



## Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

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Thank you, Chair Gooden. Let me also thank our host this morning, President Anderson. There's so much happening here at UMES, and I'm thrilled that we're all here to see it first-hand. I know the governor got out ahead of us by a couple of days, but it's only right that UMES is winning so much attention.

Today's remarks—and the written report included in your materials—serve as my Annual Report to the board, my third since becoming chancellor. It's an honor to be able to recap the accomplishments of our institutions and the people who bring them to life. Given that this is a year-in-review, my comments will include recent news, but also some of the biggest achievements our schools have celebrated over the past 12 months.

### 2021–22: A YEAR IN REVIEW

I'll begin with a recap of leadership changes. As Chair Gooden mentioned, Regents Gary Gill and D'Ana Johnson have recently announced their resignations from the board. Meanwhile, the tenure of our student regent Ada Beams concludes at the end of this month. We have resolutions to present today and will have occasion to formally honor these regents for their service later this year.

But for now, let me express my gratitude for their leadership and insight, especially as we confronted some very tough challenges. And I join Chair Gooden in welcoming Farah Helal from UMBC as she begins the first of her two years as student regent on July 1.

The past year also ushered in leadership transitions at our universities. Valerie Sheares Ashby, dean of Duke University's Trinity College of Arts & Sciences, was named the next president of UMBC. I know we're all excited to see how Dr. Sheares Ashby shapes UMBC's next chapter.

Today is our first meeting since Carolyn Ringer Lepre was announced as Salisbury University's next president. Dr. Lepre is interim president of Radford University in Virginia, and has a wealth of experience in academic leadership. I know the search committee, led by Regent Bob Rauch, was struck by how closely Dr. Lepre's values—particularly her commitment to the student-

centered university—reflect those of SU. Her experience, priorities, and collaborative leadership style are a perfect fit for Salisbury. I'm indebted to SU President Chuck Wight for giving Dr. Lepre such a solid foundation on which to build.

This past year saw an incredibly productive legislative session, particularly in terms of our resources. Just last meeting, I shared that our operating budget fully restores the deep cuts we suffered early in the pandemic and provides millions of dollars in new money—for our HBCUs, for the operation of new and renovated facilities, for pay raises that will help us attract and retain the country's most talented faculty and staff. We're particularly grateful for \$20 million allocated in a supplemental budget that will go toward expanding need-based financial aid for our students.

Meanwhile, our capital budget comes in at more than \$500 million, the largest single-year capital appropriation ever for the USM. This funding allows us to expand education and research capacity across Maryland and provide the state-of-the-art facilities that advance innovation and discovery.

I'm grateful to the Hogan administration and the General Assembly for their commitment to the USM and the work we do. I thank Vice Chancellor Patrick Hogan and his team—together with their colleagues throughout the USM—for shepherding us through this critical legislative session.

## A YEAR OF OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Now I'd like to turn to just a few of the many outstanding achievements among our universities. I've chosen some from the past couple of months as well as the past year.

I begin with our host today, the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES)**. As President Anderson shared, it's such an exciting time for the school. Last year, UMES launched its True North partnership with Alaska Airlines to remove the barriers that prevent students of color from entering aviation science. And earlier this year, the program named its first scholarship recipient: aspiring commercial pilot Izaiah Brown.

UMES's PGA Golf Management Program also got a boost. Troon, the world's biggest golf and club management company, announced this spring that it's funding scholarships for students enrolled in the program. The PGA program is unique—it's one of only 18 in the U.S. and the *only* one at an HBCU.

In philanthropy news, the estate of NASA engineer George Miles, who worked at the Wallops Flight Facility, made two hugely generous gifts—\$3.3 million apiece—to UMES and Salisbury, seeding student scholarships and financial aid. And a new NASA-funded precollege summer

institute at UMES will provide local high schoolers research and job-shadowing experience at Wallops.

Just last month, UMES and four fellow HBCUs announced a partnership with Princeton University and the United Negro College Fund to promote research between HBCU faculty and their Princeton counterparts.

**The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)** had a year that proved its leadership in innovation. Last summer, the NSF awarded College Park \$15 million to lead the Mid-Atlantic Innovation Hub, training science and engineering researchers in entrepreneurship so they can advance U.S. global leadership in innovation.

