

**Report to the USM Board of Regents**  
**Chancellor William E. Kirwan**  
**Friday, February 17, 2012**

Thank you Madam Vice Chair and members of the Board of Regents.

I begin my report today by thanking our host this morning, Dr. Wallace Loh and the **University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)**. Some remarkable things are happening on this campus since we last met:

- UMCP and the Johns Hopkins University have been awarded a grant of nearly \$1.2 million from the National Science Foundation that will be used to build a high-speed computer network at Hopkins.
- With \$3.6 million in funding from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security, researchers at START—the counter-terrorism research center based here at UMCP—will expand the scientific understanding of the human causes and consequences of terrorism.
- THREE partnerships have been announced at the Cybersecurity Center—with Future Skies, Superlative Technologies, and MAR, inc.—to promote cybersecurity education, research and technology development.
- College Park’s Army ROTC “Terrapin Battalion” won a MacArthur Award for embodying the ideals of "duty, honor and country.”
- UMCP **surpassed** the \$900 million mark in its Great Expectations fundraising campaign.
- And for the fourth consecutive year, the University of Maryland, College Park ranked in the top 10 of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine's list of Best Values in Public Colleges for 2011-12.
  - Wallace . . . congratulations on these and your institution’s many other accomplishments!

I am also pleased to note that UMCP was not the only USM campus to be recognized by *Kiplinger's* as a “Best Value”, which I also like to note takes into account both affordability and quality.

- **Salisbury University (SU), Towson University (TU), and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)** all made the list as well.

There is also an impressive “internal” partnership involving UMCP to note. Last month I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the new National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center—or SESYNC.

- College Park, the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**, and **Coppin State University (CSU)** are joining together with other partners to make SESYNC the go-to place—not only in the country but in the world—for educating and training the next generation of leaders at the intersection of the natural and social sciences.

**Frostburg State University** (FSU) was also the source of important environmental news. Thanks to an “E2: Energy to Educate” grant from Constellation Energy, the university will expand its focus on renewable energy. In addition, FSU’s rapidly growing nursing program has achieved accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, an essential step in the development of the young program. And FSU is soon to be home to the first doctoral-level program in Western Maryland. In fact, the doctorate in educational leadership—in conjunction with UMCP—will be expanded next year to the **University System of Maryland at Hagerstown** (USMH) as well.

The Project Management Graduate Certificate Program at **Bowie State University** (BSU) earned national designation as a Registered Education Provider (REP) by the Project Management Institute. The REP designation certifies BSU among choice institutions offering programs for professionals seeking globally recognized credentials in project management. Also at BSU, the new Bowie Business Innovation Center—the business incubator at BSU—is ready to hatch new companies; the new Fine and Performing Arts Center just opened; and construction of the new Student Center has begun.

At **Salisbury University** (SU), Dr. Anjali Pandey—an applied linguistics professor in the English Department—has received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help Eastern Shore teachers working with English language learners, especially in STEM content areas. Historically, this is one of SU’s largest grants. Salisbury is also accepting applications for admission into its **first** doctoral program — the Doctor of Nursing Practice. And earlier this month SU celebrated its highly successful fundraising initiative that brought in nearly \$40 million, nearly \$15 million over the initial goal!

There were celebrations at **Towson University** (TU) as well, where Dr. Maravene Loeschke—with the new year—became the 13<sup>th</sup> president of this dynamic institution. Her experience, insight, and leadership approach are perfectly aligned with the USM and Towson. Also at TU, football coach Rob Ambrose received the Eddie Robinson Award as Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) coach of the year. And beyond his success on the field, Ambrose coaches commitment to the TU community, with the team visiting hospitals, working with troubled youth, volunteering for the Special Olympics, and many other efforts.

On a more somber note, the **University of Maryland, Baltimore** (UMB) lost a tremendous advocate and benefactor earlier this year with the passing of William Polk Carey. As you know, in recognition of the W. P. Carey Foundation’s \$30 million gift to the University of Maryland School of Law—the largest in the school's history and one of the largest in the history of the USM—the school was renamed in honor of Carey's grandfather, Francis King Carey, a graduate of the class of 1880. Also at UMB, the School of Medicine has received a five-year federal grant of almost \$900,000 to develop a program aimed at increasing the number of medical students who choose primary care specialties, an area with a tremendous need.

