



Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

September 16, 2022

Thank you, Chair Gooden. I join you in welcoming our new board members, and I thank them for their willingness to serve the students and the state of Maryland. I add my congratulations to Gary Attman, our new vice chair. I know we'll benefit from his leadership.

My thanks, as well, to my friend and colleague, Dr. Zimpher, for her insights into how systems can better leverage their power to advance higher education's central goals. NASH's important research and consensus-building in this area will continue to guide our work.

I thank President Pines and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) for hosting our meeting today. We've already heard about some of the incredible things happening here, but let me "brag on" our flagship just a little more.

Last month, the NSF placed College Park among the country's top 10 colleges for Black undergraduates who later earn a doctoral degree. There's more: UMCP, ranked eighth overall, is the highest ranked non-HBCU on the list. Congratulations, Darryll. I want to add here that UMBC is #12 on that same list, and Morgan State is #16. And I think we should consider the enormity of the fact that *three* Maryland public universities make the Top 20 on this tremendously important metric. It's extraordinary.

Earlier this summer, College Park formed a consortium of DC-area universities to stem gun violence through research-based recommendations. President Pines said he was launching this effort because universities are a source of change and progress; because we believe in science and data; because gun violence is a public health crisis—full stop. Thank you, Darryll.

The summer also saw UMCP initiate a strategic partnership with Microsoft focused on diversifying robotics and autonomy, countering a downturn in diversity among incoming students, which threatens our innovation capacity.

And UMCP continues to expand its footprint as the "Capital of Quantum" with new partnerships and initiatives.

I'll have more to share on our host institution later in my report, but for now I congratulate the College Park family on these accomplishments. It's little wonder Darryll was named one of *The Daily Record's* most Influential Marylanders.

I also congratulate our USM Staff Award winners, whom we honored this morning. These women—yes, all women—embody the excellence of our System, and I'm so grateful for their work.

More congratulations are due to our new Elkins Professors:

- **Dr. Paz Galupo** at Towson University (TU), whose work examines the legal and cultural factors that affect the health care experiences of transgender and nonbinary Marylanders, and lead to disparities that threaten their health.
- **Dr. Heather Congdon** from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), who will collaborate with the Kirwan Center on a digital badging initiative to scale targeted interprofessional education strategies that strengthen Maryland's health care workforce.
- **Dr. Karen Cook-Bell** from Bowie State University (BSU), who will establish the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for the Study of the Black Experience—integrated with BSU's Thurgood Marshall Library—to encourage and disseminate research in African, African American, and African Diaspora studies.
- And **Dr. Barbara Resnick** from UMB who will help develop a replicable model for implementing national guidelines on pain management for residents of long-term care facilities. The guidelines will improve pain assessment, diagnosis, and most importantly, relief.

Congratulations to you all. And congratulations, too, to our outgoing Elkins Professors: Dr. Radi Masri at UMB; Dr. Lora Harris at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES); and Dr. Don DeVoe, right here at College Park.

NEW LEADERSHIP

I want to officially welcome some new members of my leadership team. This month, Dr. Michele Masucci joined the USM as vice chancellor for research and economic development. Dr. Masucci comes to us from Temple University, where she was vice president for research, and where she oversaw the seventh-fastest growing R&D enterprise in U.S. higher education. You know our strategic plan emphasizes the strengthening of our research power—and deploying that power in two ways: 1) to solve the greatest challenges of our time; and 2) to ensure Maryland's prosperity and economic growth. I can't imagine a better leader to guide us in this work. Welcome, Michele.

I also welcome our own Dave Mosca to my executive team as vice chancellor for accountability. Dave has long served as director of Internal Audit. He still does. But his *new* seat at the

leadership table reminds us that—with every decision we make and every action we take—we owe our constituents our good faith and transparency.

Of course, we have new leaders across the USM.

At Salisbury University (SU), Dr. Lyn Lepre has begun her service as president. In an interview with *The Daily Record*, Dr. Lepre expressed her wish to see SU recognized not as a “hidden gem”—but simply a gem. I couldn’t agree more.