Last fall, UMCP announced a \$20 million partnership with quantum computing startup IonQ to create the National Quantum Lab at Maryland, facilitating quantum research and cementing Maryland as the worldwide hub for quantum innovation. This spring, the university dedicated the E.A. Fernandez IDEA Factory, a \$67 million building designed to foster technology development in quantum engineering, robotics, rotorcraft, and multimedia.

And just last month, the university dedicated the Lt. Richard Collins III Plaza, honoring the life and legacy of the Bowie State student, and serving as a daily repudiation of the bigotry and hate that took his life.

Throughout the past year, **Frostburg State University (FSU)** has prioritized student access and success. FSU began the year announcing enhanced transfer agreements with Allegany College of Maryland and Garrett College, providing for a more seamless transition between the two-year schools and Frostburg, and enhancing communication among the three partners.

Frostburg has also enhanced the college experience for *all* students new to campus. Each first-year student is now assigned a professional university advisor as well as a faculty mentor to help them adjust to campus life.

Frostburg's new accelerated Pharmacy track partnership with UMES allows completion of a PharmD degree in just six years—a BS in Chemistry from FSU and a Doctor of Pharmacy from UMES. To serve adult learners and establish—or reestablish—their relationship with FSU, Frostburg launched a series of Working Professional Certificates in areas like manufacturing leadership and small business and nonprofit management.

And, finally, FSU alumni and friends rallied for Frostburg's first-ever Bobcat Giving Day. More than 1,200 donors gave \$150,000 to FSU in just 24 hours.

The **University of Baltimore (UBalt)** also enjoyed some impressive support last fall as the Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation committed \$2.4 million to support veteran and active military

students. It will enrich the Bob Parsons Veterans Center at UBalt, which offers 300 veteran and military-affiliated students a place to study and socialize.

Earlier this year, UBalt officially launched its Center for Criminal Justice Reform. Made possible by a generous donation from School of Law alumnus Sam Rose, the center aims to fix a broken criminal justice system burdened by mass incarceration, inequitable prosecution, juvenile justice failures, and rising violence. Last December, UBalt celebrated the first graduate of its Second Chance College Program: James Ruffin III began his college career at the Jessup Correctional Facility and ended it five years later on the Lyric Opera House stage with a degree in Human Services Administration.

And finally, this summer, UBalt will welcome 10th and 11th graders from Baltimore City to its Space Tech Camp, focused on augmented reality. The camp is supported by NASA's Minority University Research and Education Project.

**Bowie State University** (BSU) began the year cutting the ribbon on its \$42 million Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community, creating an environment that stimulates innovation and collaboration.

Not long after that, 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 informatics and technology. BSU also launched its largest-ever fundraising campaign, BSU Bold.

Earlier this year, BSU junior Paige Blake was appointed to President Biden's Board of Advisors on HBCUs. She's one of only 18 members, joining some of the nation's best known Black leaders in business, academia, and entertainment.

Last month, BSU broke ground on its Martin Luther King Jr Communications Arts and Humanities Building. And, finally, I know we were all glued to the TV last Sunday to watch Myles Frost—the pride of Bowie State—win a Tony Award for his portrayal of Michael Jackson in *MJ: The Musical*. It was Frost's Broadway debut, and his win made history: He's the youngest solo performer ever to clinch Best Actor!

Apparently, the USM is *brimming* with musical talent. **Salisbury University** (SU) alumnus Jay Copeland made it all the way to the final seven contestants on *American Idol*.

SU began the academic year with a new brand initiative—Make Tomorrow Yours—that distills Salisbury's commitment to cultivating opportunity for students, and ensuring they're "seen, heard, and celebrated." The brand campaign was supported with the opening of the Dave and Patsy Rommel Center for Entrepreneurship at SU Downtown, providing space and resources for student entrepreneurs.

Earlier this year, SU celebrated its incredible Fulbright success as one of just five institutions nationwide recognized as a top producer of both Fulbright students *and* scholars. In the 2022–23 round of awards, a record nine SU students and alums were named Fulbright winners.

And earlier this month, in a well-deserved tribute, SU’s Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion was renamed the Charles A. Wight Multicultural Center for Equity, Justice and Inclusion. It’s a fitting tribute to President Wight, given the emphasis he’s placed on making sure that *every* student at Salisbury feels welcome, respected, and valued.

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** (UMBC) can also reflect on a year of enormous success. Last fall, UMBC celebrated a NASA award of \$72 million for the new Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research center, a national consortium led by UMBC focused on earth and atmospheric science.