As we move forward with course redesign and academic transformation across the USM, UMBC has stepped forward and is accelerating course redesign efforts. Leveraging external sources and using internal funds, 16 courses are either redesigned or in the process of redesign. And, of course, what would a board report this time of year be without news on the success of the UMBC chess team? I am pleased to report that the team came in second place in the Pan-Am Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship and is advancing to the 2012 President’s Cup—the “Final Four” of chess—next month.

There was also some more “modern” gaming news as the **University of Baltimore’s** (UB) Simulation and Digital Entertainment Program, in partnership with **The Universities at Shady Grove** (USG), hosted a major gaming industry event last month at Shady Grove. Video game designers, programmers, developers and artists worked around the clock to create the most impressive video game possible in under 48 hours.

The **University of Maryland Eastern Shore’s** (UMES) year-old solar-energy collection system has already earned the institution an environmental honor from two Delmarva businesses. Mountaire Farms and WMDT named UMES an “Environmental Star Award” winner in recognition of the university’s pioneering efforts to make the campus and the lower Eastern Shore more “eco” friendly in its use of energy. And as UMES continues to celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the presidential search committee is continuing its work to help us find the next leader for this historic institution.

The **University of Maryland University College** (UMUC) announced two new cybersecurity partnerships. UMUC is teaming up with Lunarline—a leading provider of cybersecurity solutions—to provide higher education to its employees at a discounted rate. And UMUC recently signed an agreement with CACI International—a provider of cybersecurity services and solutions to the federal government—to offer undergraduate- and graduate-level cybersecurity education to CACI employees. Both efforts advance our vision of making Maryland the global epicenter for cybersecurity.

Turning now to the legislative session in Annapolis . . .

Earlier this month, Regent Florestano, Regent Gossett, and I had the opportunity to testify before both the House of Delegates and the State Senate on Governor O’Malley’s proposed FY 2013 budget for the USM. As you know, the governor’s proposal includes \$1.07 billion in state support for the USM. This represents a modest increase of \$9 million to “buy down” the in-state, undergraduate tuition increase from 5 percent to 3 percent. Given the rise in mandatory costs—healthcare, retirement, debt service, new facility operating costs, increased financial aid costs, etc.—the increase will enable USM to stay “level” next year.

Of course, for the USM to realize its full potential—growing enrollment, adding critical new programs, and intensifying its economic impact—we will ultimately require additional funding. But under the circumstances, with the economy struggling and the state budget under significant stress, the USM is **extremely** appreciative of the level of support the governor has proposed.

I must note that the Department of Legislative Services is recommending a cut of almost \$12 million to our budget. I won't get into the reasoning behind that figure; suffice it to say that this is truly a "maintenance of effort" budget as is. Any cuts would represent a step back we can't afford to take. So we need to work with our allies in the private sector, our friends across the higher education community, and our supporters in Annapolis to make sure the governor's budget is adopted without cuts to the USM.

One other initiative we need to support is the governor's proposed Maryland Innovation Initiative. This effort would bring together Maryland's public and private research universities, federal research labs, the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), and other members of the state's technology community to foster innovation, create new jobs and companies, and better capitalize on promising discoveries. This is a very timely initiative given what we are endeavoring to do with BOTH the USM Strategic Plan AND the Strategic Alliance between UMCP and UMB.

While the execution of the Strategic Plan is still in the early stages, I took the opportunity of my testimony before the legislature to highlight the significant progress we have already seen. I also stressed the extent to which the focus of the plan is in alignment with the key state priorities of completion and competitiveness.

As far as the Strategic Alliance goes, I have been working closely with UMCP President Wallace Loh and UMB President Jay Perman to develop an implementation plan. We are on target to deliver the first phase of that plan to the legislature in early March.

As the legislative session unfolds, I will be sure to keep you up-to-date on any key developments. And once again, I want to thank Vice Chancellor for Government Relations P.J. Hogan and his team in Annapolis for their diligent work.

I will close with an observation I made in my testimony. In his State of the Union Address last month, President Obama acknowledged higher education as "an economic imperative" and voiced strong support for both higher education and academic research. The president also:

- Called upon states to invest in higher education;
- Challenged colleges and universities to moderate tuition hikes;
- And made specific reference to the impact of cost control efforts and course redesign.

In essence, the president called upon states across the nation to follow Maryland's example. This recognition should be a source of tremendous pride for everyone in Maryland. We are doing it right and our efforts together will pay huge dividends in both the short- and long-term. I am incredibly proud of our work together and committed to continuing our progress for the citizens of Maryland and the students we serve.

Madam Vice Chair, this concludes my report to the Board.