



# SEAHAWK JOURNAL

WINTER 2020

CECIL COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWSLETTER • ADMISSIONS@CECIL.EDU • 410-287-1006 • WWW.CECIL.EDU

## #CECILUNITED

*Seahawks rise to the challenge presented by COVID-19*

In response to the pandemic and the shift of many classes to remote learning, our College community has rallied with our usual Seahawk spirit. We stay connected through virtual classes and events, social distancing 5k's, and social media shout-outs! We are #cecilunited, and we are here for you! ❤️💛



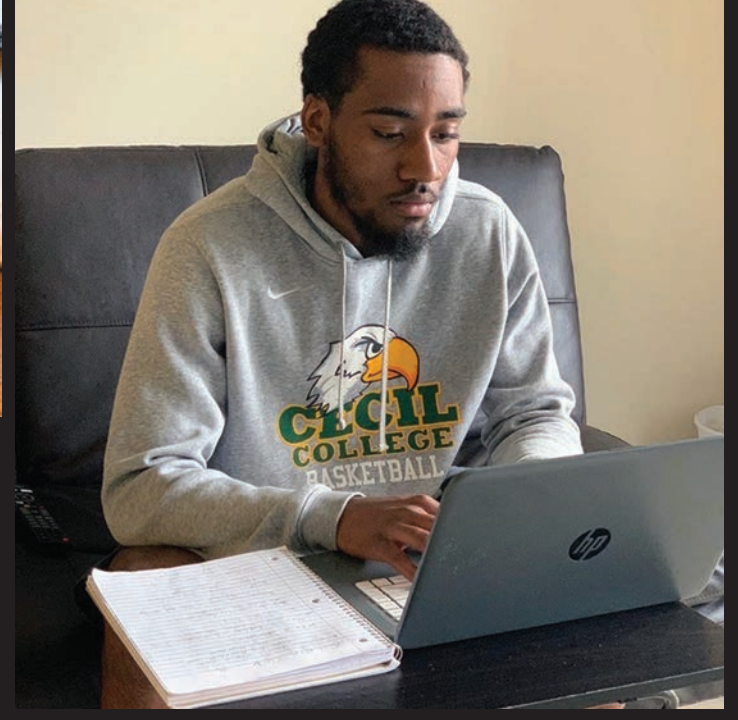
**WEEK ONE WINNER!**



Seahawk Emily

**CECIL COLLEGE Social Distancing 5K**

**WINNER! WINNER! WINNER!**



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# NEWS & EVENTS

## Cecil College Receives GEER Funds

Cecil College is the recipient of a \$250,000 grant from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund intended to support students working toward credentials to assist them in returning to the workforce.

This GEER funding is a portion of the \$10 million provided by Governor Larry Hogan to Maryland's community colleges providing workforce development courses and continuing professional education that lead to government or industry-required certification or licensure, especially to those who lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Some highlights from Cecil College's submitted plan:

- Scholarships for students who complete their GED and want to continue their education towards a workforce discipline certification. Scholarships will cover tuition, books and supplies, and certification exam fees, in areas such as Medical Assistant and Basic Construction certification.
- Credit course scholarships lead to a certification for in-demand disciplines such as drone technology and cybersecurity.
- Technology to support students enrolled in these programs.
- Equipment to support program enrollment. Equipment will be used long-term for these programs and enhance the student learning experience by providing access to up-to-date professional tools used in these fields.

Cecil College is grateful for the opportunity to receive funding to support our students as they return to the workforce.

For more information, visit [www.cecil.edu/geer-combo](http://www.cecil.edu/geer-combo)



## Cecil College Performing Arts Virtual Stage

For over a decade, Rockestra rock orchestra performances have been something the Cecil College Performing Arts Department has looked forward to every year, and the Performing Arts department saw no reason to let a quarantine stop them. Many students, faculty, alumni, and community members worked hard to make this possible. It's been a challenging year for everyone, and we hope this gives you a bit of inspiration in difficult times. For us, it's helped keep us sane to have a project that can connect us and keep our musical family together, and we hope you enjoy it!