And this spring, UMBC received the largest gift in its history—\$21 million from the Sherman Family Foundation—to launch the Betsy & George Sherman Center, expanding UMBC’s work in early childhood and urban education. The goal is to create a national model for advancing excellence in city schools.

Capping decades of tireless work by faculty and administrators, UMBC recently earned Research 1 status, the Carnegie Classification’s highest level of research performance. And then—in a remarkable nod to President Hrabowski’s leadership in STEM equity—the Howard Hughes Medical Institute announced the \$1.5 billion Freeman Hrabowski Scholars program to diversify the U.S. biomedical workforce. I can’t imagine a more fitting legacy.

Last fall, at **Coppin State University** (CSU), BGE announced a commitment of \$200,000 to support BGE Scholars—full-time STEM majors from Maryland who demonstrate financial need. The program also includes internships, mentoring, and job-shadowing. And earlier this year, Complete College America selected CSU as one of six HBCUs nationwide to take part in its \$2.5 million Digital Learning Infrastructure project, which will build an integrated framework for digital learning at HBCUs—one that improves student outcomes.

This spring, CSU announced a partnership with the Charles Schwab Foundation and Advisor Services—accompanied by the single largest gift in CSU history—to position the university as a major hub for financial education and financial services, and educate the next generation of Black certified financial analysts and planners.

And this past month, I was thrilled to join a groundbreaking ceremony for the KEYS Community Healing Village, funded in part by more than \$1 million secured by CSU. When the center opens in 2024, faculty and students will provide neighbors with mental health services, financial literacy workshops, and wellness resources.

The **University of Maryland Global Campus** (UMGC) spent another year growing its partnerships and its reputation around the world. The year began with a new five-year contract with the U.S. Department of Defense to educate our troops on military installations overseas. UMGC added academic partnerships with community colleges in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, and California. The university also initiated and expanded industry partnerships with the online learning company Springboard, upskilling platform Guild Education, ed-tech company VictoryXR, and Amazon.

In terms of rankings, *Military Times* named UMGC the top employer for veterans among all U.S. education institutions, and *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* ranked UMGC No. 1 in conferring IT master's degrees to minority students.

And just last month, UMGC teamed up with the Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council to launch the Minority Business Pandemic Recovery Academy, a six-week executive education program to help CEOs and companies of color cultivate business resilience and growth in a post-pandemic economy.

Last fall, the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science** (UMCES) won national news coverage when researchers mapped the DNA of a blue crab for the first time ever. Cracking the genomic code—deceptively complex, given that the blue crab has more genes than a human being—is essential to discovering which genes are best for reproduction and resilience.

Earlier this year, UMCES announced an expansive partnership with Baltimore-based US Wind. With \$11 million over eight years, UMCES will execute three research projects aimed at understanding the potential effects of offshore wind development on marine mammals, fish, and birds.

And, fulfilling its role as Maryland's leader in environmental restoration and protection, UMCES just released its annual report card on the health of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The Bay earned a grade of C, and the watershed improved slightly this year to C+. UMCES has begun including social and economic indicators in its report card to show how environmental health is linked to wellness, prosperity, and quality of life in Bay-adjacent communities.

Our regional higher education centers continue to innovate how they meet the needs of their learners *and* local employers. Earlier this year, the **Universities at Shady Grove** (USG) launched its 10-year strategic plan, USG 2.0. It's an ambitious plan, emphasizing access, opportunity, and student success. And just a few days ago, USG announced a new partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College. The READY Institute will drive the development of data-informed pathway programs that prepare students—from the earliest grades—for college success and, ultimately, for high-demand jobs. It promises a model for strengthening the P20 pipeline and demonstrably improving learner outcomes.

Last month, I visited the **USM at Hagerstown** (USMH), talking with its Board of Advisors—and with faculty, staff, employers, education and community partners—about what USMH has accomplished and how the center is preparing to meet future challenges. It was great to spend the day hearing from those who know the students and the region best, and understand how to innovate what they offer.

Similarly, it was great to meet with leadership at the **USM at Southern Maryland**, both earlier this month and last fall when we celebrated the grand opening of the SMART Building. I wasn't the only person making the trip down to Southern Maryland. Just about a week before my last visit, House Speaker Steny Hoyer and Sen. Ben Cardin got a look at some of the groundbreaking research the SMART building is designed to advance. I know they were as impressed as I was.

