



Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

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Thank you, Chair Gooden. It's terrific to see you all in person. And it's terrific that we're more often getting together the way we used to.

And we *are* getting together. Over the last several weeks, I've been to building dedications and groundbreakings at Towson, UMB, and the USM at Southern Maryland. I've hosted town halls at UMBC and right here at Salisbury. I joined the Coppin and UMB communities in inaugurating their presidents. And let me just say that celebrating with you in person is so much better than through a screen.

I join Chair Gooden in acknowledging Veterans Day. I thank all those here who have served our country and defended the ideals foundational to American democracy.

I add my congratulations to the many members of the USM family recognized in *The Daily Record's* Power 30 List. And I congratulate the three members of *this* board selected as the paper's 2021 Icons: Linda Gooden, Ike Leggett, Bob Wallace. It's a fitting recognition of your leadership.

I thank President Pines and President Jarrell for their update on *MPowering the State*. It's hard to believe that MPower is almost a decade old. The alliance was a top priority for me when I was at UMB, and it still is today. I'm so grateful that it's continued to grow under the leadership of Bruce and Darryll. Thank you.

Finally, I thank our hosts this morning, Salisbury University (SU) and President Chuck Wight. These are exciting times at SU. As President Wight noted, the university's new brand initiative—Make Tomorrow Yours—is both a charge to SU and a promise to its students. A wonderful example of that promise is the Dave and Patsy Rommel Center for Entrepreneurship at SU Downtown. The center opened last month, providing space, support, and resources for student entrepreneurs. And in a show of the love that Sea Gulls have for their alma mater, the NFL's Dan Quinn and wife Stacey recently gave \$200,000 to SU's capital campaign.

Of course, some of the recent news out of Salisbury is less joyful. With the announcement that he'll step down as president this summer, Dr. Wight will close an impressive chapter in

Salisbury's history, marked by the new College of Health and Human Services, the Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion, and the endowment of the Glenda Chatham and Robert G. Clarke Honors College. I thank Dr. Wight for all he's done to elevate Salisbury's national prominence—both in excellence and value. I appreciate the considerable investment he's made in enriching Salisbury's campus climate. And, of course, I'm grateful for his leadership throughout the pandemic; I think Chuck made the entire *System* better at managing through crisis.

The students, employees, and stakeholders I met with yesterday at the town hall made it abundantly clear that SU's next president will have a strong foundation on which to build. Thank you, Chuck.

Of course, there's been no shortage of notable achievements across the System.

In late September, *U.S. News & World Report* released its annual college rankings. In those rankings—and in many others released in recent months—USM institutions are incredibly well represented. I won't go through them all, but I'll note that between the *Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, *U.S. News*, *Washington Monthly*, and other national publications, every USM institution has been singled out for praise. And that's a testament to our abiding excellence.

So let me tell you about that excellence.

Since our last meeting, UMBC has been awarded more than \$70 million to lead significant research collaborations. This includes \$38 million as part of a NASA-funded Earth science research collaboration with Morgan State and others known as GESTAR II; \$13 million from the NSF to lead a climate-focused data science institute; another \$10 million from NASA to support sun and space environment research; and \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to lead an aquaculture partnership. In addition, UMBC was named a "Great College to Work For" in every single category measured by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. It makes me wonder why any president would want to leave all that.

Bowie State University (BSU) also secured impressive grants. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded Bowie \$10 million—the school's largest grant in two decades—to improve public health information technology. Bowie is also one of 28 HBCUs participating in a \$25 million initiative funded by the nonprofit Strada Education Network to support historically Black institutions in developing the next generation of leaders. And the NSF has awarded Bowie \$1 million to establish a High-Performance Intelligent Data Science Institute.

Towson University (TU) is solidifying its place as a national leader in cybersecurity with a \$2.2 million grant from the NSA to lead a task force dedicated to cataloging and improving U.S. cybersecurity curricula. And in two separate projects, TU has received \$3.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education to improve instruction for English language learners and for students

with autism spectrum disorder. And at last month's College of Health Professions groundbreaking, we celebrated Towson's leadership in preparing Maryland's health care workforce.

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) continues to expand its reach, announcing a new transfer partnership with California Community Colleges. The partnership opens up UMGC's 90-plus online programs to more than 2 million students enrolled in California's 116 community colleges. In its Best for Vets list, the *Military Times* just gave UMGC its #1 spot for hiring faculty and staff who've served their country. And UMGC President Greg Fowler is fresh off his turn on the University Innovation Alliance's Weekly Wisdom Podcast, which is supported by the Carnegie Corporation and featured in *Inside Higher Ed*.

Huge congratulations are due to University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) President Heidi Anderson, who was just named board chair-elect of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU); she'll serve her term in 2023. Additionally, a team from UMES and Wor-Wic College has been named to the Aspen-AASCU Transfer Student Success and Equity Intensive cohort, a one-year initiative advancing equitable transfer student success.

The good news keeps going for UMES. They just signed a partnership with Alaska Airlines, working to remove barriers that prevent pilots of color from entering aviation science. Additionally, NOAA renewed its \$30 million, five-year commitment to the school's Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center. The center encourages young people from underrepresented communities to pursue careers in the marine sciences. The consortium of seven institutions is led by UMES, and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) has been a partner since the program's inception 20 years ago.

