

REGENTS REPORT



Greetings from the Board of Regents

When we talk about the value of higher education, we often talk about the return on students' investment—the jobs they land and the salaries they earn with a degree that opens doors. Certainly, that's important, and at the University System, we're proud of our consistently high ROI.

But the true value of college was never meant to be measured only by its impact on students.

We were never meant to face inward. A foundational purpose of American higher education—especially *public* higher education—is to benefit society as a whole: to use our knowledge, assets, and influence in service of enriching our communities; to educate our students for civic leadership and the obligations of our democracy; to solve, with our neighbors, the greatest challenges we face.

Last year, seven USM universities applied for the [Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement](#), the most coveted endorsement of a college's work to advance the public good. All seven won the designation: Salisbury University (renewed); Towson University (renewed); the University of Baltimore; the University of Maryland, Baltimore; the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (renewed); the University of Maryland, College Park; and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The System's success on this rigorous test of community impact is rare and remarkable: Our universities join just 232 other colleges across the country—public and private—in earning the classification this year. That's a credit to each university's institution-wide commitment to making meaningful and measurable change through community-engaged teaching, research, and service. But it's also a credit to our regents, who prioritize and support the work.

The work *deserves* support. At the USM, we embrace our duty to anchor our communities: to drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth and to join our neighbors in addressing urgent issues for mutual benefit. In our strategic plan, we commit to integrating civic education throughout our general education curricula and to supporting university-based practices that build a civic engagement infrastructure across the System.

Because the way we sustain our contributions to Maryland's people and communities isn't only by doing the important, day-to-day work of partnership. It's by graduating Marylanders who can—and will—do the same.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | February 13, 2026

The USM Board of Regents met through video conferencing with public viewing available via livestream. Highlights from the meeting included:

Four New Degree Programs Receive Board Approval. At the recommendation of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety, the Board approved the following new degree programs, which will be offered pending approval by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Arts, [Multimedia Storytelling](#), University of Baltimore
- Bachelor of Science, [Extended Reality Design](#), University of Maryland Global Campus
- Master of Science, [Artificial Intelligence](#), University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Master of Science, [Social-Organizational Psychology](#), University of Baltimore

Education Forum on the Higher Education Sector Financial Outlook. Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden introduced the [education forum topic](#) and its significance, stating, "As an industry, higher education is navigating a challenging operating environment that has significant financial and policy implications, both now and for the years to come." The forum was presented by Michael Osborn and Emily Raimés of Moody's Ratings. Raimés reviewed business conditions in the higher education sector, noting that the outlook is negative, primarily due to demographic shifts, uncertainty about federal policies, and expenses projected to outpace revenue; however, she noted that the impacts of these factors may vary based on the type of institution and mitigation actions taken by the institution. Osborn addressed the specific impacts on the USM and stated that the System is well positioned with a stable outlook, Aa1 bond rating, and prudent debt management. He noted that the USM's scale and solid support from the State provide flexibility and stability that can help the System navigate future challenges. The full presentation can be [viewed in the meeting video](#).

Board Approves the West Lexington Corridor Development Project at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). In alignment with UMB's Facilities Master Plan and Vibrancy Initiative, the university will move forward with its [West Lexington Corridor Development Project](#), which will create a dynamic, mixed-use environment that advances

[UMB's academic and community goals](#). The Board of Regents approved UMB's plan to enter into lease agreements with a development entity led by Wexford Science & Technology, which will build and renovate multiple buildings in the West Lexington Street Corridor. The project will create more than 600 residential units, as well as retail and recreation spaces, to foster a more walkable, livable neighborhood that attracts students, faculty, researchers, and staff. The totality of the units also will be available for lease by the general public. The project will support the vitality and economic prosperity of the City of Baltimore by improving neighborhood density, supporting infrastructure improvements, and growing the City's tax base.

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

The USM Welcomes New Leaders



DR. SHADOW JQ ROBINSON APPOINTED AS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

During their February meeting, the Board of Regents affirmed the selection of Dr. Shadow JQ Robinson as the next president of Frostburg State University (FSU). [Robinson will lead FSU](#) after more than 20 years working as a professor and administrator at four institutions of higher education. He will begin his tenure as FSU president on July 1.

Robinson currently serves as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas–Fort Smith (UAFS). As UAFS's chief academic officer, he led the effort to launch new degrees in education and nursing and worked with industry partners to add the first four-year engineering program in the university's history.

From 2018 to 2022, Robinson served as dean of the College of Engineering and Natural Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. There, he managed the design and construction of a \$65 million engineering and science building and led fundraising for the \$18.5 million Tennessee Entrepreneurial Science and Technology Hub. Previously, Robinson held faculty positions at Millsaps College and the University of Southern Indiana. He holds a Ph.D. in theoretical nuclear physics from Rutgers University and two bachelor's degrees from the University of Kentucky, one in physics and astronomy and another in mathematics.

TISHA EDWARDS JOINS THE BOARD OF REGENTS

In December 2025, Gov. Wes Moore appointed [Tisha Edwards](#), president and CEO of the Maryland Bankers Association (MBA), to the Board of Regents. At the MBA, she is focused on advocating for the industry, deepening bank and community engagement, expanding financial education, while growing the association's visibility and impact. Previously, she served as secretary of appointments for Gov. Moore, where she led the process of filling state board and commission roles.

She has held several C-suite roles, including Interim CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Baltimore, President of BridgeEdu, and Founding Executive Director of the Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success. She holds both a Juris Doctor (JD) and Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She currently serves on the Board of Advisors for the university's School of Social Work and on the boards of several other regional organizations.