Meanwhile, Dr. Valerie Sheares Ashby has taken over the presidency of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Before her first month was finished, the school was profiled in *U.S. News & World Report* as “an oasis of opportunity and support for female scholars” in STEM. A great way to start.

In western Maryland, Mark Halsey has retired after more than a decade of leadership at the USM at Hagerstown (USMH). Dr. Larry Weill has been named interim executive director, with a national search for Mark’s successor to be conducted this fall. I know Dr. Weill is committed to Mark’s legacy of expanding education access across the region and serving the learners of his community. Thank you, Larry.

And finally, I’m delighted that Anupam Joshi, chair of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering at UMBC, is one of 46 scholars to be named a fellow of the American Council on Education. He’ll spend his fellowship shadowing me and UMB President Bruce Jarrell, and I’m confident that President Jarrell and I will learn as much from Dr. Joshi as he will from us. What an honor.

ENDORSEMENTS OF OUR EXCELLENCE

Just this week, *U.S. News and World Report* released its annual undergraduate rankings. And while we acknowledge that we do *not* measure our worth by our rankings—that rankings do not fully represent or reflect our excellence—it certainly *is* nice when they endorse what we do, day in and day out, across this great state.

U.S. News ranked College Park 19th among all U.S. public universities and 22nd in undergrad engineering programs. Several of its programs made the top 10, including Management Information Systems and Cybersecurity.

UMBC was ranked 9th in the publication’s rankings for undergraduate teaching and 10th for most innovative schools. Meanwhile, the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) clinched the 16th spot for innovative schools.

At UMB, the School of Nursing’s BSN program ranked 9th in the nation—3rd among publics.

In the rankings of Regional Public Universities in the North, Frostburg State University (FSU) made the top 40; the University of Baltimore (UBalt), the top 30; Salisbury, the top 20; and Towson, the top 10. In HBCU rankings, all three of our historically Black institutions made the U.S. top 40, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Bowie State University broke the top 20.

U.S. News hasn't quite cornered the market in rankings. *Forbes'* Top Colleges list measures affordability, quality, graduation success, and post-grad earnings. The magazine recognized UMBC, Towson, Salisbury, and UBalt. It gave College Park a top 40 ranking.

The Princeton Review lists three USM schools among its best: Salisbury, UMBC, and College Park. *Washington Monthly*—which measures quality by social mobility, public service, and research—includes every eligible USM school in its best-value list for the Northeast.

In a series of rankings from the *Military Times*, UMGC won the #1 spot for Top Online Colleges, #4 for Top Public Colleges, and #5 for Top Colleges Overall. These are the publication's "Best for Vets" rankings, and I know they mean the world to UMGC. Congratulations, Greg.

Last one, I promise: A new report from the National Academy of Inventors ranks our University System 20th in the *world* for patents awarded in 2021. Among public institutions, we're #10. These are the highest rankings we've ever earned. Taken together, the USM's faculty, staff, and students converted their ideas and innovations into 98 patents last year; College Park led the way with 65. Congratulations to all of you.

ACADEMIC & PHYSICAL GROWTH

Higher ed's reputation for slowing down in the summer is belied by the news coming out of our universities. Just look at how our schools are expanding their physical *and* academic footprints.

Here's a project that showcases both: With support from the Maryland Energy Administration, Frostburg will install a clean-energy microgrid on campus. The microgrid will power a community emergency shelter, mitigate the impact of power outages, and meet Frostburg's sustainability goals. Plus, working with the area's two-year colleges, FSU will develop a renewable energy training certificate program.

This semester, UMGC took its first step into the metaverse. Students are donning VR headsets to attend class on a virtual campus modeled after UMGC's *actual* one. Back here on earth, UMGC has forged alliances with community colleges in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Illinois, and Colorado to help students earn a four-year degree as efficiently—and affordably—as possible.

UBalt has issued a request for proposals seeking ideas as it expands its campus. Converting a former postal facility into a mixed-use, student-centered development will grow UBalt's

footprint by 2½ acres, while adding to a thriving city center. UBalt also established an accelerated pathway for students at the multicampus Community College of Baltimore County, providing them dual-admission status *and* giving them access to UBalt’s academic advising.