Watch Rockestra for free!  
Visit us on YouTube at Cecil College Performing Arts

In addition to monthly Virtual Rockestra releases, students, alumni, and friends of the Cecil College Performing Arts Department have also produced TenFest: A festival of short plays and musical performances, Camera Concerts, and "Cycles:" A Lyric Video written, recorded, and performed by students and faculty who rocked out in the Cecil College Rock Band Academy! Enjoy all of our virtual stage performances on YouTube at Cecil College Performing Arts.



## CECIL COLLEGE CELEBRATES 100% PASS RATE

Students in Cecil College's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) and Nursing programs have achieved what few others in the fields have.

PTA graduates from the Class of 2020 had a pass rate of 100 percent for the National Physical Therapy Exam (NPTE) on their first attempt. Making this accomplishment more monumental is that this is the fifth consecutive year Cecil College's PTA students have had a 100 percent first attempt pass rate.

The Nursing program continues to have a strong pass rate for its graduates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), required to attain their registered nursing license. Cecil College's Nursing program has been consistently among the highest performing schools in Maryland and for the past two years (2018 and 2019), was the only institution in the State of Maryland to have a perfect pass rate of 100%. Cecil College not only often exceeds the pass rate for most of the 14 community colleges in Maryland, but also for many of the 12 four-year universities offering a Bachelors or pre-licensure Master of Science degrees in nursing.



"Current Events" by Jesse Cooke (student), mixed media

## Art Responds: Cecil United

During a time of global pandemic where social distancing is necessary, Cecil College is hosting a series of virtual art exhibits highlighting the works of local and regional artists. The newest exhibit presented in the Art and Design Program's Virtual Gallery is entitled "Art Responds: Cecil United."

Cecil College entered the academic year facing global pandemic, civil unrest, and intensified climate change. The Art and Design Program assembled artwork from students, alumni and faculty representing these times as a form of unity. Art has the power to unite, heal, and connect.

Artist Olafur Eliasson said, "The arts and culture represent one of the few areas in our society where people can come together to share an experience even if they see the world in radically different ways."

Art is how we bear witness, how we speak our minds, and how we begin to build the world we seek to inhabit. This exhibit represents the vision of the artists for the world and how to share it.

To view the gallery, visit [cecil.edu/responds](http://cecil.edu/responds)

The entire Art and Design Program's Virtual Gallery can be viewed at: [www.cecil.edu/exhibits](http://www.cecil.edu/exhibits)



## NEW! Bioproduction Degree

An introduction to the field of Bioprocessing, Cecil College's exciting new degree program focuses on harnessing cellular processes to create vital industrial and medical products. This dynamic, interdisciplinary field incorporates aspects of biology, engineering, and chemistry and incorporates many technologies, leading to careers in areas such as health and medicine, production of therapeutic proteins, vaccine development and production, and biofuel production.

If you like to study biology, cellular & molecular biology, microbiology, biotechnology, engineering, and chemistry, you may find this program to be both inspiring and challenging!

To learn more, contact us today!

Assistant Professor Christine Warwick at  
[cwarwick@cecil.edu](mailto:cwarwick@cecil.edu), or [admissions@cecil.edu](mailto:admissions@cecil.edu),  
410-287-1006.  
[www.cecil.edu/STEM](http://www.cecil.edu/STEM)





# CECIL SEAHAWKS



## FALKO: ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Jacob Falko, who is undeniably one of the most talented basketball players to come out of Cecil County, chose Cecil College for the first two years of his collegiate career. A graduate of Tri-State Christian Academy, where he scored more than 2,000 points and was named Cecil County Player of the Year in his junior and senior seasons, Falko continued that success with the Seahawks.

"I chose Cecil College because I wanted to continue my college basketball career, and it was also close to home, which was important to me. I was able to live at home with home-cooked meals, which as an athlete, it's always important to me to have good food," said Falko.

Falko thrived both in the classroom and on the court at Cecil College, earning an Associate Degree in Accounting. On the court, he led the Seahawks to the NJCAA National Tournament during the 2018-2019 season, where Cecil College placed third. During his second season at Cecil, the Seahawks fell one victory short of returning to the national tournament.

