

REGENTS REPORT

Greetings from the Board of Regents

Two pieces of good news bookended our summer. The first is that our universities awarded a record number of degrees last year, more than 45,000. Undergraduate degrees hit an all-time high, and graduate degrees nearly did.



The second good-news item is that we expect another year of enrollment growth this fall and a total headcount we haven't seen since the pandemic began derailing students' college-going plans. The numbers reflect not only strength in our first-year class but our success in holding on to the students we already have and getting them to a degree.

While there's a lot of discussion around falling confidence in U.S. colleges and universities, our numbers seem to prove that, in Maryland, there's still incredibly high demand for what we offer.

Enrollment and degree production are important metrics. Not because they show our size but because they show our *impact*. There's a strong positive correlation between education attainment and economic growth. College graduates make more money—and spend more money—than people without a degree. They pay higher taxes, which reduces pressure on tax hikes that are levied on everyone. They supply the workforce that powers Maryland, and their productivity creates new jobs across industries and sectors.

The System's role in driving economic development is important. Always. But never has it been more important than now, when enormous pressure on our federal and state revenues threatens our mission, our work, and the students for whom we do it.

We know it's hard to take the long view when you're confronting challenges up close. And Maryland *is* challenged right now. So it's on us to prove that the University System isn't merely an expenditure but an investment; that our education and research, our service and innovation, pay real dividends for everyone—*everyone*—who calls Maryland home.

Make no mistake: The state's future strength is tied inextricably to our own. And with students flocking to the System, wanting the education and opportunities we provide, that's very good news for Maryland.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | September 19, 2025

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

2025 Board of Regents Staff Awards. Earlier this month, the [2025 Board of Regents Staff Awards](#) were presented to 10 exemplary staff members across nine categories. During the Board meeting, Chair Linda Gooden offered her congratulations to the winners and noted that their achievements would be celebrated at a special awards event in spring 2026.

Two New Degree Programs Approved at UMBC. 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 Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis](#) will address growing national needs for qualified behavior analysts. The program's core areas include principles of behavior, research methods, conceptual analysis, applied behavior analysis, basic behavior analysis, and ethics. Graduates will be qualified to sit for the international credentialing examination to become a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst and will be eligible to apply for licensure in Maryland as a Licensed Behavior Analyst.

The [Master of Science in Applied Data Science](#) will replace the current data science track in the Master of Professional Studies. The program offers core courses that emphasize practical, applied skills, and electives that allow for specialization in areas aligned with students' interests and career goals. Innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration with industry and public agencies is fundamental to the program.

New College of Graduate Studies Approved at Towson University. TU has over 3,000 graduate students across 80 graduate programs. Graduate-level programs, policies, curriculum processes, funding, and student organizations are overseen by the existing Office of Graduate Studies, Office of Graduate Assistantship, and Office of Graduate Admissions under the leadership of the Dean and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. The Office of Graduate Studies will become the [College of Graduate Studies](#) to reflect the growth in TU's graduate programs, coordinate new efforts to grow enrollment, provide an incubator for new interdisciplinary programs, and create a strong sense of belonging for graduate students.

Creation of a Center for Biomeasurement and Biomanufacturing Innovation Approved at the University of Maryland, College Park. The university will establish the new [Center for Biomeasurement & Biomanufacturing Innovation](#) at the Institute for Bioscience & Biotechnology Research (IBBR). This joint initiative with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

will create state-of-the-art office and laboratory space dedicated to advancing innovative measurement technologies and establishing reference standards and data that accelerate development and biomanufacturing of biotechnology products, including vaccines, biotherapeutics, and other modern medicines. The Board approved renovations to underutilized spaces at IBBR, which will be funded by \$4,000,000 in secured Federal NIST funds, \$4,000,000 in MPower funds, and \$2,000,000 in institutional funds.

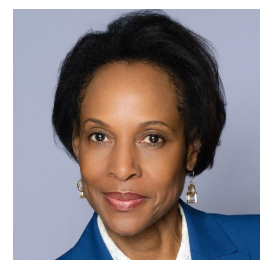
For more information about the September Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [full meeting agenda](#), [video archive](#), and [report](#) by Chancellor Jay Perman.

