

REGENTS REPORT

Greetings from the Board of Regents

We're in the thick of another busy legislative session. So far, 2,750+ bills have been filed, we've assessed the impact of nearly 200 that affect the System, and we've offered testimony on two dozen policy and budget issues important to our function and our future.



The quality of this work, performed amid the typical chaos of session, is a credit to the engagement and collaboration of countless people across our universities. They're in Annapolis at all hours, meeting with lawmakers, advocating for our work and the resources we need to do it, offering our perspective on bills that affect us and our students. We thank everyone who's telling the System's story, in and out of the capital, every single day.

With Maryland facing a \$3 billion deficit, we went into this session expecting to suffer significant cuts. And we did. The governor's proposed appropriation for the USM is down \$105.5 million over last year, a nearly 5% cut to our base budget.

Without question, this cut is painful, but it's also one we've been preparing for. Our work now is to insulate our people from that pain as much as possible. For our employees, this means we'll exhaust every personnel action we can before reducing our existing workforce. For our students, it means we'll prioritize our affordability—as we always have—and consider tuition increases *only* if our aggressive cost-cutting measures come up short.

For all the challenges that this year and this budget bring, there are bright spots, too. In his State of the State Address, Gov. Moore outlined his "growth agenda," calling for investments in IT, life sciences, aerospace, and defense. He singled out quantum, AI, clean energy, and biotech—all strengths of this System, all sectors that we help power.

So we look forward to partnering with the state to do precisely what the governor has said we must do: Ensure that the industries defining the "economy of tomorrow" are housed right here in the great state of Maryland, and fueled by our own influence and expertise.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | February 14, 2025

The USM Board of Regents met at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), with public viewing available in-person and via livestream. Highlights from the meeting include:



Board Issues Resolution of Appreciation for President Ron Nowaczyk.

On January 31, Dr. Ron Nowaczyk, [president of Frostburg State University](#) (FSU) since 2016, passed away following a long illness. The entire USM community mourns the loss of this long-serving champion for FSU, the System, and higher education across the state. During the meeting, Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden read the [resolution](#) honoring President Nowaczyk, his strong commitment to student success and community collaboration, and his leadership in developing new programs, resources, and partnerships that strengthened both the university and the communities of Western Maryland.

Four 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 and graduate academic programs, which will be offered pending the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Science, [Accounting](#), Bowie State University
- Master of Science, [Trauma Sciences](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore
- Master of Science, [Biostatistics](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Ph.D., [Biostatistics](#), University of Maryland, College Park

USM Expands Quasi-Endowment Grant Program. In FY24, the USM's [quasi-endowment grant program](#) distributed funds totaling \$475,000 to boost our universities' efforts to increase their endowments. The grants included support for fundraising staffing, events, and outreach campaigns. This grant program has been successful in generating a significant amount of new private giving to USM universities. To continue this progress and meet the growing demand for grant assistance, the Board approved an increase to the fund's annual spendable income, raising it to \$1 million each year.

Update on the USM FY2026 Operating Budget. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ellen Herbst, senior vice chancellor for administration and finance, shared an update on the status of the USM [operating budget](#) as presented in the FY26 Governor's Allowance. The budget includes revenues from state appropriations, tuition and fees, auxiliary services, federal and other contract and grants, and other revenues for a total budget of \$7.9 billion. The governor's FY26 proposal of \$2.2 billion

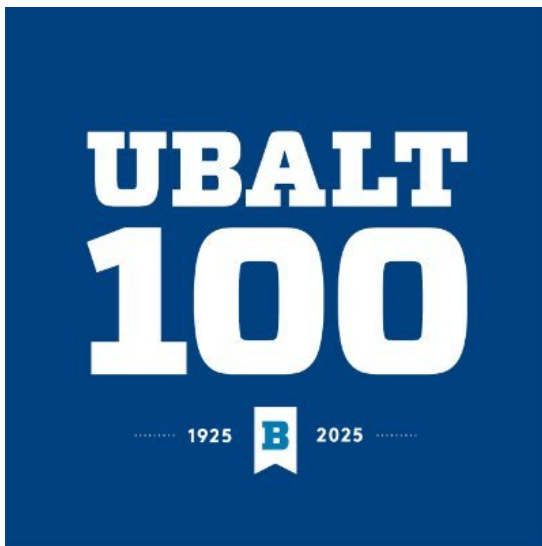
represents a decrease of \$105.5 million over last year, a nearly 5% cut to the USM's base budget.

