



Friday, June 19, 2020
Report to the USM Board of Regents
Chancellor Jay A. Perman
(AS DRAFTED)

Thank you, Chair Gooden. Once again, let me open my comments with words of thanks. I continue to be impressed by, and grateful to, the members of this board, our institutional leaders, and professionals throughout the USM. All of you have stepped forward and demonstrated tremendous leadership under the most difficult of circumstances.

As Linda noted, the June Board of Regents meeting traditionally serves as the Chancellor's "Annual Report"—a year-in-review for the USM and its institutions. As I considered my comments for this review, I couldn't help but recall the opening of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The second half of that quote—the worst of times—is obvious. For the USM, COVID-19 cleared our campuses, short-circuited ongoing research, sent our students off in multiple directions, and forced us to rely on "emergency remote teaching." It also greatly stressed our resources. But as I will more fully outline shortly, we came together in collaboration—taking advantage of our Systemness—to do our best to meet the financial, academic, and emotional needs of our students. And looking forward, as I will also highlight in a moment, we are going to great lengths, taking every precaution, to welcome them back in the safest way possible.

Beyond our campuses, for the country, COVID-19 brought job losses, financial stress, loneliness and isolation, anxiety and fear, and—of course—it has taken the lives of nearly 120,000 of our fellow citizens. All of these effects are most keenly felt in communities of color. And then, all this kindling was set ablaze by the killing of George Floyd. The nationwide protests that followed have laid bare the grip that racism—both blatant and insidious—has on all segments of our society. I'm acutely aware that this meeting falls on Juneteenth, commemorating the end of slavery. As we acknowledge the significance of this day, we must acknowledge, too, how much work remains to end slavery's horrific and abiding legacy of violence, oppression, inequity, and injustice.

So, how could this also be the best of times? I look at the protests that continue to this day. We are witnessing a coming together across races and colors and genders and faiths, in big cities and small towns, demanding the end of bigotry and racism and the embrace of justice and fairness. This movement has the potential to usher in real, meaningful, and lasting change. And I am proud that the USM is committed to that change. All 12 USM presidents and all three regional center directors signed our statement denouncing structural racism, affirming the right of our communities to protest, and recommitting our institutions to advancing equity and social justice through teaching, research, service, and activism.

And, of course, efforts are ongoing across the USM:

- Coppin State University (CSU), the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and other institutions have held virtual town halls on racism and justice in America that have served as a release for some, and a reckoning for others. I held one myself with staff at the System Office just this week.
- At the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), the Office of Diversity and Inclusion launched a Week of Solidarity and Reflection, with events organized to express and listen to the pain, frustration, anger, and grief that many in our communities are feeling.
- At the University of Baltimore (UB), the Schaefer Center has relaunched BeHEARD Baltimore, a way for local citizens to speak their minds about policy issues and current events.
- The Office of Equity and Inclusion at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) is providing extensive guidance for faculty and staff who want to publicly make statements in support of UMBC's Black community members.
- Hundreds of Towson University (TU) students, staff, and faculty donned masks and came to campus to march for justice and empower Black lives at TU and across the country.

Likewise, when I look at what we are doing to overcome the challenges of COVID-19, I again see the best of times.

As I mentioned, return-to-campus plans are moving forward throughout the System, with the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and communities as the highest priority. While plans are evolving—and are specific to individual campuses—several of the parameters have come into focus. This fall, every USM university must be able to:

- Comply with all local, state, and CDC health guidelines;
- “De-densify” dorms, classrooms, and dining halls, and restrict access to common areas;
- Supply sufficient personal protective equipment to students and employees;
- Assess and monitor potential COVID symptoms;
- Help students get tested and treated;
- Isolate COVID-positive students and quarantine students exposed to the disease;
- Coordinate contact tracing with local health departments;
- Promote compliance with measures that inhibit disease spread—for example, the use of face coverings, frequent handwashing, physical distancing, and staying isolated if sick;
- Deep-clean campus buildings, with special attention to high-touch surfaces;
- Monitor water and air quality to help prevent outbreaks.
- These—and many other precautions—will provide students, their parents, our faculty and staff, and the local community with the peace of mind that comes from knowing that every contingency is being taken into account.

