

CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

FROM JAY A. PERMAN



Moving Forward with Purpose: A Year in Review

As a new year dawns, we're given a chance to take stock: set our priorities, review our goals, prepare for the work ahead. I'm excited to fulfill the promises we've made to the students and citizens of Maryland. But I'm also excited to reflect on the success we've already enjoyed.

We *started* from a position of strength, meaning the progress we make from here allows us to deliver even greater benefit to those who support us, who invest in us, who partner with us, and—more than anything else—who entrust us with their education.

The University System of Maryland's [annual report](#) details just some of our progress on key priorities—priorities that make the USM work for all Marylanders. And that's exactly who we're accountable to: all Marylanders. So I hope the highlights in these few pages pique your interest in the [full report](#). You deserve to know how far we've come, and where we're headed next.

Across the USM, more than 15,000 of those enrolled are full-time students in college for the first time, a one-year, 4% increase. That bucks trends nationwide, where first-time enrollment dropped.



Our Students

USM enrollment reached nearly 166,800 students last fall, climbing for the first time in five years. It signals a slow rebound from a pandemic that affected students' college-going plans.

Among undergraduates, increases came by way of both full-time and part-time students. And overall enrollment at the System's three HBCUs climbed for the second year in a row, following a decade of decline.

Their Degrees

Among first-time, full-time undergraduates who entered a USM university in 2017, 71 percent completed their degree within six years, eclipsing the average six-year graduation rate of 63 percent at U.S. public universities.

Meanwhile, the System's four-year graduation rate of 52 percent is nearly 20 points higher than the rate for public colleges nationwide. On average, it takes USM students just over four years to complete their degree. On-time graduation is important for many reasons, not least of which is that it means students spend less money on their education and start recouping their college investment earlier.



The Value

College affordability relies on two things: 1) keeping tuition and fees down; and 2) providing financial aid that reduces student debt.

To Point 1: Maryland ranks 25th among all 50 states in terms of in-state public college cost. Our total price (tuition and fees) is below the national average, and far below public college costs in our neighboring states. Plus, Maryland ranks 12th in state and local funding per full-time student.

To Point 2: The USM distributed \$89 million in need-based financial aid to undergraduates last year, a pot of money that's grown 74 percent over the last decade. And a new USM student aid fund established last year should provide an additional \$6.4 million in annual need-based aid Systemwide.



70% of USM undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, averaging \$7,100 per student, per year. Fully half of our undergrads complete their degree without accruing any student loan debt.

Our Diversity

More than half of the System's students are students of color. Contributing to this diversity isn't just enrollment at our HBCUs and our minority-serving institutions, but enrollment at our "predominantly white institutions," too, most of which now serve majority-minority populations.

Additionally, we're educating more students from historically underrepresented groups—African American, Hispanic, and others. This year, 38 percent of all USM students are underrepresented minorities, a 30 percent climb in the last 10 years. The number of underrepresented USM faculty has grown 29 percent over that same period.



The USM awarded 13,000 undergraduate degrees to students of color last year. Minority students earn half of all STEM degrees, which yield the highest incomes.

Our Discovery

The USM's research enterprise delivers more than new technologies, products, and processes. It creates jobs, companies, entire industries. In our USM research parks alone, 9,000 people work at 200 companies, commercializing products that improve our health, protect the environment, keep

us safe, and connect our world.

In 2022, 89 patents were issued to our universities, ranking the USM among the nation's top 25 patent-earning institutions. Over the last five years, industry partners have licensed or optioned more than 300 university-developed technologies, and 89 startups have been founded on our inventions and other intellectual property.



Who We Are | What We Do

These highlights are heavy on numbers. But numbers can't fully tell the USM story. Because the USM is its people—200,000+ people* who've come together to lead and to serve, to learn and to teach, to discover and invent, to create and collaborate.

The future the USM envisions—the future we're working toward—is one in which our graduates give back to Maryland not only through the wealth their degrees confer, but through the service they undertake and the citizenship they practice. It's a world where our education, our research, and our scholarship do more than make us smarter; they make us more humane, more ethical, and more connected.

You don't have to be part of the USM family to be lifted by our work. But if you're reading this newsletter, you've likely had a hand in the lifting. And for that, I thank you.

Happy New Year.

**Okay, one more number.*



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