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Contact: Casey Harlow, Marketing Coordinator

charlow@accokeek.org

### **Accokeek Foundation Appoints New Executive Director Anjela Barnes**

ACCOKEEK, MD, May 16, 2023 – The Accokeek Foundation Board of Trustees names Anjela Barnes as new Executive Director.

"As a lifelong Marylander and Piscataway Indian, it has been an honor to work at my sacred ancestral homeland known by our People as Moyaon and by visitors as Piscataway Park," says Barnes. "This place and the stories held within are near to my heart, and I am thrilled to share the diversity of this region with a broader audience."

Barnes has been a faithful steward of Piscataway Park since joining the Foundation in 2009. She led strategic marketing and fundraising campaigns prior to becoming Vice President and overseeing operations and program management in 2018. Her experience, combined with her passion for education and the care of culturally significant public spaces, will advance the mission of the organization that celebrated its 65th anniversary last year. "The board celebrates having Anjela as our new Executive Director," says Virginia Busby, Accokeek Foundation Board of Trustees Chair. "She's demonstrated a deep commitment to the organization, its mission, and the communities we serve, and her vision for reimagining the Accokeek Foundation's work provides the direction and momentum we need."

Barnes will continue to guide implementation of the Accokeek Foundation's vision, *Reimagining Accokeek*, to restore relationships with the land, ensure a place for gathering and learning, and nurture a space for restorative healing for people and the planet—a vision that requires systemic and sustained change from the inside out. "[This] decision on leadership sets a course with deep impacts on ancestral sacred land, historical reckoning, environmental resilience, and community well-being," says Gabrielle Tayac, former Accokeek Foundation Trustee.

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#### **About the Accokeek Foundation**

Founded in 1957, the Accokeek Foundation cultivates passion for the natural and cultural heritage of Piscataway Park and its commitment to stewardship and sustainability. In partnership with the National Park Service and affiliated communities, the Foundation stewards 200 acres of Piscataway Park while honoring the Indigenous people and values whose history and culture intertwine with the land. The park is open daily to visitors of all ages who enjoy a quiet landscape for recreation and reflection. Annually, thousands of students visit for place-based education and to learn about environmental stewardship through a cultural lens. Park visitors experience the interconnectedness of all life as they come to know the historical and cultural significance and regenerative potential of the Indigenous landscape that is Piscataway Park.