



Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

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LEADERSHIP TRANSITIONS

Thank you, Chair Gooden. I'll start my report by thanking Towson University (TU) for hosting us today and by officially welcoming President Mark Ginsberg. Could we give Dr. Ginsberg a round of applause?

I had the pleasure of joining Towson in a welcome reception a couple of days after President Ginsberg arrived. I then returned two days later for a terrific Systemwide symposium on civic education and engagement, featuring Sen. Cardin. In between, Dr. Ginsberg hosted U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona for a dialogue on antisemitism, and he began a listening tour with the TU community to form a compelling, collaborative vision of Towson's future. That future starts now, with national recognitions for inclusive academic excellence and with the largest incoming class in TU history. Congratulations—and welcome, Mark.

Dr. Perreault, we're indebted to you for your service as interim president. Towson's strength has *everything* to do with your consistent, engaged leadership—and your faith in the greatness of this university. Thank you, Melanie.

I have more leadership transitions to acknowledge. As you know, Patrick Hogan, former vice chancellor for government relations, left the USM last month to join Cornerstone Government Affairs. While we're grateful for Patrick's truly invaluable service to the System, we wasted no time finding his successor. Susan Lawrence, director of government affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), will take on the vice chancellorship next month, and we know her long administrative experience in the Maryland Senate and her deep knowledge of the USM will prove a powerful—and beneficial—combination.

I thank Assistant Vice Chancellor Andy Clark for serving in the interim role at a critical time in the legislative calendar, as we approach the 2024 session.

I have one more transition to announce. This week, Tim McDonough, vice chancellor for marketing and communications, shared that he'll leave the USM next month to become senior vice president for strategic partnerships and communication at NACUBO. I thank Tim for his

dedicated service to the System and to our universities, and I wish him the very best in his exciting new role.

I thank Nan Mulqueen, director of executive communications, for taking on the interim vice chancellorship, and Senior Vice Chancellor Ellen Herbst for steering the USM marketing and branding campaign until we find Tim's successor.

THE STRENGTH OF OUR SYSTEM

Now let me pivot to the excellence of our universities. I want to start with a few of our universities *together*, because I think that's when we're at our best. President Biden announced last month that, from a pool of 400 applications, the Greater Baltimore Region has been named one of 31 Federal Tech Hubs. The Baltimore consortium that pursued this designation includes UMB, Coppin State University (CSU), Towson University, and UMBC. And the hub exploits one of the System's particular strengths: artificial intelligence as it intersects with biotechnology, emphasizing personalized medicine and predictive health.

This designation promises billions of dollars in investment—federal and otherwise. It promises to catalyze economic growth, technology innovation, and equitable opportunity. It promises to revolutionize human health and wellness. I thank everyone who worked to bring this opportunity home.

And then we just got *another* win 48 hours ago: The consolidated FBI headquarters are coming to Greenbelt. *We* contributed to this. To lure the agency to Maryland, nearly all of our universities have volunteered their research capabilities in dozens of FBI domains and their capacity to supply and train the FBI workforce.

Seven long years ago, UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) launched a joint terrorism and counterterrorism academy to serve the FBI's intelligence needs. With Bowie State University (BSU), they're ready to stand up an academy for innovation in national security. The System is teeming with National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity: UMBC, Bowie State, College Park, Towson, the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC).

Our massive research centers, our longstanding federal and industry partnerships, our students and workforce that are second-to-none—all of it makes Maryland the perfect place for the FBI headquarters. And that was the pitch we made over and over again. Thank you *all* for making it happen.

I have one more item to share that reflects the strength of our System writ large. While I celebrated in September the excellence of our universities as reflected in national rankings, last week a different kind of ranking came out: the College Board's *Trends in College Pricing*.

Breaking down cost of attendance, it shows that for in-state students attending a Maryland public university, average tuition and fees are right in the middle—25th most expensive—among all 50 states. It puts us below the national average in terms of cost and *far* below our more expensive neighbors—Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware.

We don't always celebrate a rank that places us in the middle of the pack. But we've worked very hard—with our leaders in Annapolis—to reduce our cost of attendance. And this ranking proves it. The fact that we offer an exceptional education at an affordable price—the fact that we're working every day to open access to even more students—makes me very proud.

UNIVERSITY EXCELLENCE

Now, to our individual universities. I was excited to join Coppin State last month as leaders cut the ribbon on their new College of Business. The \$45 million facility—the first new building to open at Coppin since 2015—will be a hub for business education in Baltimore and a catalyst for university growth and community development. As I said at the ribbon-cutting, it's an investment in the next generation of students who will remake not only *how* we do business in America, but *who* does that business.