Update on the USM FY 2026 Capital Budget. Senior Vice Chancellor Herbst also provided an update on the status of the USM [capital budget](#) as presented in the FY26 Governor's Budget. The recently released Governor's Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), totaling \$1.23 billion, represents a more than \$200 million increase compared to the amounts received in the last two budget cycles. It is the second-largest five-year total in the past decade. The Board also received a separate report summarizing the current capital building program. Across the System, there are 117 major ongoing projects either in design or construction or pending design (as of November 30, 2024).

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

A Year of Milestones

In 2025, several USM universities will mark milestone anniversaries with celebrations that commemorate their unique history, progress, and contributions to the people of Maryland.



The University of Baltimore (UBalt) was founded in 1925 with the mission to offer access to life-changing educational opportunities tailored to working adults. Their [centennial celebration](#) is focused on three pillars: The transformative power of higher education, a commitment to academic excellence, and civic engagement as a fundamental human duty. UBalt will commemorate this milestone with a year of special events, including an exhibit that highlights changes to the university's physical campus and social climate since its founding.



Since 1925, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) has been at the forefront of understanding and developing solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges. The university's work has evolved over time, tackling the critical issues of each era, from protecting the Chesapeake Bay to addressing the global climate crisis. Their [centennial celebration](#) launched last month at the [Chesapeake Biological Laboratory](#) in Solomons, MD, where UMCES first began, and continued with events at their laboratories across the state.



Named for Fannie Jackson Coppin, a former slave who became the first African-American woman to serve as a principal and a school district superintendent, Coppin State University will celebrate its [125th anniversary](#) this year. President Anthony Jenkins recently [appeared on WMAR-2 News](#) to discuss how this historically Black university has evolved from its beginnings as a teachers college to a thriving urban campus with renowned programs in business, nursing, social sciences, and more.



Founded on Jan. 9, 1865, Bowie State University (BSU) is Maryland's oldest historically Black college or university (HBCU). On the [160th anniversary of its founding](#), President Aminta Breaux [spoke to FOX5-DC News](#) about how BSU creates new academic programs that align with workforce needs and encourages students to develop an entrepreneurial mindset that will allow them to thrive in a rapidly-changing world. BSU will host a series of events honoring its legacy and culture, including an anniversary gala in April.

This fall, Salisbury University will begin its [centennial celebration](#). Founded as the State Normal School at Salisbury, the university first opened its doors to students on September 7, 1925. President Carolyn Ringer Lepre issued the Centennial Scholars Challenge to inspire the SU community to support the effort to establish 100 new scholarships and student awards by the end of the the 2025-26 academic year.

Other News From the System



SEVEN USM UNIVERSITIES RECOGNIZED IN BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS

U.S. News & World Report recently ranked the nation's [Best Online Degrees for 2025](#), evaluating nearly 1,800 online bachelor's and master's degrees. In all, seven USM institutions were recognized for a total of 20 programs. Bowie State University, Salisbury University, Towson University, the University of Baltimore, and UMBC were represented on rankings of online programs in business, education, information technology, and more. The University of Maryland, Baltimore's School of Nursing has three top programs, including a top 5 ranking for nursing administration programs. And the University of Maryland, College Park got the nod for ten degrees, nine ranked in the top 20 and four of those in the Top 10!



NEW CARNEGIE DESIGNATIONS HIGHLIGHT THE USM'S ROBUST RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

Last week, the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching published the [2025 Research Activity Designations](#), unveiling a new classification methodology that reflects the multifaceted, wide-ranging research landscape of U.S. higher education institutions. Three USM institutions (UMB, UMBC, and UMD) were recognized as Research 1 (R1) institutions—those with at least \$50 million in total research spending and 70 research doctorates awarded annually. Five additional USM universities (BSU, SU, TU, UBalt, and UMES) received the new Research Colleges and Universities (RCU) designation for any non-R1 or R2 institution that spends more than \$2.5 million on research annually.



THE USM WELCOMES HARRY COKER, JR. TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS



THE USM LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO BUILD AWARENESS OF THE SYSTEM'S IMPACT

Earlier this month, [Honorable Harry Coker, Jr.](#), was appointed by Gov. Wes Moore as Maryland's Acting Secretary of Commerce and began his service as an *ex officio* member of the Board of Regents. At Commerce, he is focused on working collaboratively to help Maryland develop and sustain an equitable, robust, and competitive economy. Acting Secretary Coker is a retired Central Intelligence Agency senior executive and former National Security Agency senior executive. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy who served nearly 20 years as a naval officer. He most recently served as the U.S. National Cyber Director, serving in the White House from 2023 to 2025.