USM Welcomes New Leaders



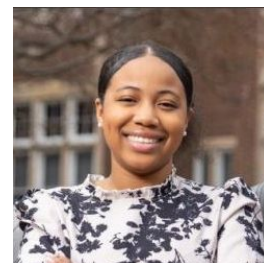
Sherri N. Blount, Regent, is an intellectual property (IP) attorney who practices at the intersection of IP, advertising, and promotions law. She has negotiated hundreds of agreements involving intellectual property rights. Currently, she is a partner at Fitch Even Tabin & Flannery. Previously, she was a partner at Morrison & Foerster and served as vice president, deputy general counsel and corporate secretary for the Public Broadcasting Service. She serves on the Advisory Board of WHUT television and is on the board of The Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, DC. She previously served as a commissioner on the Maryland Economic Development Commission.

Michele Speaks, Regent, is a community activist and co-chair of the Warnock Foundation, where she champions innovative ideas that improve the lives of Baltimore residents. Previously, she served as vice president of advancement at the Family League of Baltimore, overseeing all fundraising and development efforts. She has served on the advisory board of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute and the University of Maryland School of Social Work.



Dana B. Stebbins, Regent, is an attorney with an advanced degree in human behavior and over 25 years of experience in law and social policy; the private practice of real estate/land-use law; and professional consulting services in Community and Economic Development, Business Development and Emergency Management. She is the president and CEO of The Cornelius Group, Inc. and The Law Offices of Dana B. Stebbins, Esq.

Rayne Rivera-Forbes, Student Regent, is an second-year undergraduate student at Towson University (TU), pursuing a degree in law and American civilization. She is a cadet in the Greyhound Loyola/Towson Army ROTC Program. She is actively involved in the TU student government association, where she serves as a senator.



Timothy Minor, Vice Chancellor for Advancement and President and CEO of the USM Foundation, joined the USM on September 22, 2025.

Previously, he served as vice chancellor for strategic partnerships and



economic development at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University, where he leveraged partnerships to expand academic programs, research, and economic impact. He also served as chief development officer and senior vice president at the V Foundation for Cancer Research, and as vice president for university advancement and chief advancement officer for the University of North Carolina System.

Dr. Dale K. Nesbary, Interim Executive Director, University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland, has deep experience in higher education in areas that include technology, planning, and institutional effectiveness. He served for 13 years as president of Muskegon Community College, where he led efforts to raise more than \$50 million for facilities upgrades. He also served as vice president and dean for academic affairs at Adrian College. Dr. Nesbary also is a professional trombonist who has performed with a number of internationally acclaimed musicians.



Other News from the System



SIX EXEMPLARY FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS ELKINS PROFESSORSHIPS

The USM announced the recipients of the [2025-26 Wilson H. Elkins Professorships](#), honoring the following faculty members whose professional and scholarly endeavors have made a positive impact at their institutions and beyond: Dr. Darsana Josyula (Bowie State University), Dr. Elisabeth Smela (University of Maryland, College Park), and Dr. Rabiat Akande (University of Maryland, Baltimore). In addition, USM awarded Elkins Academic Transformation Professorships to Dr. Amanda Jozkowski (Towson University), Dr. Eric Stokan (UMBC), and Dr. David Leasure

USM Accessibility in Action

*Accessible by design.
Inclusive for all.*

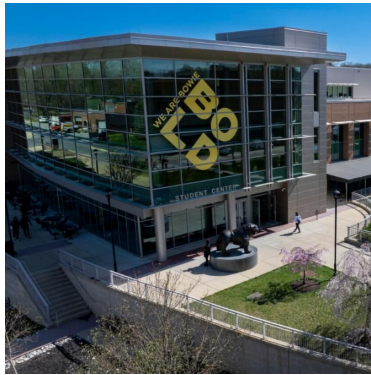
USM LAUNCHES DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY HUB TO SUPPORT CREATION OF INCLUSIVE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTS SYSTEMWIDE

