



Report to the USM Board of Regents
USM Chancellor Jay Perman
Friday, September 18, 2020
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Thank you, Chair Gooden. As I've noted on many occasions over the past six months, you and your fellow regents, our institutional leaders, and professionals throughout the USM are doing an incredible job under the most difficult circumstances. I thank you.

Let me also thank Dr. Locascio for updating us on the COVID Research and Innovation Task Force. The fact that we're applying our collective assets and expertise—our partnerships—to finding solutions to our greatest challenge represents the power and the promise of our University System.

I also commend the winners of the Regents Staff Awards. These men and women represent the excellence, professionalism, and commitment found throughout the University System.

In addition to the Regents Staff Award winners, I also congratulate the USM's 2020–21 Elkins Professorship Awardees:

- Dr. Julius Davis, associate professor of mathematics education at Bowie State University, who won a partial award last year. Dr. Davis plans to expand and institutionalize the Center for Research and Mentoring of Black Male Students and Teachers, which recruits and supports Black men in education programs and the teaching profession.
- Dr. Mortimer Sellers, director of the University of Baltimore's (UB) Center for International and Comparative Law. Dr. Sellers will receive part 2 of the two-year award he won last year. The funding will support development of an expansive Law and Justice Program.
- Dr. Kesslyn Brade-Stennis, director of the Dorothy I. Height Center for the Advancement of Social Justice at Coppin State University (CSU). Dr. Brade-Stennis's award will support programmatic and outreach efforts promoting social justice and community empowerment.
- Dr. Don DeVoe, with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Dr. DeVoe will use his award to involve graduate, undergraduate, and high school students in groundbreaking cancer research.

I also join Chair Gooden in offering congratulations to our two new student regents, Nate Sansom and Aaliyah Edwards.

And, of course, my sincere congratulations go to the new University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) president, Dr. Bruce Jarrell. Bruce is the ideal leader for UMB. When I had the honor of serving as UMB president, no one was wiser in their counsel or more inspiring in their dedication. I'm confident he will be the kind of leader who brings out the best in the people who now surround him. Bruce's vision and leadership are exactly what UMB needs and deserves.

Along with these new additions, I have another leadership change to mention as well.

Earlier this week, Dr. Anne Khademian was named the new executive director of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). Dr. Khademian—a nationally recognized scholar and author in the areas of inclusive management and organizational change—brings the right mix of expertise and leadership needed to build on USG’s impressive record of growth and success. With this change in leadership, we’ll have the opportunity to recognize Dr. Stewart Edelstein for his 18 years at USG’s helm. The “Adieu to Stew” event on September 30 will begin with a car parade through the USG campus, then transition to an evening virtual event honoring Stew. The event also supports the Dr. Stewart Edelstein Student Success Scholarship, established to sustain Stew's legacy of providing educational opportunity at USG.

I’ll note that, earlier this month, I appointed the search committee for the new president of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). As you know, after successfully leading UMGc for eight years, Javier Miyares recently announced his plans to retire as president upon the appointment of a successor. Regent Sam Malhotra will chair the presidential search committee. While we will formally recognize Javier for his service in the future, I take this opportunity to thank him for his visionary leadership of UMGc, one of the most dynamic institutions of higher education in the nation and the world.

In addition, the search continues for the first-ever executive director of the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). I had the opportunity to visit USMSM this past July. I met with the Board of Advisors, toured the ongoing construction of the academic and research facility, and visited the UAS test site and Tech Port.

As is always the case with the start of an academic year—even one as challenging as this—university rankings come fast and furious. And again this year, USM institutions were well represented.

Six USM institutions—Towson University (TU), UMCP, Salisbury University (SU), the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), Frostburg State University, and Bowie—were included in *MONEY Magazine’s* 2020–21 Best Colleges in America list, which ranks the nation’s colleges and universities that best combine educational quality with affordability.

In the *Washington Monthly’s* 2020 Best College Guide rankings, UMCP and Towson were listed among the best National Universities; Frostburg, UB, and Salisbury were ranked among the best Master’s Universities; and **every eligible USM institution**—10 in all—was included among “Best Bang for the Buck” in the Northeast. And of the Best Colleges for Student Voting, four USM universities—Towson, UMCP, UB, and Frostburg—were among the nation’s top 20 institutions.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 examined universities across 93 countries and regions, measuring performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer, and international outlook. UMCP was ranked 90th in the world and 34th in the U.S., and UMBC was included among the world’s top 800 universities.

UMCP also featured prominently in the *Center for World University Rankings* 2020–21, with UMB, UMBC, and Towson also listed.

The 2021 edition of *The Princeton Review Best 386 Colleges* included profiles of UMCP, Salisbury, and UMBC, with Towson also recognized as among the best colleges in the Northeast.