In addition, CSU announced a \$1 million U.S. Department of Education grant to train teachers to boost reading, math, and social-emotional outcomes for children with disabilities. And honoring its commitment to make an HBCU education affordable for any U.S. student without easy access to a historically Black institution, Coppin inked a transfer agreement with the Colorado Community College System and offered graduating two-year students in-state tuition rates. Congratulations, President Jenkins.

UMD affirmed its status as the Capital of Quantum this fall with the opening of the National Quantum Lab. The world's quantum experts will gather at QLab in the university's Discovery District to build quantum technology with real-world impact.

Speaking of the Discovery District, last month, President Pines announced that the district would annex 22 acres, enabling even more partnerships and progress advancing College Park's R&D enterprise. And speaking of growth, substantial awards from the likes of NASA and the Department of Defense have swelled the university's research portfolio to a record \$834 million, a 23 percent surge over its FY22 high of \$677 million. An incredible feat, President Pines.

The University of Baltimore (UBalt) has launched a multidisciplinary center within its College of Public Affairs to support local and national communities in improving mental health and community health—to prioritize prevention in tackling the underlying, or “upstream,” issues that lead to substance use and behavioral challenges and threaten our collective well-being.

And this fall, UBalt's Second Chance College Program held a commencement ceremony for its students at Jessup—actually *at* Jessup—the first time a graduation ceremony has taken place inside the prison. The coverage was deeply moving. President Schmoke, thank you.

At Bowie State, three new U.S. Department of Education grants totaling \$3.5 million will provide scholarships to future teachers and leaders serving children in special education—children who are increasingly from diverse groups, while the teaching profession itself remains largely white. BSU is also celebrating \$1 million from the Adobe Foundation as part of the foundation's commitment to invest in HBCUs. Adobe's \$3 million investment thus far supports social justice, entrepreneurship, skill building, faculty development, and more.

And BSU's Institute for Restorative Justice and Practices—together with the Judge Alexander Williams Jr. Center at College Park—has been recruited to join the Maryland Equitable Justice Collaborative. Led by the Office of the Attorney General, this collaborative will address the disproportionate incarceration of Black men and other marginalized groups in Maryland prisons. Thank you, President Breaux.

At UMB, Maryland Carey Law launched the Gibson-Banks Center for Race and the Law, providing a critical space for scholarship, engagement, and action on issues of equality and justice, with a focus on systems and institutions.

And UMB's School of Medicine continued its worldwide leadership in xenotransplantation, conducting the second-ever surgery implanting a genetically modified pig's heart into a human patient. The school pioneered the procedure with the first surgery in 2022. Lawrence Faucette, a 58-year old veteran from Frederick, was granted emergency approval by the FDA for the procedure. He lived for nearly six weeks following surgery, and in so doing, may one day be credited with helping to save thousands of people who die each year awaiting transplant organs. Thank you, President Jarrell.

Frostburg State University (FSU) is partnering with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in a program that prepares FSU students to pursue a career in the field, allowing these students to stay in their communities and provide critical care where it's often least accessible.

And the inaugural Bobcat Innovation Launch Pad this fall was a huge success. Partnering with TEDCO, Deloitte, and the USM Launch Fund, Frostburg hosted multidisciplinary teams of 70 students who developed business models and tech solutions to problems in energy generation and climate change, then pitched those solutions to a panel of expert judges. Congratulations, Vice President Delia.

Salisbury University (SU) is playing a key role in a \$28 million Maryland Tutoring Corps grant from the Maryland Department of Education. The university is partnering with Wicomico County Public Schools—one of only three school districts receiving the grant—to improve middle and

high school math proficiency, especially among historically underserved students. As part of the grant, 30 tutors, primarily SU students and retired educators, will provide rigorous intervention and high-dosage tutoring to meet individual growth targets for students struggling in math.

And for the 14th consecutive year, *The Princeton Review*, in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council, has named Salisbury one of the nation's most environmentally responsible colleges. Provost Couch, congratulations.

At our regional centers, the USM at Hagerstown hosted a Washington County Town Hall Series on the opioid overdose crisis, together with the Maryland Opioid Operational Command Center and the Washington County Health Department. Community members and leaders came together to inventory regional needs and map a plan for addressing them. Thank you for this critical advocacy, Dr. Ashby.

Last month, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) hosted the 11th annual Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Over the years, the event has raised more than \$1.6 million for scholarships at USG, benefitting 1,200-plus students. Well done, Dr. Khademanian.

