



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

DECEMBER 2024

REGENTS REPORT



Greetings from the Board of Regents

As we close the books on 2024 and look toward a new year, we do it with pride in what we've accomplished and with a clear-eyed view of the opportunities and challenges to come.

Let's start with pride. This year, our universities again celebrated prominence on the nation's "best of" lists, shining on the metrics we value most: the quality of our teaching, our work in civic engagement and public service, our productivity in creating and commercializing the innovations that advance our security and sustainability, our health and our happiness.

We were singled out not just for how affordable our universities are, but for the return our students see on their comparatively modest investment. They do better than most in landing rewarding and well-paid jobs. They're competitive on every index of social mobility, a credit to the education that lifts them up, and buoys their families and communities in kind.

Our universities made several lists for student diversity, and several for equity in student outcomes—an assurance that our diverse learners do equally well when they leave us.

These successes are no secret. And they have a lot to do with another point of pride: climbing enrollment. After years of pandemic-induced drops, we have more undergraduates this year than any another, except one. We have nearly our largest-ever first-time, full-time class. In a landscape of sharply declining enrollments nationwide, our good news is, in fact, spectacular.

We know, of course, that the new year will bring its share of challenges. Primary among them is a budget deficit that will likely compel painful cuts to important state programs.

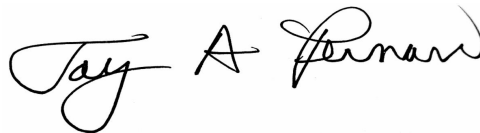
But this reality is leavened by the fact that Maryland leaders understand that higher education is the best fuel for a strong and inclusive economy. They know our public universities are central to sustaining Maryland's place among the country's most educated, most innovative, and most successful states. And so next year, like every one before it, we'll partner with elected leaders to ensure that we continue to invest in Maryland's people, its progress, and its undimmed future.

We wish you peace this holiday season and renewed strength for the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | December 20, 2024

The USM Board of Regents met at the University of Maryland Global Campus, with public viewing available in-person and via livestream. Highlights from the meeting include:

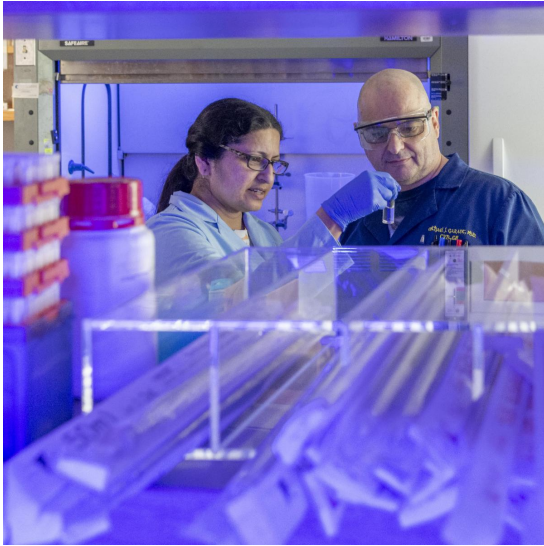
Approval of Seven New Academic Programs. After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety, the Board approved the following new undergraduate and graduate academic programs, which will be offered pending the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Science, [Artificial Intelligence for Information Technology Operations](#), University of Baltimore
- Bachelor of Science, [Coastal Engineering](#), Salisbury University
- Bachelor of Science, [Immersive Media, Entertainment, and Gaming](#), Bowie State University
- Master of Science, [AI Drug Development](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Master of Science, [Medical and Health Studies](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Master of Science, [User-Centered Cybersecurity](#), University of Baltimore
- [Doctor of Social Work](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore

Report on Systemwide Research Excellence. Dr. Michele Masucci, the USM's vice chancellor for research and economic development, delivered her committee's [report on the current state of research and economic development initiatives](#) across the System. Guided by our Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, the USM is advancing research in strategic areas that include initiatives that align with federal research priorities; advance the state's leadership in environmental science; or engage with local communities to strengthen the state's cities, towns, and neighborhoods. She highlighted the USM's distinctive expertise in rapidly growing research fields, including artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, biomedical, climate science, cybersecurity, and the social sciences. The [report shared data](#) demonstrating the USM's research prowess, such as more than \$1.64 Billion in research and development expenditures for USM universities in FY 2023 (latest available year), an increase of nearly 30% over five years.

