



**BOARD OF REGENTS  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION**

Minutes of the Public Session  
January 25, 2018  
Stamp Student Center, College Park, MD

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The Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents met in public session on Thursday January 25, 2018, in the Prince George's Room of the Stamp Student Center, College Park, Maryland.

Regent Attman called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm. The regents in attendance were Mr. Attman, Mr. Brady, Mr. Pevenstein, Mr. Gosset, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Rauch, Ms. Fish and Mr. Shorter. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Caret, Mr. Sadowski, Mr. Neal, Ms. Herbst, AAG Lord, Ms. Morris, Mr. Lurie, Mr. Barnkanic, Ms. Chen, Mr. Chopra, Mr. Irani, Mr. Fink, Ms. Metz Mr. Kulozakowicz, Mr. Woods, Mr. Drake, Ms. Hemmerly, Mr. Valente, Mr. Raheja and Mr. Raheja.

**Information Items:**

**Featured Startup Airgility**

Pramod Raheja & Evandro Valente, Co-Founders of Airgility presented on their startup which designs and manufactures unmanned aerial systems. They were started by UMCP alumni utilizing UMCP licensed technology. Their flagship product, the HorseSHU is a transitional vertical takeoff and landing aircraft which can be customized in a modular fashion for many applications. Product is currently under testing and development stages at College Park in conjunction with UMCP Faculty, Staff and students. The company has utilized many resources in the State and University System to develop into an operational business and noted the assistance of the Office of Technology Commercialization was vital to their growth. Regent Attman remarked on how this is a perfect success story for the system which can inspire others to succeed as well. He also remarked that the USM has a national leadership role in the science and technology of unmanned aerial vehicles. Dr. Caret asked about how they felt we could address the workforce demands in this sector. Mr. Raheja felt that training transitioning military and those with backgrounds in multiple compatible disciplines such as computer programming and cybersecurity would assist in meeting the demands of this rapidly emerging field.

**Cyber Workforce Study Conducted by Business Higher Education Forum**

Steven Barkanic and Janet Chen of the Business Higher Ed Forum (BHEF), a national organization representing the talent needs of business and industry, presented the preliminary findings of their Cybersecurity and STEM program case study that was conducted on behalf of the University System of Maryland. BHEF's case study profiled system-wide efforts, as well as the approaches adopted by four campuses: The University of Maryland, College Park; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County; the University of Maryland University College; and Bowie State University to develop and attract a larger and more diverse array of students into this growing field. The study also focused on best practices around the country in addressing the talent

demand, to include workplace-based learning, technical certification and internship programming. BHEF acknowledged the significant work USM has done to increase the workforce available in this field and provided suggestions for further meeting industry needs in cybersecurity which includes attracting students studying compatible fields of study like data sciences and computer programming. BHEF noted that 84% of entry level cyber jobs require a Bachelor's degree and 3 years of experience which reinforces the need for work experience and certificate programs. It was also noted that engaging students at a younger age and educating potential mentors would encourage more students from diverse backgrounds to pursue these areas as a field of study.

### **USM Economic Development Updates**

Tom Sadowski provided an update on activities of the Office of Economic Development including legislative initiatives to support internships and apprenticeships as well as innovation districts. Mr. Sadowski also reported that the Momentum Fund is working towards a third investment and is gaining traction. USM is also providing support and data to the State's response to the Amazon proposal for a new corporate location in Montgomery County.

The public session was adjourned at 2:47 pm so all interested parties could tour the UMCP Fearless Flight Facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary L. Attman, Chair  
Committee on Economic Development  
and Technology Commercialization