USM campuses have also been behind positive community outreach, action, and service in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Towson donated hospital beds and equipment to the Greater Baltimore and St. Joseph's Medical Centers. And toward the end of the term, 20 nursing students—out of a cohort of 93—finished **early** to help solve a nursing crisis in the middle of the pandemic.
- When the virus hit Maryland's Eastern Shore, Salisbury University (SU) faculty and students volunteered to serve as translators for Spanish- and Haitian Creole-speaking members of the community undergoing treatment for the virus.
- At Bowie State University (BSU), Professor of Computer Science Sharad Sharma is the principal investigator on a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant-funded project using data visualization and analysis to determine reasons why the Black community has been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- And as existing campus crisis funds were painfully stretched by COVID-19, institutions reached out for donations and received incredible support. In the first week of giving, USM universities and regional centers realized donations of over \$800,000.

The three USM institutions leading the COVID Research and Innovation Task Force—UMCP, UMB, and UMBC—continue to make an incredible impact:

- Faculty from UMCP's School of Public Health are supplying Americans with critical information on disease spread and impacts and are working with regional leaders to guide safety measures and metrics for reopening.
- At UMBC, Lucy Wilson, an infectious disease transmission expert, worked with the National Governors Association to develop a roadmap for governors to determine what safe reopening would look like.
- And, of course, UMB is leading the System's—and the state's—response to COVID:
 - With faculty serving on the Governor's Coronavirus Response Team, UMB has been helping to formulate state actions, emergency response, and crisis planning from the very beginning.
 - The School of Medicine has been on the front lines of testing efforts:
 - In April, it was a large-scale COVID-19 testing initiative using robotic platforms with automated technologies to significantly expand testing capability in Maryland.
 - Earlier this month, it was a team led by Dipanjan Pan—a dual UMB and UMBC appointment—developing a diagnostic test that uses a nanotech breakthrough to detect the COVID-19 virus in as little as 10 minutes.
 - Researchers at the School of Medicine became the first in the United States to begin testing experimental COVID-19 vaccine candidates.
 - And while efforts to identify a safe and effective vaccine continue, researchers from UMB's Institute of Human Virology are also studying the potential of an old polio vaccine to provide temporary protection from COVID-19.

Let me also note that, this fall, in response to the financial toll that COVID-19 has had on our students—pending a vote from the Board today—undergraduate and graduate tuition, room and board, and all other fees will remain at the 2019–20 level across the USM.

When I consider the **totality** of what the USM is doing to step up and meet the immense challenges before us, and when I look at the momentum we’re building for real solutions and real change, I truly do see these as the best of times.

And as vital as our efforts on these fronts are, this past year has seen USM institutions succeed in numerous ways.

We have witnessed tremendous **physical and academic growth** on our campuses.

Late last year, Bowie broke ground on an Entrepreneurial Living and Learning Community, a modern residence hall and entrepreneurship center. BSU also launched a degree program targeting an in-demand area: the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry.

Last fall, UMBC opened the Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building, which offers unique collaborative spaces for learning and discovery. Also at UMBC, new research on the structure of HIV has revealed a promising novel drug target for treating HIV infection.

At UMCP, the Maryland Quantum Alliance was launched earlier this year—with College Park and UMBC joining a regional consortium of scientists and engineers driving quantum science discovery and innovation. UMCP also broke ground on a new home for the School of Public Policy, slated to open in 2022.

This past spring, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) received accreditation confirmation to offer its Physician Assistant program beginning in fall 2020. In addition, UMES launched a new health care certificate program. This online, post-baccalaureate certificate is for professionals who develop, implement, or evaluate services that address rural health disparities and social inequities.

UMB is expanding its outreach to West Baltimore with the opening of a significantly bigger Community Engagement Center. The new center will be the cornerstone of UMB’s Community Campus, where the university and its neighbors will come together in partnership to strengthen West Baltimore.

Last year, after a two-year renovation, Towson’s Residence Tower was awarded the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification. In

addition, Towson launched “StarTUp”—an effort connecting campus entrepreneurs and the Greater Baltimore business community.

For the first time, Chesapeake Bay watershed health was scored as part of the 2019 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Report Card issued by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

Last year, Coppin launched the University Academic Advising Center to improve retention by helping students strengthen their academic skills.

Earlier this year, the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) announced an initiative with Amazon to prepare employees for industry certifications in IT and associate degrees in related fields through the Amazon Career Choice Program. In addition, USM OnTrack—a new \$2.6 million partnership between UMGC and the Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation—is set to work with System provosts, teaching and learning center directors, instructional designers, technology professionals, and others to support and assess the expansion of high-quality online learning across the USM.

