

**Friday, October 21, 2016**

**Report to the USM Board of Regents**

**Chancellor Robert Caret**

Thank you, Chairman Brady. My thanks as well to our “host” institution today, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and President Jay Perman. Some truly exciting things are taking place here at UMB:

* The School of Social Work was recently awarded a three-year, $2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to improve statewide coordination and multi-disciplinary collaboration in responding to human trafficking involving children and youth.
* The Institute for Global Health at the School of Medicine held its inaugural Global Health Summit last month, fostering collaboration among scientists and promoting innovative global health research at the School of Medicine and other schools at UMB.
* Claire M. Fraser, professor of medicine and director of Institute for Genome Sciences, was named one of *The Baltimore Sun’s* 25 “Woman to Watch.”
* Thanks to a new $100,000, two-year grant from the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, the schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work will work closely together to bring UMB’s community-based impact to new locations.
* And, as of October 1, the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 1052) is in effect, enhancing and expanding the existing *M-Powering the State* partnership between UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP).
  + In fact, just last month, the *MPowering* partners announced the new Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security to leverage their joint leadership in counterterrorism studies, intelligence analysis, forensic studies, cybersecurity, homeland security law, and other criminal justice disciplines. The academy has the potential to be a key factor in attracting the FBI headquarters to the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

I commend and congratulate the entire UMB “family” on these wonderful achievements. And while it has only been a few weeks since we last met, there has been no shortage of notable developments across the system.

Just last week at UMCP, I had the honor of participating in the presentation of an honorary degree to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at which he spoke passionately about the importance of empowering youth to “Do Good” in the world. His speech came on the heels of the university’s launch of the “Do Good” Initiative, a $75 million cross-campus initiative to train the next generation of leaders and establish the university as the first “Do Good” college campus in the country.

UMCP was also the recipient of a number of impressive grants:

* Dr. Kelly Mix, chair and professor at the College of Education, received a $1.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop innovative methods to teach kindergarten and first-grade students place-value, a key foundational math concept.
* The NSF also announced a five-year, $3.5 million award to UMCP as part of the Innovation Corps—or I-Corps—program, supporting a national innovation ecosystem.
* As part of a U.S. Department of Education initiative, the Maryland State Department of Education awarded researchers Ellen Fabian and Richard Luecking a $6.8 million grant to help students with disabilities prepare for postsecondary education or entry into the workforce upon high school graduation.
* And the NSF renewed its support for the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) with a new five-year, $28.5 million grant. The Center supports cutting-edge research that accelerates scientific discovery at the interface of human and ecological systems. Located in Annapolis, founding partners included UMCP and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), with collaborating institutions include Coppin State University (CSU).

Finally, *Times Higher Education* ranked the UMCP 67th among universities worldwide—**public and private**— up 50 spots from last year’s ranking.

Frostburg State University (FSU) received some impressive ranking news as well. Four separate publications aimed at helping prospective students find the best values in online MBA programs have highlighted Frostburg:

* *Top Management Degrees* ranked FSU 48th among the most affordable online MBAs.
* *Best Value MBA* rated FSU 46th among its top 50 best MBA programs that offer high value and affordability.
* *GetEducated.com* rated FSU’s MBA as a Best Buy for students seeking a high-quality, low-cost online degree.
* And *The Best Master’s Degrees* lists FSU’s online MBA among top one-year online Master’s programs in the country.

In addition, FSU President Ron Nowaczyk was among some 40 college and university presidents invited to the White House in late September for the President’s Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge, an invitation extended because of the university’s commitment to and success in community service and civic engagement.

Coppin State University also has a recent White House connection. Wanda Parks, an Honors College student, has been selected as a 2016 White House HBCU All-Star scholar. She is CSU’s first ever All-Star scholar. I am also pleased to note that CSU President Maria Thompson joined UMB’s Dr. Frasier as one of *The Baltimore Sun’s*  “25 Women to Watch.”

And the third and final USM representative on *The Baltimore Sun* list was Towson University (TU) President Kim Schatzel. I once again congratulate all three of our honorees. As you know, Kim was formally inaugurated as TU’s 14th president just last month.

Also at Towson, the computer science department has been awarded a $185,000 grant from the National Security Agency to provide new educational opportunities for the U.S. Army Reserve.  TU will build capacity over 12 months to offer cybersecurity programs and resources to reservists. In addition, as part of its ongoing effort to improve diversity and inclusion in faculty—an effort that is also a systemwide priority—Towson has joined the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity. Finally, Christina Romano, a STEM education and outreach specialist for the TU Center for STEM Excellence, won the inaugural Outstanding Educator of the Year award from the national Mobile Lab Coalition.

STEM education was also in the news at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), as Senator Barbara Mikulski announced a $5 million NSF grant that provides additional funds for the UMBC-led Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation to support students from underrepresented groups in the STEM disciplines. In addition, UMBC faculty just won four new Maryland Innovation Initiative (MII) grants, bringing UMBC's total MII awards to $2.4 million. And last month I had the pleasure of joining Freeman and the UMBC community as we celebrated the university’s 50th anniversary, highlighting UMBC’s role as an institution of innovation, exceptional teaching and learning, profound community service, and critical economic impact.