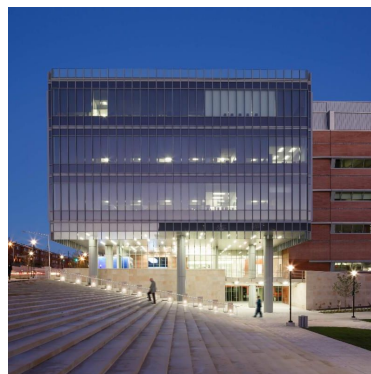
Last month, the USM launched its [first-ever branding campaign](#). The initiative seeks to raise awareness around the value of a college degree and the role the state's public higher education system plays in delivering a better way of life for all Marylanders. The "For the Good of Maryland" campaign shares stories about students, faculty, and alumni to demonstrate how the USM is empowering students, strengthening communities, and building a better world for all. The campaign will reach millions of people living and working in Maryland and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area through a combination of streaming video and radio, social media, and digital display advertising on news outlets and other popular websites.

News From Our Universities



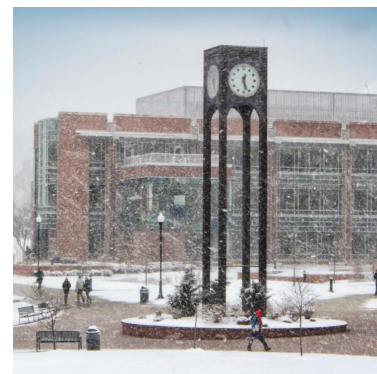
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Research and Mentoring for Black Male Students and Teachers is spearheading the university's [National Board Certification Program](#), supporting a cohort of 75 teachers.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

JP Morgan Chase recently announced a \$500,000 commitment to support Coppin State's efforts to expand [career pathways in the growing field of in data science](#).



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies recently announced a [new partnership with USGI AI](#), to develop an innovative telehealth platform for underserved rural communities.



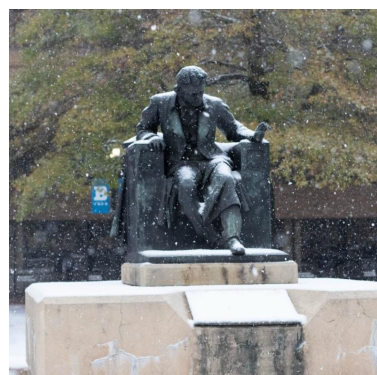
SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

SU's vision to bring a



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Insight Into Diversity magazine



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

The university hosted an event

performing arts center to the heart of downtown is one step closer with the announcement of [\\$2 million in grant funding](#) from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

UMB [cut the ribbon on 4MLK](#), the newest addition to its BioPark. The 8-story lab and office building includes 160,000 square feet of much-needed wet lab space, fulfilling the need for modern lab space in Baltimore.

has awarded TU's Albert S. Cook Library with a [2025 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity Award](#).



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UMBC is ranked among the [nation's top 10 institutions to receive NASA funding](#) in the National Science Foundation's latest Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey.

to celebrate its 10-year [partnership with Urban Alliance Baltimore](#), which has provided hundreds of local high school students with early exposure to careers and college, plus mentoring and internships.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

UMCES is celebrating a milestone anniversary—[100 years of groundbreaking environmental research, education, and public service](#).



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

UMD features prominently in Gov. Moore's growth agenda, as he announced a public-private partnership uniting the state, the university, and quantum leader IonQ to make Maryland a global leaders in [quantum technology](#).



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES will host [NOAA's 11th Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions](#). This education and research forum will focus on critical environmental and marine issues from extreme weather to sustainable aquaculture.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC announced a [new alliance with Ancora High School](#), an online secondary school that affords students 18 years and older the opportunity to earn a traditional high school diploma. The alliance provides Ancora graduates a seamless transition into post-secondary education.



THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG continues to step up its [employer engagement](#) work to expand experiential learning opportunities for students and post-grad career opportunities for graduates.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH announced a collaboration with [The University of Baltimore's Merrick School of Business](#) to bring its prestigious MBA program to Western Maryland.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

USMSM hosted a delegation from the [AUKUS Forum](#) for a discussion on how academic researchers, contractors, and the U.S. Department of Defense work together to further innovation for mutual benefit.

NEXT MEETING

April 11, 2025
Towson University
9:00 a.m.

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)

[MEDIA CONTACTS](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



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