Late last fall, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) celebrated completion of its state-of-the-art Biomedical Sciences and Engineering building. More recently, USG’s Center for Recruitment and Transfer Access created a comprehensive “USG 101” web page and video presentation to help in recruiting prospective students.

Given comments made by state officials, we remain confident that funding to complete the Academic and Innovation Center at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) will be in place when it is needed. This center, facilitating economic development and innovation in Southern Maryland, just recently hosted a virtual tour, featuring the University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft Systems test site, research hangar, and aircraft.

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) is on track for downtown campus expansion. In addition, USMH welcomed two new programs to its campus this past fall: a B.S. in Community Health through Salisbury University and a B.S. in Hospitality & Tourism Management through UMES.

Our campuses also once again received impressive **awards, grants, and gifts.**

Last fall, Frostburg State University (FSU) received one of the largest gifts in its history when James Jeffries, a world traveler who lived just blocks from the university, passed away at the age of 91, leaving FSU nearly \$1.5 million. Later that year, the U.S. Department of Education awarded FSU a \$4 million grant for the Maryland Accelerates program, a partnership designed to increase the number of certified teachers in Maryland schools.

UB announced that the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will fund need-based scholarships—totaling up to \$5 million over five years—for hundreds of full-time UB students who transfer primarily from community colleges, including current or former members of the military.

Thanks to a \$7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Bowie will develop a program to cultivate expert educators who design culturally relevant teaching strategies to meet the needs of students in high-poverty areas.

Last fall, UMCES and Maryland Sea Grant College were awarded a \$2.5 million NSF grant to grow the number and diversity of students in STEM fields. And earlier this year, NSF provided \$500,000 for UMCES to lead a coalition of scientists from around the country to study the impact of storms, sea-level rise, and climate change on estuaries and bays.

Two UMES School of Pharmacy professors secured a \$1.3 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to establish a five-year partnership with Somerset County public schools to provide its high school students—especially minority and underserved students—hands-on experiences in drug discovery and biomedical research. In addition, UMES is one of eight historically Black institutions to secure a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Service that will be used as seed money to modernize the university’s archives and make them more widely accessible for research and scholarship.

Salisbury received a \$2.1 million College Assistance Migrant Program award from the U.S. Department of Education to provide funding for first-year, full-time students who are engaged, or whose parents are engaged, in migrant and other seasonal farm work in Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia, and who are interested in becoming elementary or early childhood educators. In addition, SU’s School of Nursing recently received a five-year, \$2.5 million continuation grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission Nurse Support Program-II to expand the preparation of experienced nurses for clinical teaching positions in Maryland’s nursing programs.

NIH renewed funding for UMBC’s STEM BUILD, a national model to increase the success of diverse undergraduate students pursuing STEM degrees. UMBC also received a \$2.8 million NSF Research Training Grant to build a master’s program in environmental sciences designed to increase the diversity of the environmental science workforce. And just recently, UMBC announced a \$7.7 million grant from NIH for U-RISE, a research training program focused on STEM leadership.

Late last year at UMB, a team representing the schools of social work, nursing, and medicine received a three-year, \$1.35 million workforce development grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to address the opioid crisis by building a behavioral health workforce—psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychiatric residents, and social work students—focused specifically on individuals living in high-need areas.

Earlier this year, UMGC received a record \$16 million gift—nearly doubling the school’s endowment—and has already begun using the money to help students struggling financially during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, UMGC has received an \$825,000 grant from the Ascendium Education Group to develop an innovative curriculum for its doctoral program in Community College Policy and Administration—one that responds to the evolving set of leadership skills needed in higher education.

A three-year, \$3 million gift to the A. James Clark School of Engineering at UMCP from Lockheed Martin will fund aerospace research, while increasing opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. In addition, UMCP’s Maryland Energy Innovation Institute will lead the U.S. side of a five-year, \$18.4 million U.S.-Israel Energy Center award from the Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation.

Over the past twelve months, our campuses—students, faculty, and leaders—were singled out for **recognition acknowledging excellence.**

UMBC was recognized as a Fulbright Top Producing Institution, and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching honored UMBC with its distinguished Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. In addition, UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski was honored with the World Trade Center Institute’s 2020 Governor’s Award, given to a Marylander who exemplifies what this state has to offer the world.

Salisbury joined UMBC in being awarded the Carnegie Classification, recognizing the university’s campus-wide commitment to engaging with the greater community. In addition, SU joins UMBC among the nation’s top producers of Fulbright students. A record six Salisbury University students earned the prestigious U.S. Fulbright Student Award for the 2020–21 academic year.