Bowie State is growing its cyber and analytics portfolios, offering students new undergrad programs in cyber operations engineering, data science, and software engineering. Towson is adding a BS in Fitness and Wellness Leadership; Salisbury is adding undergrad degrees in health science; and Coppin is expanding access by offering its BS in Early Childhood Education and Human Development online.

Frostburg is expanding its nursing program with a new BSN and a pathway for licensed practical nurses to earn it. Working with industry and government partners, UMES is developing an FAA-certified curriculum in aviation maintenance training.

And moving from programs to people, UMBC welcomed its largest-ever incoming class this fall, with 2,100+ new first-year students, and record-setting graduate and international students.

GIFTS, GRANTS & PARTNERSHIPS

We’ve had extraordinary success with gifts, grants, and partnerships.

This week, College Park announced a \$25 million commitment from alumnus Stanley Zupnik that will seed a new building for students in the Clark School. His named building will be the new home of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and will include Mechanical Engineering, the Quantum Technology Center, and the Maryland Transportation Institute. It will feature collaboration space for institutional and business partners, interdisciplinary research labs, and instructional labs.

Salisbury’s three-year “We Are SU” campaign came to an end this summer, surpassing its \$75 million goal and becoming the most successful campaign in SU history. Frostburg’s “Forging Futures” campaign was *also* history making. The one-year fundraising effort netted nearly \$4 million.

As part of a U.S. Department of Education program to diversify the teacher workforce, Coppin State and Frostburg State won funding to recruit, develop, and retain a strong, diverse teacher corps. Both schools earned the maximum reviewer points possible on their applications, a testament to their track record in teacher diversity. The awards are expected to net millions of dollars for each school over several years, and Coppin was one of only three HBCUs in the country to receive funding.

Another U.S. Department of Ed program, Upward Bound, will funnel money to UMES, Frostburg, and UMBC. They'll share in \$3.8 million awarded to Maryland colleges to help students from underrepresented groups enter and complete degree programs.

The School of Medicine at UMB announced a \$1 million gift from Maurice Reid, CEO of ExpressCare, bringing his total giving to \$2.2 million. The gift will be used to renovate the gross anatomy laboratories and modernize the teaching environment for medical students.

Coppin landed a \$50,000 gift from Northwestern Mutual to launch an insurance learning lab through its College of Business. The partnership will help diversify the financial services and insurance industries, and expand career opportunities for students.

UMES is one of five HBCUs sharing \$1 million in health innovation and research grants from the Propel Center—a global HBCU technology and learning hub. UMES's share—\$200,000—will support student research and innovation opportunities.

MHEC announced \$4.1 million in grants to grow the number of nursing students in Maryland, targeting an acute workforce need. Coppin, Salisbury, Towson, and UMGC all received money through the grant.

UMBC won two huge NSF grants: \$13 million over five years to lead a climate-focused data science institute; and \$10 million to grow the number of postdocs of color in the STEM disciplines. With the latter grant, UMBC will scale the USM's incredibly successful grow-your-own approach to faculty diversity, helping three U.S. higher ed systems—the University of Texas system; the Texas A&M system; and the UNC system—tackle underrepresentation in the professoriate.

Bowie State is one of seven historically Black institutions nationwide selected for the inaugural cohort of the HBCU Pre-Accelerator Program, which will help BSU students grow as innovators, develop a business leader mindset, and access resources needed to build sustainable businesses.

INDIVIDUAL EXCELLENCE

Our institutions and our people continue to be singled out for their excellence.

Last week, the world's premier geosciences organization, the American Geophysical Union, recognized scholars across the globe for advancing discovery and solutions in Earth and space sciences. Three of the awardees call the USM home: Jing Wei of College Park, Lorraine Remer of UMBC, and Xin Zhang of UMCES.

