



# System Insider

Volume 2 Issue 1    www.usmd.edu    September/October 2009

## STEM Task Force Makes Recommendations to the Governor

Governor Martin O'Malley formally accepted the [final report and recommendations of his-STEM Task Force](#) from a group co-chaired by University System of Maryland Chancellor William "Brit" Kirwan and Maryland Business Roundtable for Education Executive Director June Streckfus. The co-chairs presented the report at an August news conference in Annapolis. STEM refers to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The task force, created in September 2008, was tasked with making recommendations aimed at establishing Maryland as a global leader in the development of its workforce for the future and its STEM-based research and economic development infrastructure. The state's STEM-related industries account for millions of dollars in economic investment, illustrating the need for well-prepared K-12 STEM teachers and a comprehensive STEM curriculum aligned throughout the educational pipeline, from elementary school through our colleges and universities.

"With the support of the Governor, other state officials and policymakers, and representatives from the education and business communities, the State of Maryland has an exceptional opportunity to leverage its tremendous resources to advance the STEM agenda articulated in our report," said Chancellor Kirwan.

In developing its recommendations, the task force drew from the work of Chancellor Kirwan's STEM-related task forces that issued reports last fall: Presidential Task Force on Research and Economic Competitiveness and the Presidential Task Force on STEM Workforce.

Among the seven recommendations of the Governor's task force are:

- Align P-12 STEM curriculum with college requirements and workplace expectations in order to prepare students for postsecondary success.
- Triple the number of teachers in STEM shortage areas who are prepared in Maryland programs, increase their five-year retention rate from an estimated 50% to 75%, and enhance the STEM preparation and aptitudes for elementary and early childhood teachers.
- Increase the number of STEM college graduates by 40% from the present level of 4,400 graduates by 2015.
- Boost Maryland's global competitiveness by supporting research and entrepreneurship.

System Office staff members who assisted the Governor's task force included: Nancy Shapiro, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs; Ben Passmore, director of policy research and analysis; Amy Decker, budget analyst; Danielle Susskind, program specialist; and Anne Moultrie, associate vice chancellor for communications.

## This Issue

System News	1	In Office News	2
Keeping the System Running	3	Reminders	4
Initiatives	4	Editor's Desk	4



# In Office News

## Leonard Raley Elected Officer of Two Boards

Leonard Raley, USM vice chancellor for advancement, has been appointed as chairperson of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) National Committee on Institutionally Related Foundations. This committee helps CASE provide information, resources, and training for college and university foundations.

Raley has also been elected as treasurer of the Baltimore-Washington Corridor Chamber (BWCC). BWCC provides networking, information, and growth to businesses, agencies, institutions, and organizations.



## Roll Out the Red Carpet to Welcome:

**Linda Ringer** joins the USM Foundation as the director of finance. She comes from the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the UMCP where she served more than seven years as assistant dean.

**Erin Knepler** joins the Office of Academic Affairs as a graduate assistant. She is a new student in UMCP's doctoral Higher Education program.

**Natalie Pullaro** joins the Office of Academic Affairs as a graduate assistant. She is a new student in UMCP's doctoral Higher Education program.

**Tarun Pokharel** joins the Office of Information Technology as an operations manager. He was previously a tech consultant and program manager at Approva Corporation.

## USM on Facebook

In an effort to become more visible to the public, USM has joined the social networking site [Facebook](#). Our page will include the most recent press releases, events, photos, and other information. We have also created a fan page for USM's Way2GoMaryland campaign. To visit the page and add us as a friend, go to [www.facebook.com/universitysystemofmaryland](http://www.facebook.com/universitysystemofmaryland). Be sure to become a fan of Way2GoMaryland. You can access the fan page from the USM Facebook page.



## Make A Difference

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



Interested in participating in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure breast cancer walk? Other USM employees would like to form a team and are looking for members. The walk will be October 18 in Baltimore. For more information contact [Jacqueline Alonge](#) of the USM Internal Audit Office at 443.367.0441 or visit [www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org).

## Event Calendar



- 9/16 USM Regents Committee on Education Policy Meeting- TU
- 9/18 Full Board of Regents Meeting- UMCP
- 10/1 USM Regents Committee on Finance Meeting- UMBC
- 10/23 Full Board of Regents Meeting- UMB

# 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.”*

## The Office of Administration and Finance- Office of the Comptroller

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. The office 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.

Part of the Office of Administration and Finance, the **Office of the Comptroller** is responsible for preparing the University System's financial statements and tax returns, coordinating the audit process of its financial statements and federal grant programs, as well as providing support for system-wide policy setting in financial matters. The Office also performs the accounting work for several system-wide activities such as debt financing and the management of endowment funds.



**Robert Page**, comptroller of USM, is responsible for developing and planning financial policies for the entire USM. He analyzes financial reports for the Board of Regents, prepares financial

statements and oversees USM's endowment funds, oversees tax reporting, and oversees independent audits. He is currently facilitating changes in the accounting system to reduce manual preparation of the financial statements.



**Eric Nicholson**, accounting manager, assists in system-wide financial reporting and grant accounting for all federal awards given to the USM office.



**Jim Stevens**, general account manager, manages day-to-day business operations of the system office, including cash deposits, cash disbursements, and fund transfers to USM institutions and other state agencies.



**Celeste Denson**, assistant comptroller, is responsible for financial reporting, audit coordination, and endowment reporting.



*Look for our next issue of System Insider as we continue to highlight staff from Administration and Finance to learn about their contributions to*



## Initiatives



### A Healthy System

With the economy ailing, many people are more stressed, triggering an onset of health problems and the spending of extra money on co-payments and prescriptions. Here are a few tips to help you reduce stress:

1. Be conscious of your eating. Most often people attach food to their emotions which can lead to weight gain. Try keeping a detailed [food journal](#) that tracks all the food you eat and exercises you do.
2. Exercise when you feel stressed. Work out at home by utilizing the fitness channel on your local cable network. This is both environmental friendly and cost effective because you save money on gym fees and gas.
3. Take a “mental” day. When the stress of work or home has become too much, find an activity that can get your mind off of your day-to-day schedule. This could be enjoying a quick get-a-way, a cheap hobby, or just simply sleeping.

## Reminders



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



### Calling Owners of USM Web Pages

Please take time to update the USM website pages that you own, 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 this September and each month thereafter are getting current information.



## Editor's Desk

Hello USM Family,

I hope you all have enjoyed a relaxing summer and are prepared for what could be a busy fall as we are still facing budget cuts. Look for our November/December issue as we share the latest updates on the changing budget and other topics.

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

[Latoya Jefferson](#), Editor

301.445.2756