The University of Maryland, College Park was also honored as one of the nation’s top producers of Fulbright students. In addition, UMCP was named a Top 100 Minority Degree Producer by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* for 2019.

Coppin was recently ranked fourth on the list of 2020’s best historically Black colleges or universities in the nation by College Consensus, a unique college-ranking website that aggregates publisher rankings and student reviews.

Faculty from UMES and Bowie are participating in the Second Chance Pell program, which partners institutions with correctional agencies to provide higher education to those who are incarcerated. And—fittingly—BSU President Aminta Breaux and UMES President Heidi Anderson were both recognized by *The Daily Record* as among Maryland’s Top 100 Women for 2020.

Frostburg was one of only 10 higher education institutions nationally chosen by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to participate in its new, one-year Global Civic

Literacy Initiative to help students understand how global issues influence the lives of everyday citizens.

UB was named a winner of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a national campaign to encourage student participation in the election process. UB received the 2019 Best in Class Award for having the highest voting rate at a medium-sized public four-year institution. In addition, *preLaw* magazine ranked the UB School of Law as among the “Best Schools for African Americans” and among the “Best Schools for Public Service.”

Finally, on institutional highlights, I want to reiterate that USM institutions continue to be incredibly well-regarded nationally. While many are highlighted throughout *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education* and the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of undergraduate, graduate, and online programs, the USM excels just as strongly in rankings that are based on a combination of educational quality, affordability, and alumni success. *Forbes Magazine's* “America’s Top Colleges,” *MONEY Magazine's* “Best Value Colleges,” *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* Best College Value rankings, the *Princeton Review's* “Colleges That Pay You Back,” and other rankings place the entire USM alongside the nation’s best-value universities. We should all take great pride in, and continue to grow, this national recognition of our institutions’ success.

I would be remiss if I didn’t note that the System Office and the Board also celebrated impressive achievements this past year:

- Ellen Herbst, the USM’s Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance, was honored at the *Baltimore Business Journal's* “2019 Best in Finance: CFO” event.
- Regent Isiah “Ike” Leggett was honored with the 2019 Legacy of Leadership Award, the highest award presented by the White House Fellows Foundation and Association.
- And I was honored to be named among the *Baltimore Business Journal's* Power 10 and among *The Daily Record's* 2020 Influential Marylanders.

Additionally, just last week we announced an NSF grant of nearly \$800,000 to the USM’s Maryland Research and Education Network, which will allow the System to support the state by providing high-speed networking infrastructure to a number of rural and underserved areas.

Also earlier this month, the USM’s Maryland Momentum Fund—a \$10 million investment fund to support early-stage companies and the commercialization of USM-based research—announced a \$300,000 investment in KaloCyte, a UMB-affiliated company whose founder is on faculty at the School of Medicine. The company is developing an artificial red blood cell substitute.

The Momentum Fund has now made investments in 15 startups totaling \$4.5 million, matched almost four-to-one with \$17 million from co-investors. And more than half of those investments have come over the past 12 months: KaloCyte, Pathotrak, Datakwip, InferCabulary, ARMR Systems, Minnowtech, Neoprogen, and Gemstone Biotherapeutics.

Finally, as we look back over the year, it was also a **year of transition**.

We were joined by new regents Kelly Schulz, secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce; Geoff Gonella, president of Cornerstone Government Affairs; Sam Malhotra, CEO of Subsystem Technologies; Meredith Mears, chief development officer of Gillis Gilkerson Construction and Development Company; and student regent Drew Needham, JD candidate at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.

We introduced UMB Provost Bruce Jarrell as interim president of that university earlier this year, welcomed Anthony Jenkins as Coppin's new president just last month, and announced Darryll Pines—dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering—as the next president of the University of Maryland, College Park, effective July 1. On that last item, let me once again thank College Park President Wallace Loh. UMCP has grown physically, programmatically, and reputationally over the last 10 years, and is truly one of the nation's very best flagship universities. Dr. Loh's vision and leadership have been at the heart of that progress.

And, last but not least, the USM welcomed a new chancellor earlier this year. Let me end my report by once again saying what an honor and privilege it is for me to serve in this capacity. The future of *Maryland* is directly tied to the success of the USM. I thank you for affording me this opportunity to work for the students and citizens of Maryland.

Madame Chair . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

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