



## Report to the Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay Perman

USM at Southern Maryland | November 11, 2022

Thank you, Madame Chair. I join you in acknowledging our veterans. We're indebted to all those who've served our country, protected our democracy, and defended our ideals. Of course, we're meeting just a few days after Election Day—the greatest test *and* privilege of our American democracy. I extend my warmest congratulations to our new governor, Wes Moore, and to all the leaders chosen to serve the people of Maryland.

I thank Jo Boughman for her presentation. As you heard, streamlining the transfer process will take an extraordinary amount of work. But Dr. Boughman's leadership has already proved indispensable to the state's progress. Thank you, Jo.

And, of course, I thank our hosts this morning, the USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM) and Executive Director Eileen Abel. It's hard to believe it's been only a year since we came together for the opening of this SMART Building and the MATRIX Lab.

As Dr. Abel shared, it's been an incredible 12 months. Researchers and students are exploring autonomous technologies in a state-of-the-art space. Industry leaders, academic leaders, political leaders have visited for tours and presentations. And just last month, the USMSM hosted the annual Southern Maryland Navy Alliance dinner, welcoming U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro as keynote speaker. Eileen, thank you for making this last year so special.

While it's been only two months since we last met, there's no shortage of good news across the System. Let's get to it.

At the USM at Hagerstown (USMH), the search for a new executive director is well underway, though Dr. Larry Weill continues to ably serve as interim leader. Thank you, Larry. And we're less than a month away from the 2022 Feaste & Frolic Scholarship Fundraiser at USMH on Dec. 2. Larry, I wish you great fun—and generous donors.

In another special yearly event, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) hosted the 10th annual Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony last month. Over the years, this event has raised \$1.6 million for scholarships at USG, benefitting more than 1,100 students. Thank you, Anne.

Just yesterday, I was delighted to be a few miles south of USG in North Bethesda, as Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich announced an MOU among the county, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) to establish the Institute for Intelligent and Immersive Computing. This is a huge undertaking to join our research in AI, machine learning, and virtual and augmented reality, and apply that knowledge to revolutionize human health and well-being.

You'll hear a lot more about this project, but I wanted to bring it up today in the context of USG because a key piece of the agreement pertains to the opportunities the institute will offer our students at Shady Grove—opportunities in hands-on training, internships, fellowships, job placement. It's an exciting way to grow our presence in Montgomery County, exploit our proximity to federal labs and agencies, leverage our research, and position our students for leadership in these emerging fields.

The institute isn't the only big news coming out of UMCP. Last month, President Pines announced that the university will make its largest-ever single-year commitment to need-based aid for resident students. The Terrapin Commitment will invest up to \$20 million each year toward closing the gap between the cost of education and a student's financial aid package, and completely cover tuition and fees for in-state Pell-eligible students. Darryll, thank you for your leadership in this. It's a Systemwide priority, and your commitment is an inspiration.

With half-a-million dollars from the NSF, College Park is leading a study to examine how the inherent tension between religion and science influences Black students' pathways in STEM. And the university recently dedicated buildings to two of its trailblazers: Hiram Whittle, the first African American man admitted to the university (1951) and Elaine Johnson Coates, the first Black woman to graduate (1959).

Towson University also celebrated Black pioneers, renaming two of its residence halls in honor of Marvis Barnes and Myra Harris, TU's first Black graduates. Both graduated in 1959 and enjoyed successful careers in Maryland public schools. In addition, TU celebrated its HEED award for excellence in diversity and inclusion for the *third* consecutive year.

In twin awards, TU has been recognized for its leadership in economic development. StarTUP at the Armory—Towson's business engagement center—was named North America's *top* economic development initiative at a summit hosted by the University Economic Development Association. And this week in Colorado, the Association of Public Land-grant Universities announced that Towson won its Innovation and Economic Prosperity designation for its work in growing economic engagement and impact. I know how much work you and your team have put into this, Kim. Congratulations.

And in the run-up to the election, TU was highlighted as a leader for engaged college students. With more than 85 percent of students registered to vote, Towson ranks among America's top colleges for civic participation.

The University of Baltimore (UBalt) also geared up for Election Day, with student leaders offering information, resources, and an Election Day Bash. UBalt is acclaimed for its voter engagement—recognized by *Washington Monthly*, by the All In Campus Democracy Challenge, and in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement.