Other News from the System



THE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS

Last month, the USM proudly released our [2025 Annual Report](#) demonstrating our continued progress toward the priorities identified in our Vision 2030 Strategic Plan. The report shares good news about the record number of degrees awarded in 2025, near-record fall enrollment, increase in need-based financial aid, growing research prowess, and many other notable achievements that support the success of our students and advance quality of life throughout the state.

THE USM STANDS AMONG THE TOP PATENT-PRODUCING UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

Last week, the National Academy of Inventors released their annual list of [Top 100 Worldwide Universities Granted U.S. Utility Patents](#), highlighting the crucial role of higher education in the innovation ecosystem. The USM shined once again, ranking No. 26 among universities worldwide (and No. 16 among U.S. universities). Four USM universities secured a total of 107 patents, with the University of Maryland, College Park and the University of Maryland, Baltimore leading the way, and UMBC and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore also receiving patents in 2025.



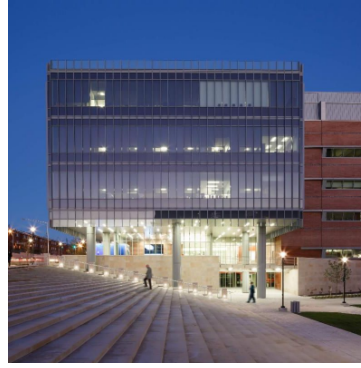
[Image from National Academy of Inventors](#)

News From Our Universities



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

The university received a landmark [\\$6.5 million gift from Elijah Collegiate Dining](#) that will help transform the student experience. The unrestricted gift will support key institutional priorities, including expanding access through student scholarships and renovating dining and learning spaces to create collaborative environments.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Through a partnership with Baltimore City, the university's [Live Near the Nest program](#) offers \$50,000 in down-payment and closing-cost assistance to CSU employees buying homes in West Baltimore, with the potential for tens of thousands more through partnering programs. It's the largest homeownership program sponsored by a Maryland university.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jamil Abdo and Dr. Tariq Masood, faculty in FSU's Department of Engineering and Sustainable Technology, have announced the [publication of their new book, Protection of Electrical Power Distribution Systems: Smart Grid, Microgrid, AI and Cybersecurity](#). The book is positioned to make a substantial impact on the evolving field of electrical power distribution systems.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

A \$100,000 gift from Mike Wilmot, SU'82, and his wife Kathy will support [SU's Rommel Center for Entrepreneurship](#) and students who are pursuing the goal of becoming a successful business owner. The entrepreneurship center and its programs serve as SU's downtown hub for innovation, ideas, and entrepreneurial development.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

The university's Wei Yu is the first scholar in TU history to be elevated to an IEEE Fellow, among the [highest honors awarded by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers](#). The distinction recognizes Dr. Yu's contributions to security and AI in cyber-physical systems and the Internet of Things.



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

Ruba Abukhdeir, a candidate in the university's Doctor of Public Administration program in the College of Public Affairs, has been named a [2026 American Society for Public Administration Founders' Fellow](#). The fellowship "recognizes the exceptional accomplishments and promise of the next generation of public servants in both the academic and practitioner communities."



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

To address the growing physician shortage, the University of Maryland School of Medicine is [increasing its enrollment](#) by 175 students for the next academic year, and will gradually increase class size to 200 over the next five years. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education approved UMB's expansion plan and confirmed that it had the necessary faculty, facilities, and other resources.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund has awarded a [\\$350,000 grant to Dr. Kamal Seneviratne](#), assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry at UMBC. The grant will support his lab's continued work to understand how the brain can be harmed by lifesaving drugs used to treat HIV and cancer.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

A group of donors committed to advancing environmental conservation in the central Appalachians has renewed their investment in the UMCES Appalachian Laboratory. In December, UMCES announced that the [Appalachian Laboratory Investors Network \(TALIN\)](#), is funding two additional projects focused on forest conservation and management.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

A University of Maryland advance in electron microscopy was included among [Physics World's Top 10 Breakthroughs of the Year for 2025](#). Dr. Yichao Zhang, an assistant professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, served as the lead author of a [paper](#) published in July in *Science* that reported the highest-resolution image



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

The [UMES Men's Volleyball Team](#) is breaking new ground as the first Division I volleyball team at an HBCU and the only D-1 men's volleyball program in the state. The program has caught the eye of ESPN, which is now following the team for a documentary.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC has graduated the first police officer to complete the university's [accelerated law enforcement degree track](#), which awards college credit to officers for their work and academy experience. Prince George's County, Md., Police Department Lt. James Martinez celebrated the completion of a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in December 2025.

News From USM Regional Centers



UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

In partnership with USG and Montgomery County Public Schools, Towson University launched a [new early childhood education bachelor's degree pathway](#) for paraeducators in Montgomery County. This fully funded program is designed to help current MCPS paraeducators become fully licensed to teach children from birth through grade three.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

Following its 100th anniversary celebration in November, USMH has unveiled a [dynamic new website](#) and a new series of videos featuring students and alumni who discuss the advantages of pursuing their degrees at this regional higher education center.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Interim Executive Director Dale Nesbary joined USM Chancellor Perman, St. Mary's County Superintendent J. Scott Smith, and College of Southern Maryland President Yolanda Wilson to testify in favor of [House Bill 479](#), aimed at building a scalable, replicable Early College Teacher Pathway program in Southern Maryland.

NEXT MEETING

April 17, 2026

University of Maryland, College Park
8:30 a.m.

FULL MEETING SCHEDULE

VIDEO ARCHIVE

LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

MEDIA CONTACTS

SOCIAL MEDIA

