

REGENTS REPORT



Greetings from the Board of Regents

We're only a month into a new academic year, and the amount of activity on our USM campuses is breathtaking. But that's no surprise. It takes our breath away every year. It's true there's an urgency fueling our work—a belief that what we offer is so important, so life-changing, that we have to offer it to as many learners as we can. And that's what our universities are doing.

When enrollment numbers are finalized next month, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore expects its largest new-student class in six years and a near-record high in total enrollment. UMBC is forecasting its largest first-year class in history; Salisbury

University, its second-largest. New students at Frostburg State should number the highest since COVID, with a climb in transfer students and students majoring in education, health, and natural sciences—the very disciplines housed in the university's newest academic building.

As we make our case that college matters—that college is worth it—it looks like Maryland students agree. And among our top priorities is making sure these students have the money they need to choose the USM and finish their degree. Our universities awarded \$90 million in need-based aid last year, a record high. That money is helping thousands of USM students bridge the gap between the cost of college and their ability to pay.

For many, that gap was widened last year, as problems with the federal financial aid platform hampered students' ability to access grants, work-study, and loans. We're indebted to countless staff across the System who worked around the clock to ensure that learners would receive sufficient aid to meet their financial need and minimize their debt.

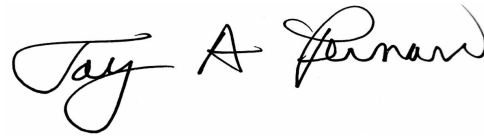
Of course, we have many partners in this vital work of affordability. None are more important than Maryland's elected leaders, who understand the System's value—not only to an educated population but to its corollary: a strong economy. That's why they keep investing in us year after year.

As we face a challenging budget cycle, we'll keep our priorities clear: Inviting as many learners as possible to take advantage of a USM education, and making sure they have everything they need to take us up on our offer of a lifetime.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | September 20, 2024

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

Presentation of the 2024 Board of Regents Staff Awards. These awards represent the highest honor bestowed by the Board of Regents to exempt and nonexempt staff across the System. During a special breakfast celebration, Chancellor Jay Perman and Board Chair Linda Gooden recognized [nine winners from seven USM universities](#) and presented each with a commemorative plaque. The winners were nominated by their universities for their exceptional work in one of five categories: Contribution to the Institution; Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment; Public Service to the University or the Greater Community; Effectiveness and Efficiency; and Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice.



The 2024 Board of Regents Staff Award Recipients. *Back row, from left:* Michelle Pryor, Chancellor Jay Perman, Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden, Jennifer Ellis, Rubin Stevenson, and Melissa Granger accepting for Stephanie Davis. *Front row, from left:* Henry Jackson, Dr. Michael Allen, Errica Philpott-Barber, Dr. Ann Cotten, and Christopher Serafin.

Approval of New Academic Programs. Following the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the Board approved eight new academic programs, which will be offered pending the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Science, [Artificial Intelligence](#), University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)
- Bachelor of Science, [Sustainable Value Chain](#), UMGC
- Master of Education, [English for Speakers of Other Languages](#), Bowie State University
- Master of Science, [Climate Finance and Risk Management](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Homeland Security Leadership](#), UMGC
- Master of Science, [Innovation and Entrepreneurial Leadership](#), UMGC
- Master of Science, [Operations Management](#), UMGC
- Master of Science, [Public Safety Leadership](#), UMGC

Presentation on the Impact of the Regional Higher Education Centers. The executive directors of the USM's [three regional education centers](#)—Dr. Jacob Ashby, Dr. Eileen Abel, and Dr. Anne Khademian—detailed the centers' progress in advancing college completion, workforce development, and economic growth in their regions. The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, and the Universities at Shady Grove represent an essential part of the USM's strategy to achieve its core mission of access, affordability, and student success. These centers provide smooth "2+2" pathways to community college transfer students and flexible options for students who balance their studies with work, family, and other responsibilities. The centers also support the workforce needs of regional employers by partnering with them to offer work-based learning opportunities and innovative programming in high-growth career fields.

