

Report to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents
Chancellor William E. Kirwan
Friday, December 2, 2011

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I begin with a few noteworthy highlights, starting with our “host” today, the **University of Maryland, Baltimore** (UMB) which continues to advance under the leadership of President Jay Perman.

Just last month Dr. Perman was joined by Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary Joshua Sharfstein to announce the creation of the Institute for a Healthiest Maryland. The Institute—made possible through a five-year, \$9.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—will be a collaboration of support systems that will guide efforts to combat chronic diseases across Maryland.

In addition, UMB faculty and students have received several recent grants and awards:

- Dr. Myron Levine, director of the Center for Vaccine Development, received two grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation totaling more than \$10 million to support his efforts in developing countries.
- Dr. Lisa Berlin, associate professor at the School of Social Work, has been awarded a five-year, \$2 million Early Head Start Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Dr. Janet Allan, Dean of the School of Nursing, received the 2011 Outstanding Pathfinder Award from the Maryland Nurses Association in recognition of her creative leadership and innovative approaches in advancement of nursing.
- And UMB was well represented among recent honorees in the White House’s Champions of Change awards, which recognizes community service. Honored were:
 - Raquel Bracho, a student at the Francis King Carey School of Law;
 - Dr. Michael Pinard, director of the Clinical Law Program;
 - And School of Nursing alumna Robin Prothro.

I know President Perman is very proud of these—and other—accomplishments. The entire University System of Maryland (USM) takes great pride in them as well.

Elsewhere across the USM

November was certainly a banner month for the **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** (UMBC) and President Freeman Hrabowski!

- On November 3rd, Freeman was named one of two college presidents to receive the Carnegie Corporation of New York’s prestigious 2011 Academic Leadership Award, noting his development of a culture of excellence and success in preparing students of all backgrounds to become Ph.D. scientists and engineers. I understand Freeman will be building upon those efforts, using the \$500,000 award to start the Freeman A. Hrabowski Fund for Academic Innovation.

- In addition, Freeman and UMBC were featured as the cover story for the November 10, 2011 issue of *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. With the headline “Great Expectations”, the story profiled Freeman’s efforts to make UMBC a STEM success incubator where minority students' performance matches, or exceeds, that of majority counterparts.
- On November 13th, Freeman was featured on "60 Minutes" for his groundbreaking work in the STEM disciplines.
- And on November 29th, Freeman was highlighted as one of seven recipients of the 2011 Top American Leaders awards, bestowed by *The Washington Post* and the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard’s Kennedy School. Recipients will be honored at Ford’s Theatre next Monday.

Coppin State University (CSU) also received some very positive news coverage. A major story in last Sunday’s *Washington Post* profiled Coppin’s ambitious, data-driven plan, to rebuild, revitalize, and improve graduation rates. And with the Student Success Center, the Summer Academic Success Academy, and the laser-like focus President Reginald Avery has taken toward graduation rates, it is easy to understand why we are already seeing important signs of success.

Salisbury University (SU) enjoyed the media spotlight as well, with a major piece in the *Baltimore Sun* profiling the tremendous building boom and growing ambitions at Salisbury. The story not only highlighted the new Teacher Education and Technology Center, Franklin P. Perdue School of Business, and Sea Gull Square, but also the growing academic strength and national recognition.

And the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)** received national exposure as well. Fred Engh, a 1963 graduate of UMES and president of the National Alliance for Youth Sports, was featured in a compelling segment on the Golf Channel in which he talked about teaming with the late Bob Taylor to lead the Hawks’ golf team to a championship in 1961. He also spoke to how being a minority at a historically black institution shaped the career path he chose.

University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) added to its impressive national accolades with some international acclaim: UMCP has again placed among the world's top universities with a rating of 38th in the 2011 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU). The ARWU, which is maintained by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, ranks Maryland No. 13 among U.S. public universities and No. 29 among all U.S. universities.

Also at UMCP, the field hockey team overcame a two-goal deficit with less than four minutes remaining in regulation to top North Carolina for its eighth national title and fifth in seven years.

Towson University (TU) also combined athletic and academic success. On the gridiron, the Towson Tigers prevailed as Colonial Athletic Association champions. In the classroom, Towson heads a list of colleges and universities that produced the most U.S. Fulbright Scholars during 2011. The rankings, released by The Institute for International Education, show Towson **first** among 29 regional institutions with four Fulbright Scholars.

Bowie State University (BSU) is expanding international efforts on two fronts. First, encouraged by President Mickey Burnim's recent visit to China, BSU is exploring new ways to provide students and faculty with more opportunities for international experience and study. Also, as part of a five-year \$1.8 million grant established the Mid-Atlantic Consortium - Center of Academic Excellence (MAC-CAE), students and faculty from Bowie will soon be traveling to countries like Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, to better understand the social, cultural, economic and political elements of societies in Southeast Asia.

