



USM Updates

From Chancellor Robert L. Caret

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SUPPORTING GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR USM

On the first two days of February, I testified before Maryland legislative committees in support of Governor Larry Hogan's FY 2018 budget proposal for the University System of Maryland (USM).



Governor Hogan has proposed state support for USM of \$1.35 billion. This is an increase of \$26.6 million or approximately 2 percent over the **final** FY 2017 budget, which includes the November Board of Public Works reduction of \$14.2 million.

Some \$16.4 million, which is more than half of the increase, will fund a "tuition buy-down," enabling USM to [cap resident undergraduate tuition](#) increases at a modest 2 percent. This is the second

USM Institutions

[Bowie State University](#)

[Coppin State University](#)

[Frostburg State University](#)

[Salisbury University](#)

[Towson University](#)

[University of Baltimore](#)

[University of Maryland, Baltimore](#)

[University of Maryland, Baltimore County](#)

[University of Maryland, College Park](#)

[University of Maryland Eastern Shore](#)

[University of Maryland University College](#)

[University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science](#)

[Universities at Shady Grove](#)

[University System of Maryland at Hagerstown](#)

consecutive year that Governor Hogan has proposed tuition relief to help make college in Maryland more affordable.

Overall, the support needed for USM's current services budget driven primarily by increased financial aid, facilities renewal expenses, debt service payments, and operating funds for new buildings outpaces our funding increase due to the state's revenue shortfall. The budget is lean and will require us to look for additional efficiencies and perhaps some belt tightening, but it is a fair budget.

For more details on the budget proposal, please review [my testimony](#). I also ask you to voice your support for the budget proposal.

■ TAKING FULLER ADVANTAGE OF OUR "SYSTEMNESS"

MPowering the State

Bolstered by the Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016, which went into effect last October, the strategic alliance between the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) known as *MPowering the State* is becoming even more impactful. The 2016 legislation is advancing UMB's and UMCP's collective ability to generate collaborative academic and research programs, spur technology commercialization and economic growth, and focus on service and community needs in Baltimore City and Prince George's County.

Two new centers established under the legislation will help drive this impact. The University of Maryland Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Development based at UMCP will advance education and research in neuroscience, virtual and augmented reality, biomedical devices, data analytics, and cybersecurity. The Center for Maryland Advanced Ventures based at UMB will support and promote commercialization of university inventions and university startups.

The *MPowering* partners in late 2016 announced the new [Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security](#) to leverage their joint leadership in counterterrorism studies, intelligence analysis, forensic studies, cybersecurity, homeland security law, and other criminal justice disciplines. The academy has the potential to be a key factor in attracting the FBI headquarters to the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

Update on B-Power Initiative

USM's [B-Power \(Baltimore Power\)](#) effort focused on expanding the college and career pipeline for Baltimore City students is moving forward as well, with Coppin State University (CSU) and the University of Baltimore (UB) co-leading the initiative. UB is expanding dual-enrollment efforts with the initiation of the "Bee Line" agreement with Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) to assist BCCC students who wish to transfer to UB with guaranteed admission and financial assistance. New funding support from the Abell Foundation will enable UB to expand

efforts further.

Coppin has hired a new P-20 (preschool through graduate school) director to better coordinate with CSU's colleagues at all levels of education. The university is also pursuing dual-enrollment opportunities and is expanding the Coppin Bridge program to help students enter their first term more academically prepared.

In addition, B-Power is partnering with the CollegeBound Foundation and Junior Achievement of Central Maryland as well as BCCC. We are also talking with other potential partners to continue to grow the initiative.

■ STRENGTHENING USM'S ECONOMIC IMPACT

Grants and Contracts

* The National Science Foundation (NSF) announced a five-year, \$3.5 million award to UMCP as part of the [Innovation Corps](#) -or I-Corps program, supporting a national innovation ecosystem.

* The NSF also renewed its support for the [National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center](#) (SESYNC) with a new five-year, \$28.5 million grant. The center is accelerating scientific discovery at the interface of human and ecological systems. Located in Annapolis, SESYNC founding partners include UMCP and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES); Coppin is a collaborating institution.