UBalt has been riding a wave of international publicity, after its Innocence Project—led by defense attorney Erica Suter—secured the release of Adnan Syed, whose 1999 conviction was the subject of the Serial podcast. And, in fact, Mr. Syed's first public appearance following his release from prison was at UBalt, where he detailed the procedural history of his case for the university's Innocence Project students. Kurt, I'm so glad UBalt's pioneering work in criminal justice—and criminal justice reform—is being recognized.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is seeing its star rise on the national stage. Just last week, UMES became the first HBCU selected for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Driving Change Initiative, intended to create culture change at research universities so that undergraduates from all backgrounds—particularly those historically excluded—excel in STEM. UMES is using the grant—\$2.5 million over five years—to create STEM STARS, an immersive living-learning community for students. This is a *very* big deal. Heidi, congratulations.

Next month, UMES will graduate its first class of physician assistants, helping fill primary care provider shortages across the country. And with UMES boasting its highest enrollment since 2015, bucking national trends, President Anderson has shared her insights about HBCU growth from the pages of *The Business Journals* to those of *Forbes* magazine.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) President Valerie Sheares Ashby has taken the spotlight as well. She was named the 2022 Technologist of the Year by *Women of Color* magazine. In an extensive interview with *Times Higher Education*, she eloquently made the case that research excellence cannot exist without research inclusion. President Ashby was one of three women profiled by the *Baltimore Sun* in a piece on shattering the glass ceiling. And earlier this month, she took part in a *Washington Post Live* conversation about building a diverse STEM workforce.

Operationalizing this commitment to diversity, UMBC and the School of Medicine at UMB have won a five-year, \$13.7 million NIH grant to better recruit and train junior faculty from groups underrepresented in biomedical science. In addition, UMBC was the nation's only R1 university to be recognized as a top institution in *every* category measured in *ModernThink's* Great Colleges to Work For program. Those categories range from well-being and shared governance

to mission and pride. What an incredible endorsement of UMBC's culture. Congratulations, Valerie.

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) continues to expand its reach and impact. This fall, UMGC announced a new transfer alliance with the Des Moines Area Community College, whose six campuses educate more than 23,000 students. And in January, UMGC takes its education out of this world, offering in-person classes at Patrick Space Force Base in Florida, marking the university's first contract to teach at a Space Force installation.

Additionally, Dr. Malou Harrison, executive vice president and provost at Miami Dade College, has joined UMGC as an ACE Fellow this year, immersing herself in UMGC's culture, decision-making, and leadership. I know she'll have a lot to learn from you, Greg. Congratulations.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) is spearheading *two* groundbreaking initiatives: A \$7.5 million grant from NOAA will help UMCES establish the U.S. Harmful Algal Bloom Control Technology Incubator, a first-of-its-kind center to solicit, fund, develop, and commercialize technologies that control these blooms. In addition, UMCES researchers have released the first-ever study quantifying cropland phosphorus use around the world, which will help countries and regions evaluate their performance in addressing phosphorus pollution and guide action for greater sustainability. Peter, this is such important work. Thank you for your leadership.

Coppin State University (CSU) is leading efforts to fill Maryland's nursing and teacher shortages *and* bring more diversity to the fields. An MHEC grant will help Coppin modernize nursing preparation by introducing new online learning tools, putting more Coppin-trained nurses on the path to licensure. And a \$4.1 million Teacher Quality Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Education supports Coppin's Pathways to Professions initiative, designed to increase teacher diversity and boost student success in high-need urban and rural schools across Maryland. Thank you, Anthony.

Frostburg State University (FSU) is celebrating the success of its Forging Futures campaign. The campaign—the largest in FSU's history—has raised \$18.5 million toward its \$25 million goal. Its tri-part focus is to propel the success of FSU students, the university, and the region. I saw some of this effort firsthand recently.

I joined President Nowaczyk, Gov. Larry Hogan, and federal leaders at FSU for the announcement of the Appalachian Regional Commission grants, which included significant funding to improve broadband access in Western Maryland. A few weeks before that, I met with leaders from FSU's College of Education and with several school superintendents to learn more about the genuinely pioneering programs and partnerships they're building to tackle the teacher shortage across the entire region and develop a diverse educator corps. Ron, it's been so great to see Frostburg's innovation in these areas.

