

Report to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents
Chancellor William E. Kirwan
Friday, October 21, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is a great pleasure to be back at Towson University (TU). Just a few weeks ago I was here for the gala celebration of Towson's successful completion of its \$50 million capital campaign! A few weeks prior to that, we held an event here to welcome Dr. Maravene Loeschke, who—with the new year—will become the 13th president of this dynamic institution. Her experience, insight, and leadership approach are perfectly aligned with the USM and Towson. I am confident she will build upon TU's impressive efforts in key areas:

- Closing student achievement gaps;
- Moving the state toward its 55% college completion goal;
- And responding to the state's workforce and economic development needs.

I want to quickly acknowledge the presidential search committee led so ably by Regent Louise Michaux Gonzales. The committee of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community representatives, which included Regent Gary Attman and which was so well staffed by Katie Ryan, worked extremely hard over the past seven months and deserve our heartfelt thanks. And—of course—I want to thank Dr. Marcia Welsh, who has served so effectively as acting president for the past several months and will continue in that capacity until January 1st.

Even though it has been just over a month since our last board meeting, the progress and excellence of our institutions are such that I have a number of impressive accomplishments to note. I will only touch on a few in this report but urge you to read my written report to get the full flavor of the progress and achievements of our campuses:

- Kaiser Permanente has awarded \$200,000 to the University System of Maryland Foundation (USMF) on behalf of the **Universities at Shady Grove (USG)** to provide scholarships to juniors and seniors enrolled in health care disciplines and demonstrate financial need.
- And, in an early set of grants from Kaiser Permanente, **Coppin State University (CSU)** received \$95,000 for an obesity, unplanned pregnancy, and community care program for high school students of St. Francis Academy in Baltimore along with residents in the surrounding area.
- In other “global” news, the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)** Office of International Development Programs has established a pioneering partnership with Harbin Institute of Technology in China fostering academic exchange and collaboration between the two institutions.

- The **University of Maryland, College Park** (UMCP) received a landmark gift of \$10 million from Baltimore developer and philanthropist Edward St. John. His generosity will help create a world-class teaching and learning center at UMCP: a high-tech classroom facility serving students campus-wide.
- Also at UMCP, the Mid-Atlantic Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer has made the Maryland Proof of Concept Alliance its first recipient of its Partnership Award honoring successful collaborations between educational institutions and federal labs. This Alliance was made possible due to the direct support of Sen. Barbara Mikulski.
- The Tech Council of Maryland recently announced that the recipient of its 2nd Annual Lifetime Achievement Award will be Freeman Hrabowski, president of the **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** (UMBC). The Tech Council will honor Freeman with this award on February 29, 2012 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. In addition, UMBC has once again been recognized as a national leader in innovation and undergraduate teaching by *U.S. News & World Report*. For the third year in a row, UMBC tops the *U.S. News* ranking of national universities to watch.
- This fall, **Salisbury University** (SU) opened more than \$100 million in new facilities. On September 8, SU officially opened the \$55 million Perdue Hall, a state-of-the-art new home for the Franklin P. Perdue School of Business. And on October 8, SU cut the ribbon on the \$45 million Sea Gull Square, its largest building and newest residence hall. This mixed-use development features retail businesses on the ground floor servicing the campus and greater community.
- And I am pleased to note that last week I attended the Maryland Teacher of the Year Gala. More than half of this year's Teacher of the Year local finalists attended USM institutions, with Towson, UMES, Frostburg, and UMCP represented. And of the 24 local finalists, nine—more than one third—were Salisbury University alumni. That is impressive!
- At the **University of Maryland, Baltimore** (UMB), the School of Pharmacy—along with 10 other universities—will conduct research over the next five years to improve drug manufacturing standards through a \$35 million grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Technology and Education.
- **Frostburg State University** (FSU) is expanding its already impressive partnerships with Maryland's community colleges, making it more affordable with the establishment of the FSU Associate Degree Scholars Award. Community college graduates with a 3.0 GPA are eligible for an award worth \$1,250 per semester for a total of four semesters if the student enrolls full-time and maintains a 3.0.

- The **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science** (UMCES) will once again be on the leading edge of addressing critical environmental issues impacting the Chesapeake Bay. A new \$2.7 million floating laboratory will help discover ways to stop invasive species from hitching a ride into the Bay aboard incoming cargo ships.
- The **Bowie State University** National Alumni Association hosted its annual scholarship gala earlier this month. The event—attended each year by more than 200 guests—generated scholarship funds for deserving undergraduate students at Bowie State.
- Just last week, the **University of Baltimore** (UB) School of Law welcomed United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer to the Modell Performing Arts Center in Baltimore to discuss his most recent book, *Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View*.
- I also want to thank the **University of Maryland University College** (UMUC) for hosting this year's Langenberg Lecture, which also included the MADE-CLEAR Climate Change Education Summit. Not only was this a chance for UMUC to promote its Environmental Management & Natural Science programs, we also presented the Langenberg Award to Heather Cook, a UMUC student with a major in history and a minor in biology.
- Lastly, I am very pleased to note that five USM institutions—UMUC, Frostburg, Salisbury, UMCP, and Towson—were designated “Military Friendly Schools” by *G.I. Jobs*, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life. This designation recognizes colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members and veterans as students. Having five USM institutions highlighted is a source of great pride for the entire system.

A few other issues I would like to note

As you know, the USM received very favorable debt ratings from all three bond rating agencies: Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch. This not only highlights the strength of our management team and our commitment to sound financial stewardship, it also saves us a significant amount of money. I want to commend our Chief Operating Officer and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Joseph Vivona and his team for the outstanding work they do.

In other System Office news: On Saturday, November 12, 2011, the USM will hold its seventh Way2GoMaryland event. The program at Coppin State University will attract middle-school and early high-school students—and their parents/guardians—from Baltimore City and County. The Way2GoMaryland information campaign, which aims to help more Maryland students begin preparing for college early, has reached thousands of students, parents and guardians through events and partnerships around the state, printed materials, and a website.

As you know, the state's budget situation continues to be very challenging. While we have begun some preliminary work with leaders in Annapolis on the USM's budget, it is too early to make any assessment. I will continue to keep you up-to-date as the situation progresses.

As I reported at our recent Board of Regents Retreat, the USM's strategic plan is moving forward and making progress. We are hitting our key benchmarks. A detailed progress report will be generated later this year for a complete summary. In addition, I have made recent presentations to both the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce to brief them on the strategic plan, update them on our progress, and engender their support for our efforts. I have a similar presentation next week with the Tech Council of Maryland.

Finally, the UMCP – UMB Merger Study is on track, with Board of Regents Chairman Orlan Johnson overseeing the progress. Obviously, this is an issue that has generated a great deal of interest up and down the Baltimore-Washington corridor and throughout the state. We have received numerous letters, comments, and emails. Today at UMB we will hold the first of two USM-sponsored public hearings, with the second taking place October 28th at UMCP.

Regardless of the outcome of the study, I am tremendously heartened to see the extraordinary level of support for UMCP, UMB, and really the entire USM that has been demonstrated by numerous individuals across Maryland. It is clear that people understand the vital role the USM plays throughout our state and are committed to enhancing that impact. We should all be pleased to see that taking place.

Mr. Chairman . . . this completes my report. I'd be happy to respond to any questions.