Approval of Recommendations by the Major Investigations Task Force. Regent Hugh Breslin delivered the [first report of the Major Investigations Task Force](#), which is charged with reviewing the System's policies and procedures for reporting major external investigations to the Chancellor and Board, and making recommendations to strengthen reporting requirements. Following its initial policy review, the Task Force proposed and the Board approved [revisions to six USM policies](#) to ensure that individuals know when to report investigations and to whom they should report.

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

Other News From the System



THE USM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH AFSCME MARYLAND COUNCIL 3 TO IMPROVE SALARIES AND BENEFITS FOR UNION WORKERS

At the end of July, the Board of Regents approved a [three-year agreement](#) that provides improvements to wages, paid leave, and other benefits for approximately 5,700 USM employees who are represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Chancellor Perman finalized the agreement at a formal signing ceremony on August 2 with AFSCME Council 3 President Patrick Moran and Stuart Katzenberg, AFSCME Director of Growth and Collective Bargaining. Chancellor Perman described the agreement as one that "supports the University System's employees, values their hard work and contributions, and stewards our resources responsibly so that we can continue providing an affordable, exceptional education to Maryland students." The agreement covers bargaining unit employees in 15 units working at nine of the system's 12 universities.

USM UNIVERSITIES EARN SEALS OF EXCELLENCE IN NONPARTISAN STUDENT VOTER ENGAGEMENT

The [ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge](#) recently recognized eight USM universities for their work to foster high levels of student voter registration and turnout. Based on data from the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE) by Tufts University, ALL IN presented Gold Seals of Excellence to campuses with 40%–49% voter participation or higher during the 2022 midterm election, including the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Frostburg State, UMBC, and the University of Maryland, College Park earned Silver Seals and Coppin State, Salisbury University and Towson University received Bronze Seals. This recognition highlights the USM's work to advance democratic participation, civic education, and community engagement through campus-level initiatives supported by the systemwide [Civic Education and Community Engagement Council](#).

News From Our Universities



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

BSU opened the [Martin Luther King, Jr. Center](#), a vibrant environment for learning and creativity designed to inspire students.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Senior [Mellany Sophia Morales Menéndez](#) has been selected as a 2024 White House HBCU Scholar and will also serve as the university's first Hispanic-Latina President of the Student Government Association.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

FSU's [Department of Nursing](#) was awarded a [\\$2 million](#) Maryland Higher Education Commission grant to expand the capacity within the LPN to BSN program.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

The renovation of SU's Blackwell Hall will create a new, centralized home for student services, including the Counseling Center, Advising Center, and Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU's new state-of-the-art Health Professions building is open. Its high-tech, high-touch simulation centers and specialty labs will help educate future health professionals.



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

UBalt is establishing a new Welcome Center at the corner of Mt. Royal and Maryland avenues.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

The School of Medicine is spearheading a "Community Heath Village" at Mondawmin Mall to improve patient access to healthcare in West Baltimore.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UMBC has opened a new Institute of Politics, an academic, political research, and public outreach center for local, state, and national political analysis.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

UMCES welcomes its seventh president in its 100-year history, Dr. Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The university made additional investments in student mental health and well-being, including a wellness ambassadors group for graduate students and peer-led workshops in living and learning communities.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES has hired Dr. Stanley Robertson as the first permanent dean for School of Veterinary Medicine.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC has launched a redesigned MBA program this fall that is more flexible, allowing students to tailor it to their areas of interest.

News From USM Regional Centers



THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

The Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Facility hosted its second annual [Demo Day](#) last month, showcasing the University of Maryland's Cyber-Physical Systems Engineering program.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH Executive Director Jacob Ashby was a guest on the [Washington County Chamber Podcast](#), where he outlined the center's new MBA program.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

The Maryland Autonomous Technologies Research Innovation and exploration (MATRIX) Lab—part of the SMART Building at USMSM—hosted [research- and project-based internships](#) engaging local students.

NEXT MEETING

November 22, 2024

The Universities at Shady Grove
8:30 a.m.

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)

[MEDIA CONTACTS](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA



2024 University System of Maryland, all rights reserved

University System of Maryland | 3300 Metzerott Road | Adelphi, MD 20783 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)