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine profiled Towson University's remarkable success in closing the graduation gap. At Towson, Black students graduate at a rate *higher* than the overall completion rate, and there's no difference in the graduation rates of white and Black students. The *INSIGHT* piece holds TU up as a model, highlighting the programs that enable this success.

TU was one of only two area universities to make Campus Pride's "Best of the Best" list for colleges friendly to LGBTQ+ students, earning a full five stars. And Towson's entrepreneurship and innovation hub—The StarTUp—was named one of North America's top university-based economic development initiatives, as judged by peer schools. StarTUp is a finalist in the University Economic Development Association's Awards of Excellence, recognized for linking with partners to deploy talent, innovation, and place in ways that enrich the community.

A team of Coppin State faculty and staff won the Anthology + Blackboard Catalyst Award for using technology to innovate recruitment and retention—for instance, artificially intelligent "nudges" and personalized messaging that keep student on track to complete key tasks.

UBalt professor Jennifer Keohane shared the 2022 Outstanding Article Award from the National Communications Association's Communication and Military Division. She coauthored the 2020 article, "Soldiers and Scholars: Evaluating Female Engagement Teams in the War in Afghanistan."

OUTREACH, INCLUSION & JUSTICE

Finally, our institutions have distinguished themselves through deep engagement with their communities and a commitment to social, environmental, and economic inclusion and justice.

I noted toward the top of my comments College Park's new effort to address gun violence. Well, last week, UMB announced its Center for Violence Prevention, launched with a \$2 million gift from Betsy Sherman and the Sherman Family Foundation. The center will coordinate the research and clinical field activities of the schools of medicine, law, and social work, together with the renowned R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center, where so many victims of gun violence end up. Working together, they'll explore the causes of violence and advocate for anti-violence programs and policies.

In a first-of-its-kind program, Coppin State placed students and recent graduates into 10-week paid internships with the Baltimore City Police Department this summer. The program—funded by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott—is intended to diversify law enforcement, seed ideas for repairing officers' relationships with the communities they police, and strengthen mutual trust.

Right here at College Park, the Center for Educational Innovation and Improvement began tackling the problem of summer learning loss, exacerbated by the pandemic, especially for low-income preK–12 students and students of color.

Last month, Gov. Hogan led a ceremonial oyster planting to mark a major milestone: 10 billion oysters planted in the Chesapeake Bay—all of them born and raised at UMCES's Horn Point Oyster Hatchery—a key tool in restoring Bay health.

Last week, Bowie State screened two PBS documentaries it's sponsoring—the first HBCU ever to do so. The films explore the lives and legacies of two iconic Marylanders: Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. I know you'll want to tune in to MPT on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 for these masterful pieces of storytelling.

The USM at Southern Maryland hosted a free summer program at its SMART building, connecting local high school students interested in STEM with classroom and experiential learning in engineering and math.

With \$65,000 from NASA's Office of STEM Engagement, UMES hosted a two-week pre-college summer program, giving students—many from underrepresented groups—exposure to academic and career paths in STEM.

At UMB, the School of Medicine welcomed eight students from universities across the country to a new 11-week paid internship, created to help diversify the biomedical sciences. The students spent the summer in the lab, working with mentors, and conducting research.

The Universities at Shady Grove joined with Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College to launch the Talent Ready program to grow four-year degree attainment and professional success among students historically underrepresented in IT courses and careers.

And on that note, I need to celebrate the System's own Maryland Center for Computing Education. At this month's CSEdCon, a global computing education conference, Maryland will be singled out for making computer science available to nearly every high school student in the state. Only three states can boast that more than nine in 10 of their high schools offer computer science courses, and Maryland leads the nation. It's a tribute to the work of MCCE and our Office of Academic and Student Affairs.

And to close out, I just want to say I don't know if you all saw that fastball strike that President Jenkins threw out at the O's game a couple of weeks ago, but it was pretty impressive. Too bad higher ed's working out so well for him, because he's got an arm. Coppin showed up in force for Camden Yards' HBCU Night, where \$5 from every ticket went to support the region's historically Black institutions. A great night for everyone.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report. Thank you.

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