In between those two visits to FSU, I joined UMB as its BioPark broke ground on its newest building, 4MLK. The eight-story tower on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard is the first phase of a \$320 million project planned at the West Baltimore site. The building will provide critical wet lab space in the city's downtown—a shortage that's hampered research and economic growth. The UMB BioPark also celebrated the opening of the BD Innovation Center, a state-of-the-art facility giving students and researchers access to new lab space and advanced diagnostic tools. Bruce, congratulations on this growth. It's important to UMB and to Baltimore.

UMB also received significant grants recently. The Institute of Human Virology (IHV) has won \$7.5 million from the National Institutes of Health to control cancer among people living with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, where IHV has decades of deep experience containing and treating disease. In addition, NIH has awarded \$1.1 million to UMB's schools of pharmacy and medicine to create a training program that produces a more diverse biomedical workforce.

At Salisbury University (SU), a \$2.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will allow students in SU's Fraud and Forensic Accounting program to work alongside the State's Attorney's Office to fight elder financial fraud and high-tech fraud. The program is the only one of its kind in the nation. Also at SU, Dr. Laura Marinaro of the Health Services Department received the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Diploma in Sports Nutrition, one of the IOC's highest honors. And the *Princeton Review* ranked SU among the country's Top 50 Green Colleges. Salisbury was the highest ranked of four USM schools; Towson, UMBC, and College Park were also recognized. Lyn, congratulations.

Bowie State University (BSU) has announced so many new partnerships in recent weeks that I can barely keep track. BSU is one of 20 HBCUs working with IBM to establish Cybersecurity Leadership Centers that will build a more diverse U.S. cyber workforce. It's part of Adobe's HBCU Ignite Scholarship program, fueling innovation and improving access and opportunity for underrepresented students.

BSU is one of four HBCUs sharing \$2 million from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation to expand student entrepreneurship. And through the Maryland State Board of Education's Maryland Leads grant, 40 paraeducators and aides from Anne Arundel County Public Schools will be able to pursue degrees as certified special education and elementary school teachers at Bowie State. I'll note here that the number of students enrolled in undergrad education programs at BSU has climbed nearly 50 percent since 2018, filling critical classroom shortages.

It's no wonder President Aminta Breaux has become a mainstay in the *Washington Business Journal*, profiled in September for BSU's climbing endowment and again in October for its growing academic portfolio. Congratulations, Aminta.

One final observation: At our September meeting, I took a few minutes to celebrate the excellence of our USM universities, as reflected in a host of national rankings. Now, for those

who think our excellence must come at a steep cost, I point you to the newly released *2022 Trends in College Pricing*, put out by the College Board. It breaks down cost of attendance, state by state.

For in-state students attending a Maryland public university, average tuition and fees come to \$10,560, just *below* the national average. This in-state cost puts Maryland right in the middle—25th most expensive—among all 50 states. That’s far better than our neighbors—Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware—whose tuition and fees for resident students are much higher than Maryland’s.

Here’s an even better affordability metric: Just about half of all USM undergraduates complete their degree without any tuition debt whatsoever. That’s because we’ve put a premium on financial aid. Together, our universities awarded \$180 million in aid last year to nearly 45,000 students with financial need. In less than a decade, the amount of university money distributed annually in aid has grown by 50 percent, as has the number of students receiving it. That trend line is by design. We’ve committed to growing need-based aid so that lower income students will be held harmless by tuition increases.

Our affordability is the result of relentless attention and effort from our leaders, across the System and the state. It is a pledge we’ve made to our students and to their families, and it’s a pledge we’ve kept. That makes me very proud.

Now I’m going to cede the podium to Regent Bill Wood, who is—with Regent Hur—leading a Systemwide effort on prison education. He has a very brief update to deliver. Before he does, I want to note that last month, Regent Wood and I joined UBalt President Kurt Schmoke, together with his faculty and staff, at a reception honoring UBalt’s Second Chance College Program, which provides a degree pathway to inmates at Jessup Correctional Institution and continues post-release. It was this program that stimulated my interest in doing *more* in the prison education space—doing more to replicate and scale UBalt’s extraordinary success. And in fact, Bowie State and UMES are now part of the federal Second Chance program.

At last month’s UBalt reception, we were joined by several students currently enrolled in the degree program and by its first-ever graduate, James Ruffin. It was an inspiring evening—deeply touching—and so singularly in keeping with our mission: to serve the public good. I look forward to our continued work to grow the opportunities we offer those incarcerated in Maryland prisons.

Regent Wood?

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