* The UMB [School of Social Work](#) received a three-year, \$2.5 million grant

from the U.S. Department of Justice to improve statewide coordination and multidisciplinary collaboration in responding to human trafficking involving children and youth.

* In one of her final actions as Maryland's senior senator, Barbara Mikulski announced a \$5 million NSF grant to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) that provides additional funds for the [Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation](#) to support students from underrepresented groups in the STEM disciplines.

More Fuel for Entrepreneurs

Late last year, we announced the creation of the USM Early Stage Investment Fund, USM's first-ever venture capital fund to help fuel the state's entrepreneurial ecosystem. This fund will provide seed and startup funding for companies that are: based on USM-owned intellectual property; founded by USM faculty, students, or recent graduates; and/or located in USM research parks or incubators. To learn more about the fund, contact J. Thomas Sadowski, USM's vice chancellor for economic development, at 410.688.0013 or tsadowski@usmd.edu.

Meeting Cyber Workforce Demands

UMBC Training Centers and Bowie State University (BSU) established the [RX5 Cybersecurity Workforce Development program](#), a public-private partnership that aims to address the shortage in cyber industry talent. It also is designed to provide U.S. veterans and others access to cybersecurity careers.

SEARCHES UNDERWAY FOR NEW PRESIDENTS

With Mickey Burnim retiring as president of BSU on June 30th and Don Boesch stepping down as president of UMCES on August 31st, USM is conducting two presidential searches. Regent Linda Gooden is chairing the [BSU Presidential Search and Screening Committee](#). Regent Robert Rauch is chairing the [UMCES Presidential Search and Screening Committee](#). The committees are working to attract candidates who can build on the excellence and success of our two outgoing leaders. The USM Board of Regents will make the final selections.

NEW RANKINGS UNDERSCORE USM EXCELLENCE

Three USM institutions – UMCP, UMB, and UMBC – are included on *U.S. News and World Report's* 2017 Best Global Universities list, based on global and regional research reputation, academic research publications, international collaboration, and other factors. UMCP is ranked 40th. In addition, *Times Higher Education* ranked UMCP 67th among universities worldwide **public and private** – up 50 spots from last year's ranking.

For a comprehensive list of USM rankings, click [here](#).

USM'S SCORECARD TRACKS PROGRESS

In keeping with our commitment to

accountability and transparency, USM has produced a [USM Scorecard](#) to provide a quick, easy-to-read update on our progress on priorities articulated in our strategic plan, *Powering Maryland Forward*. The scorecard highlights progress with brief bullets, statistics, and other data points. We plan to update the scorecard annually. To request a printed copy, write to: chancellorletter@usmd.edu.

■ REAFFIRMING THE VALUE OF OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

These are challenging times for American higher education, as they are for our entire country. Recent executive orders signed by President Donald Trump have raised numerous questions and concerns about their impact on our campuses. I, along with presidents of USM universities, have joined with higher education leaders nationwide to reaffirm our deep commitment to inclusion and diversity. This commitment is essential to nurturing a rich and robust environment of high-quality education, research, and service. For more information, I encourage you to review the [two recent](#) USM statements on this issue.

■ FINAL WORDS

Throughout the 2016-17 academic year, I am holding a series of day-long visits to different regions of the state, meeting primarily with local business leaders and economic development officials to discuss workforce and economic development needs, and USM's role in helping the state meet those needs. To date I have held meetings in Baltimore, Southern Maryland,

and Montgomery County. At all the stops, it was clear that USM is viewed as a critical partner in advancing the state. We help to strengthen the elementary/secondary-college-career pipeline. We also apply our resources to support startups and more established companies and to provide an educated workforce.

I am bringing what I learn from these regional meetings to our Board of Regents, campus leaders, and others so we can take action where appropriate.

■ LET ME HEAR FROM YOU

I would very much appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to respond to this letter or any other USM news, please write me at: chancellorletter@usmd.edu. I also encourage you to follow me on social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#)) for regular updates.



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of **MARYLAND**