The digital world opens incredible opportunities for teaching, learning, and collaboration—but only when everyone can fully participate. The USM Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation and the Digital Accessibility Workgroup have launched a new [Digital Accessibility Hub](#) to help faculty and staff create content that is inclusive for all and ensure that their content satisfies key federal and state accessibility regulations. The hub includes how-to guides, training videos, case studies, and information on accessibility

(University of Maryland Global Campus). This year, the Transformation Professorships support innovative projects focused on the use of generative AI to advance academic transformation.

standards and compliance deadlines. USM faculty and staff can also visit the hub to sign up for the monthly USM Accessibility in Action newsletter, which focuses on new topics each month and also highlights our universities' accessibility success stories.

News From Our Universities



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

BSU students became the first in the state to earn [BioHub Maryland certification](#), following a four-week, lab-based biopharmaceutical manufacturing training program.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

The university welcomed more than 1,000 new undergraduate students for the fall semester, its [largest incoming class in over 25 years](#).



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

The Physician Assistant Class of 2025 cohort [achieved a 100% pass rate](#) on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.



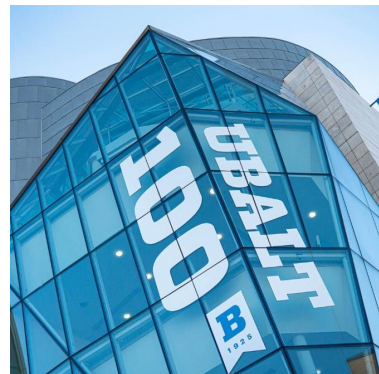
SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

The university celebrated its [100th anniversary](#) with the opening of Centennial Plaza, a new outdoor event space that commemorates the university's history.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU was named one of seven pilot institutions to earn the [new Autism-Inclusive Campus Designation™](#) from the College Autism Network.



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

Two professors, [Dr. Rachael Baitch Zeleny](#) and [Dr. Shelly Clay-Robinson](#), are transforming art gallery field trips for high school students into interactive adventures that deepen their understanding of works of art and their context.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

A team of researchers from the University of Maryland School of Medicine recently won a [\\$250,000 prize in a National Institutes of Health competition](#) focused on improving technologies for delivering genome editing tools to targeted cells in the body.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UMBC has strengthened its relationship with [Building Science Technology Education Partnerships \(STEPs\)](#), a college-preparatory program for students from under-resourced high schools in Baltimore City. For the first time, UMBC hosted the STEP's summer math program on its campus.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

UMCES played a vital role in helping Maryland meet its commitment to [restore five oyster tributaries in the Chesapeake Bay](#). UMCES' Horn Point Laboratory set billions of oyster shells with juvenile oysters to seed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' newly created reefs.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

A \$2.85 million donation from alumnus Brendan Iribe will launch the new [University of Maryland Computing Catalyst](#), dedicated to supporting computing majors and middle and high school students through experiential learning, scholarships, and professional development programs.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES has formed a [partnership with Redemption Higher Institute of Biomedical and Management Science](#) in Buea, Cameroon, to create opportunities for academic and cultural exchanges for students and faculty at both institutions.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC and the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) announced a [new educational partnership](#) designed to expand career and accelerate degree completion for MCPD employees and their families.

News From USM Regional Centers



UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG, in partnership with the National Academy of Public Administration, hosted the [2025 Social Equity Leadership Conference](#) in June. Six students from programs at USG shared their personal journeys while leading a panel focused on leadership.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

While Williamsport High School in Washington County engages in online learning during asbestos abatement, the USM at Hagerstown is [hosting Williamsport students who require in-person learning](#), including English language learners, special education students, and those experiencing housing instability.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

This fall, the University of Maryland MATRIX Lab at USMSM continues its [Evening@SMART lecture series](#), featuring dynamic, faculty-led presentations on technology and innovation.

NEXT MEETING

October 31, 2025

University of Maryland Global Campus
8:30 a.m.

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)

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