At **Frostburg State University** (FSU) construction has begun on the Sustainable Energy Research Facility (SERF), a completely off-grid green building that will provide a platform for researchers at Frostburg to make inroads on the national issue of energy independence with the development of sustainable sources of energy. The construction, equipping and staffing have been supported by two grants from the U.S. Department of Energy totaling nearly \$1.6 million.

At the **University of Baltimore** (UB), the Merrick School of Business is continuing to push the concept of entrepreneurship and business innovation to a higher standard by launching its newly rechristened Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a thriving resource featuring incubator space, professional expertise, and networking opportunities for technology companies, retailers, and other businesses. UB is also preparing a fall 2013 launch of a new master's level program, Innovation Management and Technology Commercialization.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) recently celebrated establishing its 70th Community College Alliance. UMUC's innovative program provides community college students with seamless and successful access to four-year degrees at UMUC. Since its launch in 1996, the program has grown to include articulation agreements with all 16 community colleges in Maryland and 54 colleges in other states.

Also at UMUC, the Science Applications International Corporation has started a merit-based scholarship program specifically for master's-level students pursuing fields of study related to cybersecurity and information technology at UMUC.

Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director of the **Universities at Shady Grove** (USG), was honored by the Montgomery County Board of Education with a 2011 Distinguished Service to Public Education Award, in the category of Individual Pioneer.

Next week I will have the honor of presenting the Maryland-Asia Environmental Partnership 2011 Energy & Environmental Leadership Award to Dr. Donald Boesch, President of the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science** (UMCES), in recognition of his leadership on energy and environment issues at both the state and national level.

UMCES has also received kudos from the environmental community—and the media—thanks to a new study published in the November issue of *Estuaries and Coasts*, noting that years of pollution-fighting efforts are indeed making an impact on the health of the Bay, with summer "dead zones" showing a trend of shrinking.

To update you on some other items . . .

I begin with some sad news. As you all know, Irv Goldstein—who has played such an important role in the success of USM over this past decade—has informed me that he plans to step down from his position as Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs on June 30, 2012, the official end of the academic year. Irv has an extraordinary record of service and accomplishment at UMCP, as a faculty member, department chair, dean, and—quite frankly—as the “go to” person on so many of the institution's most challenging issues. His impact on USM is no less profound. He will be sorely missed. Fortunately, Irv plans to work on special projects at UMCP.

We will have an occasion to celebrate Irv's many accomplishments this spring as we move closer to his actual departure date. We will soon launch a search to begin the difficult process of finding a worthy successor.

Moving to some extremely positive news, I am pleased to report that our Federated Capital Campaign has now **surpassed** its goal of \$1.7 billion, having eclipsed the \$1.74 billion mark. Towson, Salisbury, Frostburg, UMUC, and UMBC have all completed their campaigns, and UB will announce that it has met its goal very soon. We still have campuses working toward their individual goals, with campaign end dates in 2012. If all campuses meet or exceed their goals, the campaign total will approach \$2 billion by the end of 2012. I would like to commend Regent Barry Gossett, chair of the Committee on Advancement, Vice Chancellor for Advancement Leonard Raley, and the entire Advancement “team”—both in the System Office and at our institutions—for their tremendous work on this effort.

As you know, we are still in the preliminary stages of our preparation for the 2012 legislative session. In addition, we are beginning the process of developing a detailed progress report on our strategic plan. I should have plenty more to say on both issues at our next board meeting.

We are all aware that the rise in college costs is becoming an increasing topic of discussion and concern across the nation and with the Federal government. Congressional hearings on this topic began this week. This is an area where Maryland's and USM's record over the past few years stands out. I have just been invited to meet with President Obama and Secretary Duncan on Monday, along with a few other selected university leaders, to discuss with them the things we have done to keep tuition growth down. I think this invitation is a great credit to the Governor, to the Board and to the USM and its institutions for the steps we have collectively taken through our E&E and other efforts.

Finally, having conducted an extensive—some might say an exhausting study, having held two public hearings, and having received numerous letters, comments, and emails—we are in the homestretch of finalizing the legislatively-mandated UMCP – UMB Merger Study. We will be submitting the report to the joint chairs by the December 15th deadline.

Without commenting on the specifics of the study, I would just like to note two things. First, how much I appreciate the enormous effort everyone...Regents, faculty, staff, students and administrators at our institutions and in the System office have invested in conducting this study. Hundreds of people have given countless hours of their time to conduct this study with the seriousness and rigor such an issue deserves. Secondly, I want to say how gratifying it has been throughout the study to see the enormous public support - from all corners of the state - that has been expressed for UMCP, UMB, and the entire mission of the USM and all of its institutions. There is no doubt that Marylanders recognize the critical role our institutions play in our state; educationally, economically, socially, and in terms of our quality of life. From my perspective, that alone has made the study a worthwhile endeavor.

Mr. Chairman . . . this completes my report.