

# REGENTS REPORT



## Greetings from the Board of Regents

Earlier this month, the USM hosted an Access, Equity, and Student Success Symposium. Student-serving teams came from every one of our universities: academic and student affairs staff, admissions officers, enrollment managers, advisors, coaches, and mentors, personnel from campus learning centers and writing centers, from libraries and career services.

The symposium gave these leaders a unique chance to share and learn with their counterparts across the System, to swap strategies and successes. But the work that brought them together was the same work they do every day: Open college access to our learners. Center equity in the education we provide them. Nurture their

success. This is the foundation of our Vision 2030 strategic plan—the foundation of our ambition to be, truly, a student-centered System.

At the USM, student-centeredness means that we create the conditions, lay in the supports, and develop the strategies that help every one of our students thrive. Not through monolithic action, because there is no student monolith. There is no typical student. No exemplar. Our students aren't totems.

We are—all of us—different from one another. So our commitment to equity means that we see these differences, and how they might influence the way our students learn, and the barriers they might throw into our students' paths. And we dismantle them. One by one, we dismantle them.

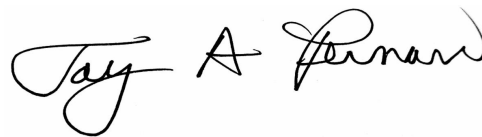
That's how we guarantee students an education that's fair and just. That's how we guarantee students a legitimate chance at what we've always called the American dream. In a divisive climate, this might be what we rally around—that all students deserve a solid shot at an exceptional college education and a solid shot at success once they enroll.

That was the mission animating our student success symposium and animating the work of everyone who came. We're grateful for their commitment, their collaboration, their courage—their belief that what we're doing matters. Because it always has.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland

## Board Actions & Decisions | April 11, 2025

The USM Board of Regents met at Towson University, with public viewing available in-person and via [livestream](#). Highlights from the meeting include:

**Presentation of the 2025 USM Regents Faculty Awards.** Prior to the Board of Regents meeting, the USM held a special breakfast to honor the winners of the 2025 USM Regents Faculty Awards. Nominated by their institutions, these 18 award winners were selected based on their extraordinary contributions in one of the following categories: Teaching; Mentoring; Public Service; Scholarship or Research; or Creative Activity. These exemplary faculty members represent eight different USM institutions and an incredibly diverse range of academic disciplines and research interests. Board Chair Linda Gooden and Chancellor Jay Perman presented each winner with a commemorative plaque and a \$2,000 prize.



**2025 Regents Faculty Award Winners .** Back row, from left: USM Chancellor Jay Perman, Dr. Luis Engelke, Dr. Vineet Dhar, Dr. Alexei Kolesnikov, Dr. Vaple Robinson, Dr. Soo-Yeon Ji, Dr. Drew Fagan, Dr. Katrina Groth, Mr. Alvin Mayes,, Dr. Mary Devadas, Dr. Jeffrey Leips, Dr. Graeme Woodworth, and Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden. Front row seated, from left: Dr. Echo Leaver, Dr. Cherokee Layson-Wolf, Dr. Moran Roni Levin, Dr. Deneen Long-White, and Dr. Rosemary Shumba.

**Three New Academic Programs Receive Board Approval.** At the recommendation of the

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety, the Board approved the following new undergraduate programs, which will be offered pending the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Science, [Applied Computer Science](#), Frostburg State University
- Bachelor of Science, [Electrical Engineering](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Bachelor of Science, [Mechanical Engineering](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore

**Presentation of USM Enrollment Projections, FY 2025-34.** As required by Board Policy, the regents approved the System's [10-year enrollment projections](#) following a [presentation](#) by Regent Ellen Fish and Chad Muntz, USM associate vice chancellor for decision support and chief analytics officer. Systemwide enrollment has increased for two consecutive years. Given improved recruitment of new students and steady retention of returning students, the System projects that enrollment will continue to grow (+1,437) for fall 2025. Over the next ten years, USM projects that enrollment will continue to increase by one percent per year through fall 2034, reaching 195,117 undergraduate and graduate students systemwide.

**Presentation on Preparing for Financial Challenges.** Senior Vice Chancellor Ellen Herbst provided an [overview of the financial challenges](#) that the USM is currently facing, including a \$155 million (7%) cut to its base budget, reductions in federal research funding, and potential impacts to enrollment due to increased unemployment and other changes in the local economy. Vice Chancellor Herbst reported that the USM is responding to this economic uncertainty by increasing communication between leadership teams at our universities and the USM Office, and by engaging in daily monitoring of the state and federal budget landscape. Every USM university is preparing comprehensive financial projections for the next three fiscal years and action plans to balance their budgets. The USM office developed a new financial projection model and has offered modeling assistance to the universities.

For more information about the April Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [meeting agenda](#), [video archive](#), and [full report](#) by Chancellor Jay Perman.

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## Other News From the System



**THE USM SOARS IN LATEST RANKING OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS**



**WILLIAM E. KIRWAN CENTER FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION FORMS PARTNERSHIP TO**



*U.S. News & World Report* recently released its [2025 Best Graduate Schools](#), which evaluated more than 2,000 programs nationwide. The ranking recognized more than 125 graduate programs offered by USM universities, demonstrating the System's broad spectrum of academic excellence and expertise. Highlights included top 20 rankings for the nursing and pharmacy schools at the University of Maryland, Baltimore and for the education and engineering schools at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD). UMD, the University of Baltimore, and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) all appeared in the top 100 for public affairs programs. Allied health programs were another standout area for the System and included a No. 12 ranking for the audiology program at UMD, a No. 20 ranking for the occupational therapy program at Towson University, and a No. 42 ranking for rehabilitation counseling program at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.



