

REGENTS REPORT

Greetings from the Board of Regents

With every fall comes a raft of U.S. college rankings, an assessment of reputation, profile, and prominence. But in recent years, rankings that measure selectivity and prestige have yielded ground to those that center value: how much students pay for college, weighed against what they earn after graduation.



For many students and families, this is the metric that matters most. And it's where the USM shines. This year, many of our universities earned their highest-ever rankings on national "best value" lists, published by outlets—like Forbes and the Wall Street Journal—that know a good investment when they see one.

This focus on value isn't surprising, nor is it unwelcome. Accelerating economic mobility is a foundational purpose of public higher education, and our universities do it very, very well. With state support, we keep tuition prices down, and with record-setting university aid, we close the college cost gap for high-need students. With wraparound academic and social supports, we do better than most universities in retaining the students we enroll and getting them to a degree. With industry-aligned programs and career-connected learning, we graduate students ready for high-wage, high-demand jobs.

All of this could explain why the System keeps growing. This fall, our undergraduate enrollment has set a record. Our first-time, full-time class has set a record. At 178,000+ students, our total headcount has set a record.

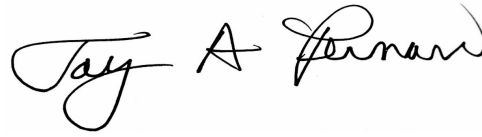
Across the System, these students are counting on us to deliver the economic mobility we've promised them—not only our first-generation students, our Pell-eligible students—but every student who believes that higher education is the path to the life they want, and is betting that their investment in us will pay off down the line.

That's the only motivation we need. Because, in the end, it's not about the rankings. It's about our students. And this year, we've got 178,000+ reasons to keep doing the work they value.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | October 31, 2025

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

Education Forum on the University of Maryland, College Park's Membership in the Big Ten

The Board of Regents meeting began with an education forum explaining why the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) made the decision more than 10 years ago to move its athletic teams to the Big Ten Conference. Board of Regents Vice Chair Geoff Gonella facilitated a conversation with three former regents who served at the time – Jim Shea, Barry Gossett and Gary Attman. They explained the key considerations that led to the Board's endorsement of UMD's decision: increased athletic revenue sharing, media rights and national exposure; access to shared libraries; and opportunities for academic and research collaboration with highly regarded universities in the conference. UMD President Darryll Pines joined the discussion to highlight [the successes the university has achieved since joining the Big Ten](#), including its highest-ever position in U.S. News and World Reports ranking of national universities (#42) and public universities (#16), and a top-ten position for four-year graduation rates at public universities in The Chronicle of Higher Education. In athletics, UMD has won 49 Big Ten regular season titles and conference championship titles, the third highest number in the conference, as well as six national championships over the past decade. UMD Athletic Director James Smith concluded the presentation by explaining the purpose and roles of Big Ten Enterprises, a new proposed commercial entity that would focus on enhancing conference stability and revenue generation for the Big Ten member institutions.

Presentation of the USM Fall 2025 Enrollment Update. The Board received the tremendous news that the [USM has achieved three milestones in enrollment](#). Chad Muntz, USM associate vice chancellor for decision support and chief analytics officer, reported that the USM has reached the highest total enrollment, undergraduate enrollment, and first-time full-time enrollment on record. Total enrollment reached 178,131 students, a 4.3% increase over Fall 2024, and both undergraduate and graduate enrollment increased. Enrollment by first-time, full-time undergraduates increased for the fifth consecutive year, setting a new USM record at 16,287 students. Other good news included the continued growth of the USM's three historically Black institutions—Bowie State University, Coppin State University, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore—which had a combined enrollment increase for the fourth year in a row. International student enrollment data for Fall 2025 have not been finalized, but USM Associate Vice Chancellors Candace Caraco and Zakiya Lee have been working with USM universities and reported about strategies that support international enrollment following concerns about reports of visa delays and [decreased international student arrivals](#) to the U.S.

Update on the USM's Prison Education Initiative. Regent Bill Wood shared information on the

[progress of the USM's prison education programs](#), which provide higher education opportunities to incarcerated individuals to enhance their future prospects, reduce recidivism, and improve the safety of prisons and communities. Over the last year, USM leaders have engaged with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, as well as other universities and systems that offer prison education, to identify opportunities to expand and strengthen these programs in Maryland. From this work, the USM developed a statewide vision for prison education that encourages collaboration and resource-sharing between USM universities—and with other higher education institutions, community organizations, and state agencies. In support of this vision, the USM has received a [\\$4.1 million grant to support this vision from Ascendium Education Group](#), a nonprofit committed to helping learners from low-income backgrounds achieve their academic and career goals. The four-year grant will support the creation of the first of two regional hubs to support prison education initiatives across the state and provide grants to higher education institutions, community partners, and others involved in developing and sustaining the initiative.

Two New Degree Programs Approved at the University of Maryland, College Park. 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:

- The [Master of Science in Marketing](#) is designed to provide a comprehensive foundation in marketing strategy, research, and consumer behavior, along with electives in areas such as digital promotion, AI in marketing, and brand management. The program will equip marketing professionals with strategic, analytical, and digital skills—particularly in sectors like tech, healthcare, and government.
- The [Doctor of Information Science in Information Science Leadership and Community Engagement](#) is a professional doctoral program designed for mid-career professionals working in libraries, archives, museums, nonprofits, government, and higher education. This innovative program focuses on developing leaders who can drive organizational change and foster community engagement within information institutions.