Just last month, affordable-colleges-online.com—which helps students and parents identify affordable, high-quality institutions—listed the 30 Historically Black Colleges and Universities with the Highest Return on Investment. Bowie, Coppin, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) all made the top half of that list.

And in the just-released *U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings*, the USM once again has three institutions ranked among the nation’s top National Universities: UMCP was ranked the 58th best National University—an improvement of six spots over last year—and the 19th best Public National University. Towson was ranked 196th nationally and 100th among publics. And UMBC was ranked 160th nationally and 77th among publics. Continuing its impressive success in teaching and innovation, UMBC was listed as the 11th best institution for Undergraduate Teaching and 9th Most Innovative School. Among Regional Universities North / Top Public Schools, Salisbury was ranked 16th; UB, 36th; and Frostburg, 38th. And for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, all three of our HBCUs were ranked in the top 50, with UMES leading the way at 18th.

These rankings underscore our Systemwide emphasis on access, affordability, and quality. And even as we act cooperatively and thoughtfully to address the COVID crisis—which I will speak to shortly—our institutions continue to make progress on multiple other fronts.

These past months have seen significant growth on our campuses, both in terms of **academic offerings** and **physical infrastructure**.

Bowie has begun accepting applications for a teacher leadership degree program to help newly certified educators design lessons for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Frostburg now offers online post-baccalaureate certificate programs in business analytics, management, and health care management.

UMBC researchers are collaborating with the Chicago-based MxD to develop a curriculum and online platform through which manufacturing professionals can enhance their cybersecurity skills and protect manufacturing plants from cyber breaches. The content of this program is completely new, as there are no existing platforms that focus on the intersection of cybersecurity and manufacturing.

A recent *Daily Record* article outlining nonprofit leadership as an emerging career path highlighted Coppin as the only USM institution that offers a bachelor’s degree in the field.

UMGC has launched a certificate program to prepare students for jobs in digital marketing.

UMES has welcomed a charter class to its new graduate-level physician assistant program; these 17 students will spend the next three years pursuing credentials that will prepare them for the health care front lines at a critical time in our history.

USG's partner universities have added several new academic programs to the center's offerings, including: Translational Life Science Technology, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Cybersecurity, and Data Science from UMBC; the Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader program from the School of Dentistry at UMB; and Information Science, Embedded Systems, and Biocomputational Engineering from UMCP.

UMCP is participating in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Course Sharing Program, a new initiative offering undergraduate students of Big Ten institutions the opportunity to diversify their learning experience during the pandemic and take online courses from fellow Big Ten universities.

UMBC's national leadership portfolio has expanded, as alumnus Mark Doms was appointed chief economist of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

Earlier this summer, Professor Pat Glibert, a researcher at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Sciences' (UMCES) Horn Point Laboratory, was elected president of the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. Also at UMCES, the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation—a consortium of scientific, professional, educational, design, and engineering organizations—awarded President Emeritus Don Boesch its 2020 Sustained Achievement Award for his long-term contribution to the conservation of natural resources.

A new Stormwater Management Research facility at UMES will improve Chesapeake Bay health as it evaluates nutrient-reduction strategies near poultry facilities.

Salisbury University's Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons has been named one of the U.S.'s top 20 university libraries by *The Princeton Review*.

Late last month, Frostburg held two important events. First was a physically distanced ceremony held to dedicate the Brownsville/Park Avenue Monument, commemorating the largely Black community displaced as Frostburg's campus grew between the 1920s and 1960s. A few days later, Frostburg broke ground on its Education and Health Sciences Center. Once finished, this \$80 million facility will be the new academic home for students studying to be educators, nurses, health professionals, and more. As President Nowaczyk noted, these two events reflect the challenges that so many of our universities face: The need to acknowledge and address a history of injustice and do the hard work that will start us on the path to healing. And the need to build modern facilities where *future* healers and *future* educators can prepare to meet complex and daunting challenges going forward.

I also want to commend President Darryll Pines, who's following through on his pledge to create a more inclusive environment at UMCP. Earlier this month, he announced several actions in this regard, including the university's first honorific naming of an academic department—the Harriet Tubman

Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies—and the hiring of a program coordinator for immigrant and undocumented student life in the Division of Student Affairs. President Pines is also teaching a course for new students focused on the grand challenges of our time, including COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, climate change, and voter access. I thank President Pines for his steadfast leadership.

USM institutions were tremendously successful in forging new **partnerships**, attracting **external funding** and **philanthropy**, and strengthening our **economic impact**.

Bowie State enjoyed a record year in grant funding, primarily aiding retention programs and research efforts, including research currently underway to better understand COVID-19's disproportionate impact on minority communities.