### THE USM'S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ACROSS MARYLAND

Civic education and civic engagement is a core component of the USM's Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. At the Board meeting, Dr. Jennifer Lynch, USM associate vice chancellor for education and engagement, [presented an education forum](#) on how our universities are developing informed community members who understand how democracy works, actively

### ADVANCE ACCESSIBILITY

Teach Access, a nonprofit dedicated to making digital accessibility fundamental to higher education curricula, selected the USM's Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation as its [next academic hub](#). This collaboration will work to advance accessibility education, research, and practice across the USM. This work is critical, as more than 21 percent of college students report having a disability, spanning visual, hearing, cognitive, and manual-dexterity domains, according to a recent article in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#). The USM and Teach Access will conduct joint research on strategies for integrating accessibility into academic disciplines and address the critical need for accessible digital course materials. The partnership also will establish a *Kirwan Center + Teach Access Faculty Fellowship* to support faculty embedding accessibility into their pedagogy and research.



### MCCE DELIVERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN COMPUTING EDUCATION FOR MARYLAND TEACHERS

The Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE) is committed to advancing computer science education in Maryland's PreK-12 schools and preparing students for higher education and careers in this rapidly growing field. To support this mission, MCCE provides the state's teachers with professional development opportunities in computing education. This spring and summer, MCCE will

participate in it, and work to make the world a better place. Because the USM wants students majoring in all disciplines to become engaged citizens, our universities infuse civic education throughout the curricula and augment it through targeted initiatives on their campuses. Indicators of progress include the growth in the number of student voters and the successful effort to train more than 2,000 students as election workers during the 2024 election. Our students' civic involvement also includes non-political contributions that strength communities across the state, such volunteer service, mentoring, community art, and applied research.

offer a full schedule of [professional development programs](#) on topics such as programming, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data science, and more. In addition, MCCE will host more than 300 educators at the [Future Ready Maryland: AI in Education Summit](#) on Saturday, June 21, at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. This free summit will empower educators and district leaders to engage with artificial intelligence as professionals and consider how to incorporate AI instruction across the curriculum.

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## News From Our Universities



### BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

BSU hosted the [HBCU Summit 2025](#) for aspiring teachers from the state's four HBCUs, offering resources and support as they prepare for careers in education.



### COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

The university signed a transfer agreement that will allow [California Community Colleges](#) students to transfer to CSU and pay in-state tuition rates.



### FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Chancellor Jay Perman visited FSU to help the campus community officially [welcome Dr. Darlene Brannigan Smith](#), FSU's new interim president.



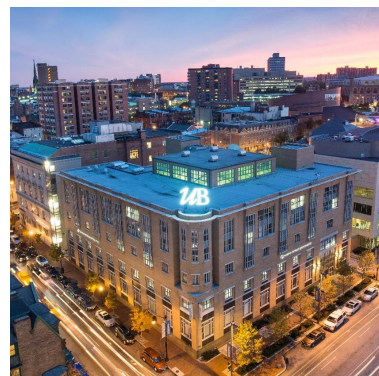
### SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

SU was once again named among the nation's top producers of [Fulbright Students and Fulbright Scholars](#).



### TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU received the prestigious [Research Colleges and Universities designation](#) by the Carnegie Commission.



### UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

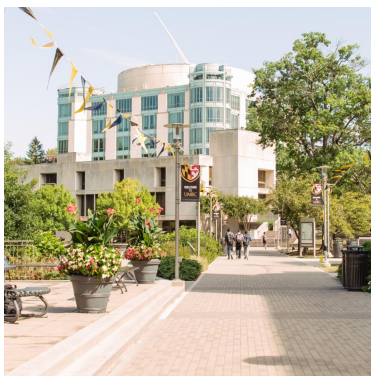
In a [Baltimore Sun commentary](#), UBalt President Kurt L. Schmoke examined the immense impact that higher education has on our quality of life.





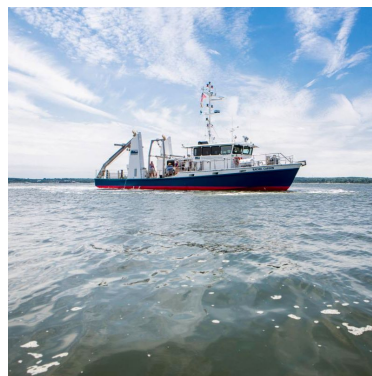
### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

The School of Medicine at UMB has developed a [novel CT Scan technique](#) that may help oncologists more effectively treat head and neck cancers.



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UMBC has received [\\$1.5 million from the National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) to organize a new UMBC Quantum Science Institute.



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Researchers have found that, along with causing coastal flooding, significant destruction, and even death, hurricanes can also stimulate [toxic harmful algal blooms](#).



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The university has launched a new resource for Marylanders impacted by federal workforce layoffs: [UMD's Pathways Forward Resource Hub](#).



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

As the lead recipient of a [\\$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), UMES is leading the fight against saltwater intrusion on Eastern Shore farms.



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

The Council of Colleges and Military Educators—the nation's foremost advocate for delivering quality education to servicemembers and their families—has honored UMGC with its [2025 Institution Award](#).

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## News From USM Regional Centers



### THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

The [2025 Open House 2025](#)



### UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH hosted an [open house](#)



### UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

gave perspective students and their families the opportunity to learn more about degree options at USG and meet program advisors.

[event](#) allowing prospective students to explore educational options in various fields, such as business, healthcare, education, information technology and social sciences.

The SMART Building at USMSM hosted a [multi-generational workforce forum](#) to explore how workers from different generations can better collaborate, learn, and thrive together in Southern Maryland.

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## **NEXT MEETING**

**June 13, 2025**

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown  
8:00 a.m.


[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)

[MEDIA CONTACTS](#)

**SOCIAL MEDIA**



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