



Friday, October 20, 2017
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 Eastern Shore** (UMES) and President Juliette Bell. Some truly exciting things are taking place here at UMES:

- Earlier this month, UMES had the honor of being named a United Methodist Historic Site by the denomination's Peninsula-Delaware Conference, an honor that the president of the Conference's Commission on Archives and History called long overdue.
- Dr. Tyler Love, an associate professor and coordinator of UMES' Technology and Engineering Education program, has written THE book on “Makerspaces”—new educational settings for hands-on STEM work in in K-12. His book, “Safer Makerspaces, Fab Labs and STEM Labs: A Collaborative Guide,” teaches students to use high-tech tools and equipment safely.
- And UMES' PGA golf management program has received a \$20,000 gift from Constellation Energy to support technology upgrades, including the purchase of computerized teaching equipment.

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

I had the great pleasure of being at the **University of Maryland, College Park** (UMCP) as the largest gift in that institution’s history was announced: a truly transformative investment of more than \$219 million from the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation. This investment will increase college access and affordability, inspire the next generation of engineering leaders, and spark innovations that tackle today’s most daunting problems.

I am also pleased to note that UMCP announced the launch of the new Center for Diversity and Inclusion in Higher Education, a national hub for research, policy, professional standards, and consultation for universities on critical issues related to diversity and inclusion in higher education. The center will bring together key faculty from UMCP and other major universities, and national higher education associations, to form a high-level research center and think-tank for diversity and inclusion issues across the country and abroad in higher education.

UMCP has also become the latest member of the Baltimore Collegetown Network, a nonprofit organization that aims to attract, engage, and retain students in the Baltimore area. As a part of this network, students will be able to attend classes without paying additional tuition and use the libraries at other member institutions, such as Johns Hopkins University and Loyola University.

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore** (UMB) and UMCP announced five new programs as signature projects of the *MPowering the State* strategic collaboration:

- The Maryland Blended Reality Center, focusing on virtual and augmented reality;
- The Center of Excellence in Cochlear Implants, bringing together UMCP's Department of Hearing & Speech Sciences and UMB's School of Medicine;
- The Health Informatics and Data Science partnership, combining UMCP's information science programs with UMB's health information programs;
- The Policing Partnership, seeking to improve relationships between local police departments and their communities; and
- The Opioid Use Disorders project, drawing on the expertise of both campuses to address the state's opioid epidemic.

The University of Baltimore (UB) will also be helping to address opioid abuse. UB's Center for Drug Policy and Enforcement will manage a \$2 million grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for the federal program known as Combating Opioid Overdose Through Community-level Intervention Initiative. With this grant, the center will fund and study innovative local policy initiatives that provide multi-organizational rapid responses to spikes in overdoses.

Towson University (TU) has announced a partnership with UMB's School of Medicine to help advance minority students in the biomedical research field. A \$1.3 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Science, which will create a "Bridges to the Doctorate" program, is one of 15 in the United States and the only one in Maryland. TU has also received a 5-year, \$3.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help place more TU students in vital cybersecurity jobs

Bowie State University (BSU) is also looking to advance diversity in educational research through the Research Institute for Scholars in Education, a partnership between BSU and UMCP. The Institute—supported by a \$1.1 million U.S. Department of Education grant—will prepare 60 pre-doctoral fellows with the skills needed for doctoral study related to language and literacy for high-need students.

Just last week, Governor Larry Hogan announced a state investment of \$300,000 to establish a new Office of Regional Development and Engagement (RDE) at **Frostburg State University** (FSU). The office will integrate FSU resources with regional partners in Western Maryland to help communities and companies be competitive and meet the challenges of economic and community development. Also at FSU, the Online Master's in Applied Computer Science was ranked fourth in the nation as a GetEducated.com "Best Buy." And the Unfinished Business Scholarship was launched, offering funding to help Frostburg students with proven academic abilities and demonstrated financial need cross the academic finish line.

University of Maryland University College (UMUC) is also focusing on affordability and completion. Through Prince George's County's specialized 3D Scholars Program—a partnership that includes Prince George's Community College and UMUC—Prince George's County Public School students can earn dual credit at Prince George's Community College and eventually earn a bachelor's degree at UMUC for \$10,000 or less.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) offers another great example of USM institutions partnering with our colleagues in K-12. UMBC's partnership with Lakeland Elementary and Middle School in Baltimore, which has grown steadily over the last five years, bore measurable results this spring: Lakeland performed far above the Baltimore City average, and better than the state average, on the math portion of the Maryland Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test. UMBC is also one of 29 universities nationwide joining forces to better serve Ph.D. students by examining the broad range of pathways they take from graduate school to career. The Ph.D. Career Pathways study will provide much-needed data on graduate students' experiences and perspectives to better prepare students for opportunities and challenges ahead.

Last month the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)** formally welcomed new president Dr. Peter Goodwin, an internationally recognized expert with 30 years in higher education. In addition, in partnership with Standard Solar, UMCES' Horn Point Lab broke ground on a 10-acre solar field that will generate about 50 percent of the lab's annual energy consumption

Coppin State University (CSU) has been awarded a grant in excess of \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program. Through this program, low-income CSU students will receive increased access to child care, increased parenting support, and academic support services. Ultimately, both retention rates and completion rates for this vulnerable student population at Coppin should improve.

To enable more nursing students to gain critically important experience, the School of Nursing at UMB has undertaken a major upgrade to the clinical simulation labs at the **Universities at Shady Grove (USG)**, with the addition of two new labs and the modernization and refurbishment of the existing six labs. And both of USM's higher education centers—USG and the **University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH)**—are hosting open houses to educate the public and potential students about their programs and their impact.

This past weekend **Salisbury University (SU)** welcomed more than 5,300 cyclists from across the country to its 29th annual Sea Gull Century bike ride. Wicomico County's largest one-day tourism event, the Sea Gull Century has an estimated economic impact of \$7 million. SU also celebrated a \$2.5 million gift from the Richard A. Henson Foundation for SU's Henson School of Science and Technology. The gift will enhance student scholarships, fund a science and math honors program, support undergraduate and faculty research, create a new high-performance computer lab, and fund the repair and replacement of critical equipment.

In more somber news, SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach announced that she will be stepping down at the end of the academic year after 18 years with Salisbury. Her leadership has been transformative and we will certainly be honoring her service formally next spring.

Finally, in terms of USM's budget for next fiscal year, we are in discussion with the governor and his team, but it is still very early in the process. As things take shape, I will keep you informed as to where we stand. I do want to note that I am optimistic about USM's position.

As you know, I had the opportunity to join Governor Hogan on a recent trade mission to Canada. The USM's direct economic impact and overall contribution to Maryland's intellectual infrastructure were featured throughout our discussions with business leaders there. In addition, the USM's commitment to working closely with state leaders to bring Amazon's new HQ2 headquarters to Maryland, has further underscored how closely our priorities are aligned with those of the state. I see this alignment as important for securing a favorable budget and some potential budget enhancements.

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