"Playing at Cecil College was a big advantage when it came to being recruited by four-year programs. I was able to connect with more than 75 coaches and ended up having around 40 scholarship offers," said Falko, who accepted a full scholarship from Division I Gardner-Webb University Runnin' Bulldogs, located in

North Carolina. "Cecil College prepared me for division one basketball because every day, I had to go up against high-level players in practice, and it challenged and pushed me to get better.

"I loved the great coaching staff at Cecil. Not only did they push us on the basketball court, but also in the classroom. The coaches didn't let me slack academically or athletically and always expected more from me. School-wise, just being in that college

environment and having to stay on top of school work helped prepare me for university life," said Falko.

During his two years on the Cecil College

men's basketball team, Falko scored 1,143 points and was named the Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference Athlete of the Month three times during his sophomore season; in November, January, and February.

The accolades continued in the post-season when he was named Maryland JUCO Conference Men's Basketball Offensive Player of the Year, All-Maryland JUCO First-Team, and All-Region XX Division II First-Team as a sophomore. This past season, Falko averaged 23.7 points per game while shooting an impressive 62 percent from the floor. From beyond the arc, he shot 43 percent.



## Holman in the Spotlight

Seahawk Rebecca "Becca" Holman (Perryville High School, 2019) is currently a sophomore member of the Cecil College women's volleyball team.

As a freshman, Becca made an immediate impact on the volleyball team helping the Seahawks to a 15-6 overall record (7-4 in MD JUCO) and another NJCAA Region XX DII Tournament. Her personal successes include:

- 219 total kills (3.42 kills per set) in 20 matches. In addition to leading the team in kills, Holman was third in total kills and kills per set in the Maryland Junior College Athletic Conference.
- A career-high 22 kills in Cecil's road victory at Potomac State College of WBU on October 18, 2019
- Holman tallied 43 blocks, which is more than double any of her teammates
- Defensively, Holman landed second on the team with 121 digs and also contributed 36 service aces and 28 assists.
- Holman was named an All-MD JUCO First-Team selection, an All-Region XX DII First-Team selection, and was named to the Region XX DII Tournament team

Becca returned this year for her sophomore season as a Seahawk on the volleyball team, which is currently practicing using an outdoor court system amid COVID-19 restrictions. Volleyball season will officially begin in the Spring 2021 semester. She is an Exercise Science major.



McKale Williams has committed to DIII Stevenson University! The Mustangs are gaining a precision 3-pt. shooter, lockdown defender, team player, and 4.0 student-athlete!



Mike Worthington will be continuing his academic and athletic career with the Hornets! Delaware State University is a NCAA Division I institution and competes in the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference!



Sincere Lopez is headed to Penn State Shenango!

### FOLLOW US!

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- seahawksathletics
- @Cecil\_Athletics



# ALUMNI NEWS



## Q&A with Alumnus McKale Williams

McKale Williams came to Cecil College looking for a fresh start, having moved to the region from Colorado. He desired a small campus environment where he knew he was not just another number on a class roster. He found everything he could hope for, as every door led to more opportunities at Cecil College.

Through determination, dedication, and hard work, Williams found success in the classroom and on the basketball court. Not only did he graduate with an associate degree in media communications, but with a perfect 4.0 GPA. As a student-athlete, he was a member of the 2019 Region XX, DII Championship team that took third at the NJCAA National Tournament. He finished his career at Cecil College as the team's most effective three-point shooter as the Seahawks finished the 2020 season with a 23-7 record.

His academic success was recognized on the national level as he was twice named an NJCAA All-Academic athlete. Williams, who is currently a junior at Stevenson University, where he earned academic and athletic scholarships, advocates the philosophy of turning around to help the next person in line.

To that end, in a recent interview he provided some insight for high school students looking at their future.

**CC:** What advice do you have for current high school seniors looking for a college?

**MW:** "Don't be afraid to ask questions. It is one of the simplest ways to understand the material and create a relationship with your professors. It shows you are engaged and eager to learn."