**Towson University** (TU) had a remarkable year. Last fall—a few months after its Science Complex opened—TU broke ground on a six-story, \$175 million College of Health Professions building. When the new facility opens in summer 2024, it will solidify TU's leadership as the largest provider of health professionals in Maryland and its role as an anchor institution for greater Baltimore and for the state.

Towson is also establishing itself as a national leader in cybersecurity. Last fall, TU won a \$2.2 million grant from the NSA to lead a task force dedicated to cataloging and improving U.S. cybersecurity curricula. Earlier this year, the university launched an interdisciplinary cybersecurity center and appointed its very first endowed professor of cybersecurity.

Towson celebrated a record four students and alums chosen as Fulbright winners. And just last month, in a pivotal and very proud moment, TU held its first-ever doctoral hooding ceremony, celebrating 55 students from six doctoral programs—in audiology, IT, instructional technology, and occupational science and therapy.

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore** (UMB) began the year with a dedication ceremony for its new Community Engagement Center. The center proves the enormous power of universities as anchor institutions—the opportunity we have to use our influence, assets, and expertise in service of our communities.

Of course, UMB is engaged throughout the state. On the day of Bruce Jarrell's formal installation as UMB president, his childhood friend Lawrence Hayman announced an \$18 million gift to support students and health care providers on Maryland's Eastern Shore, where the two men grew up.

Reaching beyond the state, researchers at UMB's School of Medicine won a \$5.5 million NIH grant to prepare the next generation of global health scientists. Their colleagues in UMB's School of Dentistry won \$5.3 million from NIH and the Department of Defense to study a new way to treat and prevent migraines. And the Maryland Poison Center in UMB's School of

Pharmacy celebrated 50 years providing life-saving triage, treatment, and prevention services to Maryland citizens and health providers. The center handled 37,000 exposure cases last year alone.

And last month, UMB hosted a very special graduation ceremony. The inaugural class of UMB CURE Scholars—17 high schoolers from West Baltimore—are making history as they head to college this fall. I should note that two of them are coming right here to UMES. President Anderson, please take good care of them.

## SYSTEMWIDE SUCCESS

Pulling back a little, I want to emphasize that it's been an extraordinary year for the System as a whole: Our institutions are nationally acclaimed, all of them ranked in the most-cited publications. We earned strong support in Annapolis. We maintained our outstanding bond rating. Our universities are more diverse than ever before. We continue to keep our tuition affordable and our quality excellent.

We're a research powerhouse. In fact, the NSF just ranked the combined research enterprise of UMB and College Park in the top 10 among U.S. public universities—and the top 20 among *all* U.S. universities. We continue to translate that research into pathbreaking products, innovations, and companies. And we make money for Maryland. The USM generated more than \$10 billion in economic impact last fiscal year and supported nearly 58,000 Maryland jobs. For every dollar the state invests in the System, we return nearly \$3 to Maryland's people, families, and communities.

Most importantly, we're graduating exceptionally well-educated students, prepared for citizenship, leadership, and professional success. And that's why I say that the future of Maryland is inextricably linked to the future of the University System.

## VISION 2030: FROM EXCELLENCE TO PREEMINENCE

And it's in looking to that future that I turn now to our strategic plan. In a moment, Vice Chancellor Ellen Herbst will discuss that plan, *Vision 2030*. And I won't steal her thunder.

But I will talk briefly about why it's so important. You all know as well as I that higher education is at an inflection point. We're facing pressures on enrollment, exacerbated by the pandemic. We're facing disruption within the sector—from technology, from for-profit and not-for-profit companies. Expectations are changing among students about the very nature of learning and work—where it happens, and when, and how. And as college costs escalate and student debt balloons, certainly there's growing skepticism about the value of a degree.



What these existential challenges require of us isn't window dressing. It isn't a tweaking of our business model. These challenges require a fundamental shift in what we do and how we do it. And I'll tell you where this shift needs to happen.

Historically, the System's work has been centered on our institutions and our processes. Now, we're going to center that work on our students. In the past, we've been focused on degree output. Now, we're focused on learner outcomes. Where we've been siloed, we must be collaborative. Where our innovation has been institution-bound, it must be scaled. Where our impact has been local, it must be global. And this is key: Where we've been excellent—and we *have* been excellent—we must be preeminent.

You've likely read this line in the executive summary: *Vision 2030* is—by intention and design—more than a plan to sustain what has been. It is a promise to transform what will be.

*That* is our promise; *that's my* promise. It's my promise to our students and to our state. And I'm excited to get started.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report. Thank you.

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