


UMES Hosts The Official Signing Of Its Historic Partnership With NASA

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By **Rodaris Richardson**

PRINCESS ANNE, Md. - The future of science and engineering just got brighter in Delmarva, after the official signing of a partnership between The University of Maryland Eastern Shore and NASA.

Vicleese Sloan is a senior student at the Department of Engineering and Aviation Sciences at The University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Who before the historic signing, found herself with limited options as to where she could find a school with an aerospace engineering program.

"It was the difference between Maryland or Florida," said Sloan.

Now the Maryland native is pleased to have found that and more at UMES with its historic partnership with NASA Wallops.

According to NASA, students will get hands-on experience at the Virginia facility through internships, on-site project engagement, and opportunities to work alongside space professionals.

"So seeing this program come together with Wallops Island is amazing because I've been wondering for the longest time 'how do we do this?' and the process is very strenuous when you're a student on your own and you go to your advisors and your faculty and they give you the information but now this makes the process more streamlined," explained Sloan.

UMES President dr. Heidi Anderson says this signing will break barriers for those underrepresented in STEM fields at the historically black college.

"One of the things that UMES and our institution are about is making sure our institution has more people of color in all sciences. And we are a major footprint in this particular community for doing that," said President Anderson.

Preparing students for full-time careers, like Senior Engineering student Kenny Davis who is currently an intern with NASA Wallops.

"So many students struggle getting internships throughout the Summer and end up having to work somewhere so this opens up a lot of opportunities. Right now the plan is to go full-time and to actually be a NASA employee in January," added Davis.

A bright future ahead for the field of STEM.

Anyone interested in the aviation program at UMES can visit: <https://www.umes.edu/Aviation/>