maryland Real Estate Commission.

The CSE plans to build a portfolio of “earn while you learn” programming that addresses the current need for educational finances while positioning our scholars for a lifetime of wealth-building.