Speaking of UMCES, they had some exciting news last month involving a *different* Maryland institution—the blue crab. Researchers at UMCES mapped the DNA of a blue crab for the first time ever. Sequencing the blue crab genome is a breakthrough that will help scientists understand how likely crabs are to reproduce successfully, which will help us maintain a healthy ecosystem and a strong economy. Plus, it'll keep all of us in steamed crabs for generations to come. So thank you, UMCES.

Frostburg State University (FSU) announced \$1.5 million in federal funding to advance clean energy, IT, and biotech training at FSU through the Western Maryland Advanced Technology Center. The center is a partnership stimulating job creation, workforce development, and economic growth in Western Maryland. Additionally, to help adult learners, Frostburg launched a series of Working Professional Certificates this fall, including programs in Manufacturing Leadership, Retail Management, Small Business Management, and Nonprofit Management. And, finally, Frostburg President Ron Nowaczyk was recognized as a Top 50 Leader in Higher Education by the National Diversity & Leadership Conference. Well-deserved, Ron.

I'm also thrilled to note that it looks like FSU and the USM at Hagerstown (USMH) will *not* be annexed by West Virginia any time soon. That's great news, since next month USMH hosts its Elizabethtowne Feaste & Frolic. This annual scholarship fundraiser is one of the USM's most highly anticipated events, so it's a good thing it'll stay in Maryland.

UBalt's Schaefer Center for Public Policy this month marked the 100th birthday of William Donald Schaefer at Baltimore's Inner Harbor, and I had the pleasure of presenting the 2020 Schaefer Award for Public Service to Sister Helen Amos, executive chair of the Mercy Health Services Board of Trustees. Also at UBalt, the Negotiations and Conflict Management program is partnering with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to offer new education and research opportunities for UBalt students and faculty. Additionally, UBalt continues to receive impressive support from the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation. The foundation recently gave \$2.4 million toward supporting veteran and active military students.

The past few weeks have seen the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) cement its place as a global quantum powerhouse. The NSF awarded College Park \$5 million to lead a multi-institutional team in developing prototype quantum routers and modems, which will pave the way for a quantum internet. Also, College Park's Quantum Startup Foundry announced three founding members: Ernst & Young, MITRE, and IonQ, the leading developer of quantum computing devices and winner of the 2021 Innovation Award from the Association of University Research Parks. Additionally, the university's Fearless Ideas capital campaign raised a record \$1.5 billion from more than 110,000 donors. That's incredible.

Last month, President Pines and I met up at the USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM). We joined USMSM Executive Director Eileen Abel and a host of VIPs to cut the ribbon on the SMART Building. It was fantastic to see so many partners gathered together—from academia, industry, and government—and to celebrate the impact this building will have on education access, R&D, and economic growth.

And it was great to join many of you at a different grand opening, this one dedicating the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB's) new Community Engagement Center. Also at UMB, the School of Pharmacy celebrated the next phase of its Pharmapreneurship initiative, endowing a professorship and opening a dedicated space where students, faculty, and staff can work together to develop their pharma-based entrepreneurial ideas.

Just last week, on the day of Dr. Jarrell's formal installation as UMB president, he announced that his childhood friend, Lawrence Hayman, is giving \$18 million to UMB in support of students and health care providers on the Eastern Shore, where the two grew up.

And, of course, no one celebrated the approval of a COVID vaccine for children aged 5–11 more than UMB's School of Medicine, where clinical trials for young children have been ongoing, as

have studies examining booster safety and efficacy. Dr. Kirsten Lyke, PI on the latter study, presented her findings last month to the FDA.

Many of us were together *again* last month at the investiture of Dr. Anthony Jenkins as Coppin's 8th president. In one of his first acts following his formal installation, Dr. Jenkins announced a \$1,200 tuition credit for *all* Coppin students who register for the spring 2022 semester. The credit directly reduces students' tuition and fee balance. And BGE recently announced partnerships with both Coppin State and Bowie State, with each institution receiving \$200,000 to support 15 BGE Scholars—full-time STEM majors from the two local communities.

The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) recently hosted the 9th annual induction ceremony for the Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame, raising nearly \$200,000 for USG scholarships. Since the Hall of Fame was established in 2012, it's raised \$1.5 million in scholarship funding. Additionally, USG recently welcomed members of the Maryland Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee for a tour of the state-of-the-art Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Building.

I want to end my remarks on two items featuring students, since they're the reason we do what we do. First, as you're aware, it's Student Regent nomination season. We know our schools are home to the best and brightest—just look at the two student regents they produced *this* year—so we hope to see a great crop of candidates. The deadline for nominations is the end of this month, Nov. 30, and the governor will make his appointments next spring. I thank all of our vice presidents for student affairs, who've brought such amazing students to our attention.

And finally, I want to introduce you to Julia Mohr, a second-year student right here at Salisbury University. Julia is our fall 2020 Kelly Regent Scholarship award winner, which is a merit award given by the Board of Regents. Julia is a double major, psychology and biology, and she plans to continue her education past her bachelor's degree, pursuing either medical school or a physician assistant program.

Julia is a member of the Student Military Veterans Association. She's an active Army Airborne Reservist stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and so she drives round-trip during the week for her reservist responsibilities. I'll stop you right now from getting out your phones; that's a 6½-hour drive each way. She also works in the Veteran's Affairs Office at Salisbury.

So, with that, I'd like to formally end my own report and ask Julia to come to the podium. Julia?

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