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

Other News from the USM

USM Accessibility in Action

*Accessible by design.
Inclusive for all.*

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY WORKGROUP OFFERS TRAINING TO HELP FACULTY AND STAFF DEVELOP ACCESSIBLE CONTENT

The USM's Digital Accessibility Workgroup is presenting a series of online [remediation sprints](#) to help USM faculty and staff ensure that the digital content they create, such as online course materials, presentations or social media, is accessible to all members of the community and meets the updated Title II regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Each month's session focuses on one essential component of digital accessibility. Visit the [Digital Accessibility Hub](#) to register and view videos of past sessions.

News From Our Universities



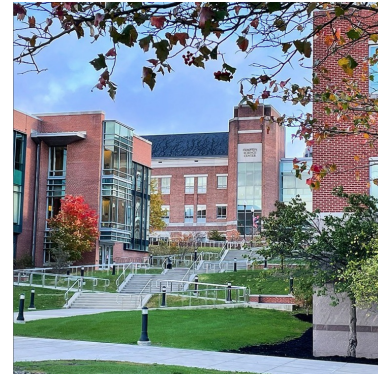
BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

In collaboration with the Maryland Higher Education Commission and Maryland Department of Labor, BSU has formed [a new partnership with CodePath](#) to expand tech career opportunities for students by providing advanced training, career support, and direct employer engagement.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

CSU marked its 125th anniversary with a sold-out gala attended by students, alumni, faculty, staff, and elected leaders. The event also celebrated [the success of its BE MORE capital campaign](#) that raised \$25.5 million, the largest campaign total in university history.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The National Science Foundation awarded FSU a 3-year, \$400,000 research grant to support the [Advancing Regional Innovation through Sustainable Engagement project](#), which will create a research and innovation hub to advance economic transformation in throughout Western Maryland.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

A record number of students and alumni from SU's TRIO Student Support Services Program are [studying abroad this semester through merit-based scholarships and fellowships](#). The TRIO Program supports first-generation students, students with financial need, and students with disabilities.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Last month, TU launched the [Ben and Myrna Cardin Center for Civic Engagement and Civil Discourse](#), an academic and research hub focused on fostering open dialogue, respectful debate, and active citizenship. The center will be led by former U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, who will join TU as its second Presidential Scholar.



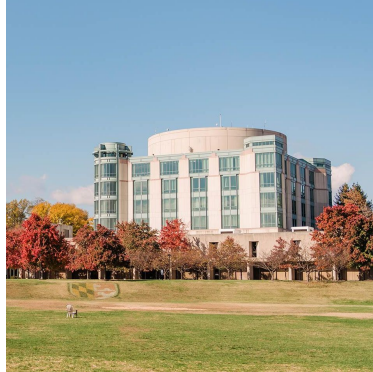
UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

Ten alumni from The University of Baltimore School of Law are included in [The Daily Record's 2025 Family Law Power List](#). The list highlights the advocacy of lawyers working on legal matters involving divorce, visitation, child custody, and child support.



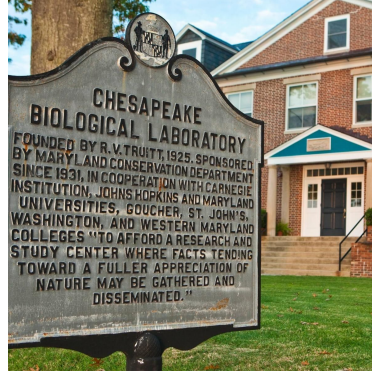
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

At UMB's School of Dentistry, [researchers are investigating oral health as a gateway to whole-body wellness](#). With two grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling nearly \$4.3 million, a team led by Dr. Vivek Thumbigere-Math is exploring the intricate connections between immune, intestinal, and skeletal systems, and how gum disease may drive chronic conditions.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Through a year-long series of thematic events, the [new Arts+ at UMBC initiative](#) will uplift the university's visual and performing arts programs and establish UMBC as a renowned destination point for performances, exhibitions, lectures, and more. The initiative kicked off last month with an on-campus performance by the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Governor Wes Moore has commissioned UMCES Professor Thomas Miller as the 111th [Admiral of the Chesapeake Bay](#), an honor recognizing his extraordinary contributions to the conservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Miller has served as a professor at the university's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, MD, since 1994.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The university has partnered with Preservation Maryland to [transform a historic Ellicott City jail into a research and education hub](#). The redeveloped building will house the nonprofit's headquarters and provide space for the university's students and faculty to study and practice historic preservation.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott has given UMES a \$38 million gift, [the single largest gift in its history](#). The gift will be used to increase student access and affordability, advance academic and research excellence, and strengthen regional engagement and economic mobility.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC has joined the Talent Capital initiative, which brings together government, employers, and educational institutions to [strengthen the Capital Region's workforce and economy](#). Talent Capital partners are supporting displaced federal workers with educational, job-matching, and other services.



UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

On October 21, USG hosted the Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame induction luncheon, [an event that doubles as a fundraiser for USG's scholarship programs](#). This year's luncheon brought in more than \$200,000 to support students pursuing their education at USG.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

On October 17, USMH celebrated its 20th anniversary of expanding access to affordable higher education in the Hagerstown region with a special event, Cheers to 20 Years, that also served as a the center's annual scholarship fundraiser. [Since 2005, USMH has awarded over \\$1 million in student scholarships.](#)



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

On September 27, USMSM welcomed the [Southern Maryland Suicide Prevention Summit](#) presented by Unstoppable You Ministries Inc. The health departments of all three Southern Maryland counties participated in the event, along with nonprofits offering suicide prevention, intervention, and other support services.

NEXT MEETING

December 12, 2025
Coppin State University
8:30 a.m.

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

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SOCIAL MEDIA



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