

Report to the USM Board of Regents
Chancellor William E. Kirwan
Friday, February 12, 2010

I regret that we were not able to hear from State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick today. She had planned to discuss the Race to the Top program being funded by the U.S Department of Education with us this morning. Thanks to the efforts of Associate Vice Chancellor Nancy Shapiro and the education deans across the USM, we have submitted a system-wide proposal on teacher preparation, especially in STEM areas, for inclusion in the state's application. At stake is somewhere between \$2B and \$3B in funding for our state over the next four years to improve the quality of K-12 education, especially in low performing schools

It is also a shame that we didn't get to visit the UB campus. Bob Bogolmony is leading an impressive renaissance of this institution. UB's return to four-year undergraduate education continues to transform and energize this campus, with first- and second-year students now comprising almost 25 percent of the undergraduate population.

UB's campus is growing physically as well, with implementation of the Master Plan bringing a quarter of a billion dollars of development to midtown Baltimore. This includes the innovative Fitzgerald at UB Midtown, a public/private partnership that brings added parking, retail and residential vitality to UB's urban neighborhood. Also, the impressive new law school building will be under construction this summer.

In addition, UB's capital campaign is progressing well. In the first year of its public phase, the campaign has reached 75 percent of its \$40 million goal. Most recently, Whiting Turner pledged \$1 million in support of the new law building, part of the Peter Angelos challenge grant.

Let me begin my report with some recent and impressive national accolades on two of USM's most important priorities: Affordable Access to a High-quality Education and Closing the Achievement Gap.

Four USM institutions—the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP); the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC); Towson University (TU); and Salisbury University (SU)—rank among the nation's **100 best values in public higher education**, according to the February issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*. This is an interesting ranking because it combines quality and cost. It is especially notable that College Park was ranked as the

nation's 8th Best Value. In addition, SU was ranked by *The Princeton Review* as a Top 50 "Best Value" Public College.

As you know, along with advancing quality and affordability, USM has set Closing the Achievement Gap as a top priority. It is especially gratifying, therefore, to note that three of our institutions were cited by *The Education Trust* as among **the Top Gainers in Underrepresented Minority Graduation Rates**: Among public research universities, UMCP is ranked 14th and UMBC 22nd. UMCP also has the 4th highest graduation rate for under-represented minorities and UMBC is one of the few non-HBUs at which the minority graduation rate exceeds the non-minority rate. Among public master's institutions, TU ranked 8th in minority graduation rate gains and is another TWI where minorities graduate at a higher rate than non-minorities.

These reports are further evidence that USM and its institutions are leading the way in addressing higher education's most important challenges.

Elsewhere across the USM . . .

Dr. Bartley Griffith from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) is joining with three other medical researchers on a \$24 million NIH-funded grant to begin testing devices to help children and infants born with congenital heart defects. Also at UMB, scientists are taking part in experiments on drug absorption that could lead to both significant cost savings and increased efficacy in medications.

Bowie State University (BSU) is moving into phase II of its innovative "Verizon Thinkfinity Scholars Program." Eight Bowie State University students will continue a yearlong internship during the spring semester in Prince George's County public schools, incorporating Verizon's online education resource into their teaching plans. The BSU scholars say the resource enriches learning for them as they practice teaching and for the K-12 students they teach.

SU's grant "Best Practices for Nursing Success" has been funded in full, almost \$1 million over three years. This funding will support modest enrollment expansion, improve retention in undergraduate nursing tracks, and provide additional clinical experiences for graduate students.

The new Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is approved to admit its first class for fall 2010 as a result of being recently granted Pre-candidate accreditation status by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The program expects

to enroll an initial class of 60 students, with enrollment reaching 180 by the third year.

Donald F. Boesch, USM Vice Chancellor for Sustainability and President of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), has been appointed as the chair of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Research Council (NRC). Boesch joins two other USM scientists currently serving as chairs of NRC boards examining environmental issues: Claire Welty of UMBC who chairs the Water Science and Technology Board and Antonio Busalacchi of UMCP who chairs the Board on Atmospheric Science and Climate.

Finally, I am pleased to note that across the USM, faculty, staff, and students have been actively involved in the relief efforts in Haiti.

Bowie has created a University Foundation for Haiti Relief through which faculty, staff and students can contribute funds.

Coppin State University (CSU) has a webpage dedicated to Haiti Relief Efforts produced by the Office of University Relations.

Frostburg State University's (FSU) United Campus Ministry is leading an effort to pack health kits that will be distributed to Haitians living in tent cities.

Salisbury's Caribbean Students Association is actively involved in relief efforts and geography students are working with the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI) on a photo interpretation project to examine devastation in the Caribbean nation.

Towson's campus radio station, WTMD, is leading fundraising efforts, including a special one-day fundraiser for Doctors Without Borders which raised well more than \$10,000.

UMBC has added a "Help Haiti" link to its web page and is looking at the possibility of an "alternative spring break" to provided assistance if that is an option.

A team of 22 doctors, nurses and other health professionals from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the University of Maryland Medical Center is working in Haiti. This marks the beginning of a sustained initiative in partnership with Catholic Relief Services to assist with the lifesaving medical care of survivors from the earthquake in Haiti. One UMB group stayed in Haiti for a week and was led by Tom Scalea and surgical

staff from the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Center and four infectious disease specialists from the University of Maryland School of Medicine's Institute of Human Virology.

This natural disaster has caused unimaginable devastation and human suffering. I know the USM community will continue to reach out to assist in relief and recovery efforts.

Let me now turn to the Legislative session, now fully underway. The snow has wrecked havoc with the hearing schedule, however. The USM overview hearings and several campus hearings had to be cancelled and are rescheduled for next week.

As you know, Governor O'Malley's FY 2011 budget proposal calls for a modest increase in state support for the USM. The Governor's proposed budget for the USM will have some significant impacts: It covers mandatory expenses related to the inflationary costs of operating new facilities and provides full funding for employee benefits. In addition, it includes funding to "buy down" a portion of the USM's proposed 5 percent tuition increase, resulting in a modest 3 percent tuition hike for in-state undergraduate students. This would be the first USM tuition increase in five years, during which time Maryland will have moved from the 6th highest tuition in the nation to what we project will be the 21st highest in the coming academic year.

In addition, the Governor has proposed \$225.6 million in the Capital Improvement Program for the planning, construction, and modernization of academic facilities across USM. This funds the major construction projects scheduled for FY 2011 but does not include planning funds for many important future projects.

Regrettably, as in FY 2010, the FY 2011 budget for USM does not include salary increases for employees, funding for enrollment growth, or enhancements to important programs. The last few years have been stressful and challenging for everyone. In each of the last two fiscal years we have not only forgone pay increases (both merit and COLA), but also used unpaid furloughs to manage our budget. While we have been treated well by the state given its fiscal challenges, the USM has played an important role in addressing the state's budget shortfalls. All told, since FY 2009, USM has returned \$261.4 million to the state. This consists of base budget cuts totaling \$59.3 million; furlough saving actions of \$68.1 million; and Fund Balance transfers of \$134 million.

There is no doubt that we have benefitted from the state's willingness to allow the USM to use fund balance to offset base budget cuts but the total reductions, over a quarter of a billion dollars, have most definitely had an impact on our campuses in lost opportunities, reduction of services and the ability to meet enrollment growth.

Still, USM is widely viewed as a national model for the way we are responding to the fiscal circumstances our nation and state are facing.

I look forward to working with you; the presidents; system-wide faculty, staff and student councils; and other members and friends of the USM community over the next six weeks to gain full funding of the USM's proposed FY 2011 budget.

This concludes my report.