Earlier this week I joined Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and other dignitaries as the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) broke ground on the new Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education (BSE) Facility slated to open in 2019. The BSE will feature state-of-the-art classrooms and labs to support healthcare, biosciences, engineering, and other key disciplines.

At Salisbury University (SU), President Janet Dudley-Eshbach is at the forefront of efforts to build relations between Cuban and American state colleges and universities. Earlier this year, she traveled to Cuba as part of a delegation to the 2016 International Congress on Higher Education on behalf of the USM. This was her second visit as SU’s president and she plans to return next year to further explore partnerships outside of Havana. I am also pleased to note that earlier this month the Sea Gull Century returned to SU after last year’s ride was canceled due to Hurricane Joaquin. More than 7,000 cyclists registered to participate, raising money for SU Foundation student scholarships and community organizations.

Great news from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) where Dr. Yuanwei Jin, chairman of the UMES engineering and aviation sciences department, has been issued a patent for his “smart structure” sensing device that could head off energy pipeline ruptures. This is UMES’s first exclusive patent in 20 years.

Earlier this month, the University of Baltimore (UB) Schaefer Center for Public Policy, in collaboration with the Washington, D.C.-based Enterprise Community Partners, invited groups in the Baltimore area to be part of the second cohort of the Faith-Based Development Certificate Program, with the goal of enabling a faith-based organization to navigate the development process and provide affordable housing.

At the University of Maryland University College (UMUC), the Master of Science in data analytics program received two prestigious awards from the University Professional & Continuing Education Association: the Outstanding Program Award and the Partnership Award for its program partnership with IBM.

Earlier this month Governor Larry Hogan and his entire Cabinet convened in Hagerstown for his first-ever regional Cabinet meeting where they received a presentation on the downtown revitalization project involving the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). The governor was enthusiastic about the project to expand USMH as well as other aspects of downtown Hagerstown. Ideally, funding will be earmarked in the near future.

We also have two pieces of sad news to announce.

After 11 years of leadership, Bowie State University (BSU) President Mickey Burnim has announced his decision to retire in June 2017. Before he leaves next year, Mickey has announced his intention to create an endowed chair for the university to expand its international program and complete a cybersecurity joint program with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

And Don Boesch, who has led the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) since 1990, will be stepping down as president in August 2017. Fortunately, Don has indicated his intention to remain part of the USM community as a UMCES researcher.

Over the course of the next year, we will have to opportunity to more formally thank these two outstanding USM leaders.

In USM Office news, earlier this month Tom Sadowski, vice chancellor for economic development for the USM, received the UMBC Distinguished Alum Award in the category of Distinguished Service. Congratulations, Tom.

And congratulations to Nancy Shapiro, the USM’s associate vice chancellor of academic affairs & special assistant to the chancellor for P-20 education. A report generated by the USM's Education Policy and Student Life Committee shows that the USM's Math Science Partnership Minority Student Pipeline—a partnership between the USM and Prince George's County schools—resulted in increased student interest in STEM fields, higher scores on the science portion of Maryland State Assessments, and more students entering STEM fields in college. Thank you for your leadership on the important and impactful effort, Nancy.

As you all know, this month USM also unveiled a new, updated logo. The new logo does an impressive job of visually capturing the traditional values USM embodies, while at the same time portraying a real sense of innovation and progress. And its distinctive look will aid our growing emphasis on “systemness” as well, serving as a rallying point

One of our core systemwide values—the ethic of community service and outreach—has been on display recently. We are well into the Maryland Charity Campaign, where USM institutions have always proved generous. Towson has tapped former Howard County Executive Ken Ulman to help strengthen ties between the college and community, while also bolstering economic development. This is similar to the work Ken is already successfully carrying out with UMCP. UMB’s Center for Community-Based Engagement and Learning in West Baltimore continues to have an impressive impact, one that will only grow as BPower is launched. And UB’s Schaefer Center for Public Policy will soon host the second annual William Donald Schaefer "Do It Now" Award ceremony, advancing the former mayor and governor’s commitment to the city. All these efforts—and many others—underscore our cumulative community impact across the state as a system.

Finally, I want to briefly touch on the issue of shared governance, specifically as it relates to the issues of diversity, equality, and inclusion. These issues must be a focus of campus activities, including opportunities for meaningful discussion and debate. Joann Boughman, vice chancellor for academic affairs, is currently coordinating with the three shared governance groups—the Council of University System Faculty (CUSF), the Council of University System Staff (CUSS), and the University System of Maryland Student Council—and the Diversity and Inclusion Council to develop effective mechanisms whereby all voices can be heard, by the appropriate bodies, in a way that enables effective resolution of concerns across the USM. As this process moves forward, I will keep you informed. Obviously, given the importance and sensitivity of these issues, it is critical that we move forward in a thoughtful and deliberate manner.

Mr. Chairman . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the regents may have.