UB's Center for Drug Policy and Enforcement has received almost \$2 million in federal funds to support national and regional addiction prevention and treatment efforts. I'm also gratified to report that one year after the untimely death our friend and colleague Katrina Dennis, a scholarship named for her at UB—where she was a 2004 graduate of the School of Law—is approaching its \$100,000 goal.

Frostburg State University has been awarded an inaugural Resilient Maryland pilot grant of \$100,000 from the Maryland Energy Administration to plan a campus-scale microgrid—a local energy grid that can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate autonomously.

The School of Medicine at UMB was awarded \$900,000 for COVID research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The funding will be used to help identify the most effective measures for COVID-19 infection control in health care settings. The School of Medicine has also begun Phase 3 clinical trials of the COVID vaccine candidate developed by Moderna and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. The trial is part of a multi-agency collaboration to accelerate development and distribution of medical countermeasures for COVID-19.

Towson University surpassed its FY 2020 fundraising goal of \$12 million by more than \$400,000, with \$100,000 raised specifically for student emergency relief. In addition, TU was one of only 24 institutions nationwide to receive a U.S. State Department grant to increase the diversity of students participating in study abroad experiences.

At UMBC, a five-year, \$4.8 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant will support researchers at nine institutions in a UMBC-led effort to conduct environmental research into urban ecosystems. A UMBC-led team has also received a \$4 million U.S. Department of Energy grant to advance nuclear fusion energy research. A \$3 million NSF grant will help lead collaborative research on transforming undergraduate math teacher preparation programs. And UMBC's HARP Satellite, which has been flying in low-Earth orbit since February, has been named the Small Satellite Mission of the Year by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Salisbury University's TRIO Student Support Services Program celebrated its 10th anniversary with a five-year, \$1.2 million grant renewal from the U.S. Department of Education. Also at SU, Bob Clarke

and Glenda Chatham—longtime supporters of Salisbury—announced a \$1.5 million planned endowment to benefit the Honors College, now named the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College in recognition of their commitment.

The National Institutes of Health awarded the University of Maryland, College Park a five-year, \$1.9 million grant to support the development of new methods to synthesize drugs. A multidisciplinary team led by UMCP engineers has received a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to accelerate sustainable shellfish aquaculture. And the U.S. Department of Education has provided more than \$2 million to fund counseling and academic services for low-income and first-generation students. In addition, UMCP's Quantum Technology Center has entered into a partnership with the U.S. Naval Research Lab to identify and pursue quantum technology research opportunities.

USG has partnered with business leader and philanthropist David Blair to launch the Lab for Entrepreneurship and Transformative Leadership, bringing together education and economic resources for students, entrepreneurs, and small business owners in Montgomery County.

And the USM Maryland Momentum Fund added two more investments: an additional \$250,000 in NextStep Robotics, an early-stage medical device company affiliated with UMB that's developing robotic therapy to improve walking function, and \$250,000 in miRecule, an early-stage biotech company affiliated with UMCP that's developing RNA-based therapeutics.

Finally, USM institutions distinguished themselves through **outreach** and **community service**.

At UMB, the CURE Scholars Program, which helps West Baltimore students explore and excel in STEM education, was honored with a "2020 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award" from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. Just a few weeks later, the UMB CURE Scholars Program hosted its annual and highly anticipated STEM Expo. At the event—held virtually this year—middle and high school CURE scholars present their STEM research posters to UMB faculty, scientists, medical professionals, and leadership.

As part of its Fall 2020 Return-to-Campus Plan, Bowie State University is providing free laptops to incoming freshmen, new transfer students, and returning sophomores in need—as well as internet hotspots for all students who need it—to help close the digital divide and promote academic success.

When Delegate Talmadge Branch reached out to Salisbury University and asked his alma mater to help Baltimore City public school students adapt to online learning, the university stepped up; Salisbury not only agreed to contribute 30 SU-branded laptops for Hazelwood Elementary/Middle School, it was inspired to adopt a local school as well, donating 30 laptops to Wicomico County's Pinehurst Elementary School.

Coppin's annual STEM Day Science Trivia competition had to go virtual this year, but that didn't stop students from around the globe—the U.S., Canada, Finland, England, India, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Japan, and others—from competing in online science trivia, winning prizes, and delivering oral presentations on renewable energy and nanotechnology.

Just yesterday evening, UB held its second annual “Pitch for a Million” real estate competition, which challenges UB students and alumni to envision the development of residential, commercial, and green space within the City of Baltimore. The winning proposal gets financing of up to \$1 million from Baltimore Community Lending to undertake the project. I’m also pleased to note that the August cover story of *Baltimore Magazine*—A Moment of Reckoning: Listening to Black Voices in Baltimore—featured the perspective of poet and author Kondwani Fidel, a UB Master of Fine Arts graduate.