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

Other News From the System



USM RESEARCH ENTERPRISE CLIMBS IN PROMINENT NATIONAL RANKING

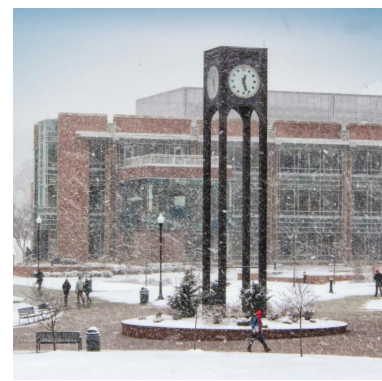
The combined research enterprise of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) moved up a spot to No. 18 among all U.S. institutions (and No. 11 among public institutions) in the National Science Foundation's latest Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey, the primary source of information on research and development expenditures at U.S. colleges and universities. UMB and UMD reported combined research expenditures of almost \$1.4 billion in FY 2023, an increase of nearly \$157 million from the previous year. The universities began reporting as one research unit in FY 2019 to reflect their strategic partnership.



SIX USM UNIVERSITIES RECOGNIZED AS 2024 BEST FOR VETS COLLEGES

In November, the *Military Times* released its annual ranking of the best college and universities for military service members and veterans and six USM universities were among the 300 recognized institutions. The Best for Vets ranking evaluates institutions based on student success metrics, availability of military-specific resources, financial assistance, admission and registration policies, and other factors. With a 75-year history of providing higher education to servicemembers worldwide, the University of Maryland Global Campus emerged as the top military-friendly university in Maryland and ranked No. 6 nationwide. Towson University, University of Baltimore, University of Maryland, College Park, Bowie State University, and Salisbury University also received recognition.

News From Our Universities



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

In an initiative spearheaded by its Center for Research and Mentoring for Black Male Students and Teachers, BSU has announced [a new, tuition-free program](#) through which 75 Maryland teachers will earn their National Board Certification.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU has been ranked sixth among the top HBCUs for its [long-term return on investment \(ROI\)](#) by OnlineU. The university also earned recognition as the second-best HBCU for first-year salary outcomes and as a leader among smaller HBCUs for fostering long-term success.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The university has once again been honored by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge as a [2024 Most Engaged Campus for College Student Voting](#).



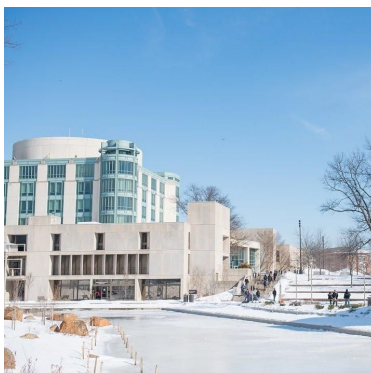
SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

The SU Police Department has received a [\\$750,000 Campus Safety Grant](#) from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The grant will provide additional security cameras, new software to improve efficiency, and other tools to help keep all on campus safe.



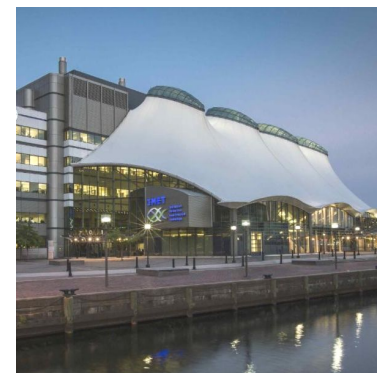
TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU is one of only 22 institutions nationwide to be designated as a [National Center of Academic Excellence in cyber operations](#) by the National Security Agency.



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

The university's Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation has entered into a new partnership with [The Funding Innovation Studio](#) to increase funding access, opportunity, and inclusion for women and Black, Indigenous and people of color who are founders of businesses.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

Over the thanksgiving holiday, UMB once again demonstrated its deep commitment to its neighbors. Partnering with the University of Maryland Medical Center and WJZ-TV, [UMB's annual Thanksgiving Drive](#) provided 1,600 turkeys to families across West Baltimore.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Recent data from the [National Association of Colleges and Employers](#) highlights the exceptional career readiness of UMBC graduates across all degree levels.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Dr. Yonathan Zohar, a professor of marine biotechnology at UMCE's Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology has received the [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the International Society for Fish Endocrinology.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

Two University of Maryland researchers have been named [2024 fellows of the National Academy of Inventors](#), joining the ranks of some of the nation's most prestigious and creative academic inventors.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES faculty and students were joined by representatives from United Airlines as UMES joined [United's "Aviate" program](#), which will provide students with opportunities to earn advanced pilot certifications, accrue flight hours, and eventually land jobs with United Airlines.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC's Cyber competition teams claimed first, second, and fourth place in the 17th [Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory](#) Competition.

News From USM Regional Centers



THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG was designated a ["Center of Excellence"](#) by the United States Department of the Treasury, recognizing USG as a leader in helping small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved communities.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH's annual [Feaste & Frolic](#) celebration raised more than \$116,000 for student scholarships.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

USMSM continues to be a key player as the Pax Partnership moves forward with the [Southern Maryland 2030 Workforce Development initiative](#).

NEXT MEETING

February 14, 2025

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
8:30 a.m.

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)

[MEDIA CONTACTS](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA





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