Later this month, I'll be traveling to the USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM) to talk with employers, public officials, and community organizations about the rapidly growing number of bachelor's programs offered at USMSM and to activate these stakeholders as champions for student recruitment, degree completion, and employment *in the region*, which is so very important. I can't wait for it, Dr. Abel.

Just last week, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) flew higher than hawks normally do. Aboard Virgin Galactic's Galactic 05 spaceship was a payload designed by UMES's Dr. Aaron Persad to test how confined fluid behaves in a low-gravity environment.

Back on Earth, UMES was the lead sponsor this fall for An Evening with Joyce Abbott. Now, for the uninitiated, Ms. Abbott is an educator in Philadelphia. She was a beloved teacher to a young Quinta Brunson. She's the inspiration for Ms. Brunson's wildly popular sitcom, *Abbott Elementary*. And, yes, Ms. Abbott is a proud UMES alum. Thank you, Dr. Anderson, for UMES's work in educating the teachers who inspire us all.

I also want to note that President Anderson recently completed her term as chair of the American Association of Colleges & Universities. I know it was a rewarding experience for you personally and professionally, Dr. Anderson, and the organization certainly benefitted from your leadership.

UMBC has announced some significant grants in recent weeks: Dr. Yonathan Zohar will lead a \$10 million international partnership to scale land-based Atlantic salmon aquaculture—advancing global food security, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience; Dr. Erin

Green has won \$1.2 million to study cellular pathways involved in cancer and neurodegenerative diseases; and Dr. Vandana Janeja will partner with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) on a \$1 million grant using high-performance computing to understand—and predict—critical changes in the environment.

Speaking of which, last month, UMCES hosted more than 150 leaders in science, industry, government, and nonprofits to launch a collaboratory focused on harnessing big data and advanced cyberinfrastructure to tackle environmental challenges. UMCES's Chesapeake Global Collaboratory is what they call a “think and do tank” to shape environmental action that's improved by more people, deeper data, and better technology—producing science that's more nimble, transparent, and democratic.

And with Gov. Moore, UMCES has announced that 1.7 billion juvenile oysters have been planted in the Chesapeake Bay this year, surpassing the initial 2023 goal and setting a new record. Oysters contributing to the restoration of tributaries are grown primarily at UMCES's Horn Point Lab, one of the largest hatcheries on the East Coast. Congratulations, President Dennison.

UMGC renewed its transfer partnership with the College of Southern Maryland, one of UMG's largest transfer partners. Reaching outside Maryland, a new agreement allows students in the Wisconsin Technical College System—a system of 16 public two-year colleges—to transfer seamlessly into UMG with tuition and transfer-credit benefits. UMG announced a new location at Vandenberg Space Force Base, teaming with base personnel to support service members, veterans, and their families who aspire to a degree.

And brand-new rankings from the *Military Times* Best for Vets program names UMG the country's #1 Public Online or Combination University for veterans and service members—with a #3 rank overall—and the country's #1 university in terms of employment. Well done, President Fowler.

Dr. Fowler, I know you've been deeply engaged with your students around the world who are affected by the horrific situation in the Middle East—students and families who are sheltering in place, service members who may have to deploy. Our thoughts are with you and your team and, of course, with everyone in the UMG family facing danger and displacement.

CAMPUS CLIMATE

And it's this topic on which I want to end my comments. We're not insulated from the turmoil of the world—not overseas and not here either. Many of our students, faculty, and staff have friends and family directly in harm's way in Gaza and Israel, and in countries where the violence is spilling over.

I know we all have strong feelings about what happened on Oct. 7, and what's been happening every day since. I know each of us is shaped by who we are, by our life experiences, by our lived history and that of our loved ones—those here today and our ancestors.

That said, I am committed—this System is committed—to our people; that they feel safe no matter who they are. And what that requires is dialogue, community, connection. It requires civility, even when—*especially* when—that feels so difficult. It requires that we engage with each other across our differences and without incendiary speech; that we share and listen.

I'm not naïve enough to hope for agreement. But I am optimistic enough to hold out for the very things that higher education promises us: to learn, to grow, to draw on our shared humanity and our shared values, to bridge divides, to model empathy and practice compassion.

I know all of our universities are offering support and resources to students who are struggling. I know you're offering opportunities to gather and comfort one another, to talk and to reflect, to remember the dead and pray for the living. My hope is that we emerge from this agony more committed than ever to using what we do for light and for peace.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report.

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