



System Insider

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Kirwan and Others Hand Deliver Letter to President Obama



USM Chancellor William Kirwan and other higher education leaders in early January delivered a letter to President Barack Obama at a White House event. In the letter, the leaders pledged to address the national shortage of science and mathematics teacher through the Science and Mathematics Teacher Imperative (SMTI).

SMTI, launched by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities in 2008, is an initiative to increase the number and diversity of high-quality science and mathematics teachers. The 121 public universities and 11 university systems—including USM—participating in SMTI also have pledged to build better partnerships among universities, community colleges, school systems, state governments, businesses, and other stakeholders.

“Higher education has a critical responsibility in preparing a competitive workforce for the 21st century,” said Kirwan. “In Maryland, we have called upon both the public and private sectors to develop a statewide agenda to address science and mathematics education.”

“America’s leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students today, especially in science, math and engineering,” President Obama said at the White House event. “That’s why I’m pleased to announce the expansion of our ‘Educate to Innovate’ campaign today and applaud the several new partnerships launched that will help meet our goal of moving American students from the middle to the top of the pack in science and math achievement over the next decade.”

The USM agenda includes tripling the number of highly qualified STEM teachers produced by the system’s universities from 120 to 360 by 2015.

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In Office News



University of Maryland, College Park's Wellness Coalition is offering free health events and programs to USM employees for the month of January. Programs and events will include a wellness fair, a workshop discussing health and wealth, and Weight Watcher's meetings. Only current USM employees may participate and a valid USM ID card is required for some programs. For more information on the exact dates and location of events, visit www.wellness.umd.edu.

The 2009-10 USM Profile will be available in the Office of Communications by mid-February. The Profile, which highlights USM's institutions, regional higher education centers, and research centers, has a new layout and design; it is being printed on recycled paper in continued support of our sustainability efforts. Staff of the University of Maryland, College Park campus's creative design department helped the Office of Communications with this project. Request copies of the Profile by contacting [Latoya Jefferson](#) at 301.445.2756. The electronic version of the publication will be available on the USM website shortly after the printed copy is available.



Most employees should have received their 2009 W-2 forms in the mail before January 20, 2010. Copies of 2009 W-2 forms may be requested starting on January 25, 2010 by calling 410-260-7964 or 1-888-674-0019. You may also download a copy using the Payroll Online Service Center (POSC). The POSC website address is: <http://compnet.comp.state.md.us/cpb>. Copies of W-2 forms from previous years are also available on the site.

Calling Owners of USM Web Pages



Please be sure the USM web pages that you own or maintain are updated now and on an ongoing basis. It's important that the site provides fresh and accurate information to our visitors. Let's make sure that the thousands of people who access our site are getting current information.



Make A Difference

The Maryland Business Roundtable for Education is still recruiting volunteers to speak with 8th and 9th grade students about life after high school. Training is ongoing and there are special perks for volunteers. For more information visit www.mbrt.org or contact [LaTara Harris](#) at 410.727.0448.

Event Calendar



- 1/27 Regents' Education Policy Committee Meeting– UMBC
- 1/28 Regents' Finance Committee Meeting– UMB
- 2/4 Regents' Committee on Advancement Meeting– USM Office
- 2/12 Full Board of Regents Meeting - UB

Keeping the System Running

Ever been to a USM office function and met someone but have no idea what she/he does? We will highlight various USM departments to not only get to know our co-workers better, but also learn how they help to “Keep the System Running.”

Office of Administration and Finance–Capital Planning Office

Comprising many departments, the Office of Administration and Finance operates under the leadership of Joseph Vivona, chief operating officer and vice chancellor for administration and finance. Administration and Finance provides leadership, counsel, planning, and oversight in the areas of fiscal management, organizational performance and accountability, strategic planning, enrollment management, institutional research, information technology, operating budget, capital improvement, debt management, real property, procurement, and human resources.

The **Capital Planning Office** coordinates the development and approval of the annual capital budget, the five- and 10-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and the System-Funded Auxiliary Project Construction Program (SFCP). The Capital Planning Office also coordinates facilities master plan reviews and approval; provides technical assistance and support to institutions on matters related to the capital budget, facilities development, maintenance and environmental health and safety; and oversees facilities-related activities of the USM environmental sustainability initiative, including green buildings, energy conservation, and waste management.



Mark Beck, director of capital planning, is responsible for system-wide oversight of the capital budget, facilities, campus planning, and campus development. Beck is also responsible for implementing the chancellor’s environmental sustainability initiative.



Jim Salt, assistant vice chancellor for real property and procurement, is responsible for overseeing real property and procurement issues, building management, and policy development.



Elizabeth Zabek, capital budget coordinator, is responsible for analyzing budgets, project reporting, and budget documentation.



Lal Wahi, facilities coordinator, is responsible for the facilities renewal program, and space utilization guidelines.



Look for our next issue of System Insider as we continue to highlight staff contributions to USM.





Initiatives

A Saving System

With the economy having everyone's money in limbo, every penny counts. Start the new year by getting your finances in order. With new laws starting to affect bank and credit card practices, there could be an uphill battle between consumers and banks soon. Here are a few tips to help save:

1. Save receipts for all purchases. Separating the receipts in categories such as dining/groceries, monthly bills/utilities, entertainment, and clothing will help track your spending. Do a monthly tally to see how you can cut back and save even more the next month.
2. Enjoy eating out? Look for coupons. Many restaurants now offer coupons to customers who join their mailing lists. Save money by only eating out when you have a coupon or a special occasion.
3. If you have credit card debt that you racked up during the holiday season, start paying the bills aggressively. Pay at least \$10 over the minimum payment and pay off the smallest bills first. Pay for purchases with cash and leave the credit cards at home or take only one with you.
4. Try planning your spending. Plan ahead for larger purchases and purchase these items when there are sales or special perks. If the item needs financing, try purchasing when there are offers for no interest or low-interest financing.

Sources: www.walletpop.com , www.suzeorman.com

Reminders



USM logo mugs, water bottles, lapel pins, and ink pens are available for distribution at meetings, conferences, and to special guests. Contact [Latoya Jefferson](#) at 301.445.2756.



Editor's Desk

Hello USM Family,

Welcome to a new year and new decade! I hope this year has started off the right way for you and everything falls in place as the year progresses.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions as well as any news you may have to share about your department for our next issue.

[Latoya Jefferson](#), Editor

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