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH) will host its second annual University Spirit Run *virtually* later this month. Three distance options are available, with all proceeds from the event benefiting the USMH Scholarship Fund.

And just last week, eight USM institutions got together to co-host the USM United Concert, a virtual benefit concert that raised money for the universities’ student crisis funds—funds that help those who have been affected financially by the pandemic.

I commend all of our institutions for their tremendous commitment to community outreach and engagement.

Of course, as we all know, the COVID health pandemic remains front and center in so many of our actions, systemwide and at individual institutions. And make no mistake about it, we are rising to the COVID challenge.

Since we last met on August 26, every USM university has begun its fall semester.

I’m well aware how much effort this has taken. I know many employees are working six, seven days a week to keep students on track in the midst of a semester like no other; to establish policies and procedures protecting the safety of their communities; to chart a path forward that assures our fiscal health. I see their dedication, and I hope they’re able to take advantage of some restorative time when the opportunity comes.

I mentioned the work we’re doing to chart a fiscal path forward, and I do want to comment on our financial outlook. As you know, the University System has seen significant constriction in every one of our revenue sources: tuition and fees, auxiliary services, grants and contracts, our state appropriation. We’ve also spent a considerable amount of money readying our campuses for fall instruction: We’ve invested in technology infrastructure and in faculty training. We have costs associated with COVID testing and symptom monitoring. We’ve provided personal protective equipment, and modified residence halls, classrooms, and offices.

Taking these two things together—our drop in revenue and our increased costs—we’re looking at a bottom line that’s at least \$500 million short of our original FY21 budget. And we know right now that that number will grow.

And yet as strange as it sounds, FY21 might be the least of our worries. By all accounts, the outlook for this fiscal year is far worse than last year. Beyond that, the outlook for next fiscal

year, FY22, is worse than this one. In fact, we're looking at a scenario where we don't begin our financial recovery until FY24.

And so, we have to plan accordingly. We have to plan across a multiyear horizon and commit to making some very difficult decisions. By that, I don't mean to imply that we haven't made difficult decisions already. Our universities have cut spending, deferred construction and maintenance, frozen hiring, and used their reserves.

But, of course, the most difficult action—by far—is the temporary pay cuts and furloughs we've announced. I commend our university leaders for upholding a principle we agreed to months ago: protecting, to the extent we can, those who can least afford a reduction in pay. All universities that are taking personnel actions, and taking a tiered approach to them, meaning employees at the highest salaries get the biggest share of the cut.

I'm proud that we've done this. I think tough times show your character—your dedication to keeping the promises you make. And I'm glad we're keeping ours.

I had the opportunity yesterday to update the Senate Education, Business, and Administration Subcommittee and the House Education and Economic Development Subcommittee on our path forward this fall; the painstaking preparations we've undertaken to protect our students, faculty, and staff; our plan to prevent, control, contain, and manage this disease; and our financial outlook in the years ahead. I was joined by three USM presidents—Darryll Pines, Heidi Anderson, and Ron Nowaczyk.

For my part, I shared why we chose to resume a limited amount of in-person instruction this fall, and how we've done so safely. At the same time, I recognize that this crisis—and the way it's affected higher education—is unprecedented; that conditions are changing constantly; that guidance is in flux as we learn more about the virus and how it spreads.

We've had to be extremely nimble, responding to data in real time and making a number of pivotal decisions based on it. And so, it makes sense that—even as we plan for next week, next month, next semester—we take time, as a System, to reflect on what we've learned and what lessons we can apply to our immediate and long-term efforts.

We'll prepare a full after-action report once the "action" is, in fact, over. In the meantime, we'll set up a process to continually evaluate what's working and what can be improved, so that we we're assured every day that we're doing everything we can for those we educate, employ, and serve.

In describing our fall plans to the House and Senate subcommittees yesterday, I said they're thoughtful, they're deliberative, they're guided by the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. But I also said that doesn't mean they'll work.

As you know, each university has an escalation path regarding the steps officials will take should COVID cases grow on their campus or in their community. You've seen these plans in action. Faced with a high county positivity rate, College Park kept classes online for the first two weeks of school. Confronting a number of positive cases among students that contact tracing couldn't

explain through a common gathering or source, Towson University pivoted to an online-only semester.

Just this week, Salisbury University has reported an escalation of cases. Officials there have been transparent in their communication, and they're managing the situation in coordination with the Wicomico County Health Department. I'll invite Salisbury President Chuck Wight to update us on the university's decision-making as it stands now—unless, of course, there are any questions for me from the regents.

Chair Gooden, this concludes my report. I'll ask President Wight to comment.

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