**CC:** Tell us a pleasant surprise you discovered about Cecil College you weren't expecting?

**MW:** "What I discovered about Cecil is how many people are willing to help you. Not just the professors, but other students were willing to help you with school work. Honestly, there is no reason to fail there."

**CC:** As a 4.0 GPA student, what is your advice about Cecil College's support services?

**MW:** "You need to use the support services as much as you can. This is what I meant by there is no excuse to fail here. These services will never set you up for failure. There are so many people at these services that will go the extra mile to help you. Use them for your advantage."

**CC:** What apprehensions did you have going from high school to a college environment?

**MW:** "What I would say to any high school senior is take a deep breath and say to yourself, 'I belong here, and I can do this.' The trick is time management. Create a little bit of time for your work and break up your work instead of doing it all at once."

**CC:** How did you balance your athletic obligations, education, and home life?

**MW:** "Being a student-athlete, time-management is something you have to perfect. You have to create time throughout the day for different things, like basketball practice, schoolwork, and personal life. Trust me; there is enough time throughout the day to do so as well."

**CC:** What is the importance of scholarships, and what would you tell the parents of a high school senior about being proactive?

**MW:** "I am paying my way through college, so I understand that scholarships should be the top priority for high school seniors. The more scholarships you have, the less stress you have financially. One thing I would say to a high school senior's parents is to make sure your kid truly fills out the paperwork for scholarships. Get as much in scholarship money as you possibly can because that is less stress for you, the parents, as well."

**CC:** How was your experience with the transfer process from Cecil College to Stevenson University?

**MW:** "Cecil gave me all the information I needed to make the process simple. There was a lot of paperwork to be handed into Stevenson, but the process wasn't too painful."



## Meet Alumna Erin Elburn

I initially chose Cecil College because I received the Cecil County Government Scholarship, providing free tuition at Cecil for two years. I saw people from high school go off to four-year universities only to eventually return to Cecil County to attend Cecil College because they either became unsure of their major, had financial problems, or the four-year college just wasn't the right fit for them. I watched them waste time and money when they could have just started their college career at Cecil as I did. My advice to high school students is to start at a community college if you are unsure of what direction you want to go with your major. Taking at least your general courses at Cecil College will save you thousands of dollars. Also, general courses at big universities will easily have over one hundred students in the lecture hall. At Cecil, the largest class I had was around 25 students. Having that amazing student-to-professor ratio is priceless.

In addition to the money I saved at Cecil, I fell in love with the sense of community that Cecil has. I strongly advise high school students to get involved! I was a part of the Student Leadership Council and the Alpha Alpha Theta Honor Society. No matter where I went on campus, I always saw someone I knew, either a classmate, a professor, or someone in the same clubs as me, and I was always welcomed with a "Hello!" and a wave.

I am now a senior at the University of Delaware, studying Mechanical Engineering. Cecil has taught me the benefits of creating a sense of community around me, which led me to success. Obviously, UD is a much larger school, so I created a sense of community around me by joining Alpha Omega Epsilon, a social and professional sorority for women in engineering and technical science. I joined Alpha Omega Epsilon with two other friends who transferred with me from Cecil College to UD. I am so grateful for Cecil College for helping me make great friends who are continuing to be in my life, even after transferring from Cecil!

For any high school girls thinking about pursuing an engineering major, I strongly encourage you to follow through with it! I know it can be discouraging since engineering is a male-dominated major, but trust me when I say that you can do anything that you put your mind to with hard work.

## FIND OUT IF CECIL COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

Contact an Admissions representative to learn about:

- Academic Offerings
- Student Life
- Tuition Rates
- Student Services and Resources
- Paying for College
- Admissions Next Steps

Call us today with any questions at 410-287-1006, live chat on [cecil.edu](http://cecil.edu) during regular hours, or email [admissions@cecil.edu](mailto:admissions@cecil.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!

The Cecil College Foundation provides scholarships to recent high school graduates as well as adult students. All current and future students of the College are encouraged to apply.

Awards are need and non-need based and range from one hundred dollars to full tuition and fees. Complete your application at [cecil.edu/scholarships](http://cecil.edu/scholarships).

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