



Media Release

Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company
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Chesapeake Employers Insurance Joins the WNBA Washington Mystics to Sponsor Pull Up & Pitch

(TOWSON, Md.) — Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company proudly announces its partnership with the WNBA Washington Mystics to present the DMV edition of the Black Girl Ventures' Pull Up & Pitch series, an innovative program that is designed to normalize business pitching, create visibility for innovative ideas, support small business revitalization, and educate the public on how to ask for and manage finances.

Pull Up & Pitch, a program from Black Girl Ventures (BGV) and underwritten by the NBA Foundation, was created by serial entrepreneur, computer scientist, and BGV founder Omi Bell who wanted to create meaningful solutions to the unique challenges under-resourced entrepreneurs face in accessing social and financial capital to grow their businesses. Pull Up & Pitch is designed to normalize pitching and bring it to the community, showing founders who are not accustomed to pitching how fun, accessible, and helpful it can be to raise money for their business by simply showing up.

According to BGV, the organization has funded over 450 under-resourced founders, held over 50 BGV Pitch Programs across 15 cities, and served over 10,000 founders. The BGV pitch alumni are collectively generating over \$10M in revenue and supporting over 3,000 jobs. In addition to Pull Up & Pitch, Black Girl Ventures also runs three other signature programs (BGV NextGen, Emerging Leaders Fellowship, and BGV Pitch) and is now the largest ecosystem builder for underrepresented women founders on the East Coast.

On September 20, 2025, on the campus of University of Maryland College Park, 100 underrepresented founders and entrepreneurs from Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia will have the opportunity to shoot their shot and present their ideas in a 60-second pitch to access monetary grants to grow their business on the spot. Chesapeake Employers Insurance and the Washington Mystics are contributing \$10,000 to the prize money to help even more entrepreneurs realize their dreams.

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"The Mystics are proud to bring the very successful Black Girl Ventures Pull Up & Pitch event back to DMV for the second year in a row and are thankful for the partnership and financial support from Chesapeake Employers Insurance to help support even more entrepreneurs in our community in 2026," said Alycen McAuley, Chief Business Officer for the Washington Mystics.

"Our partnership with the Washington Mystics to bring the Black Girl Ventures Pull Up & Pitch to our region is something we're truly excited about," said Jodi M. Swartz, Chief Growth Officer of Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company. "This event is innovative, inclusive, and impactful. By supporting local entrepreneurs and founders, we're helping to elevate new businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the communities we serve."

About Chesapeake Employers

Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company is Maryland's largest writer of workers' compensation insurance. It is a nonprofit, non-stock, private corporation. Chesapeake Employers has served as a continuous, guaranteed source for fairly priced workers' compensation insurance since 1914.

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