



USM Updates

From Chancellor Robert L. Caret

Summer 2018

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I am pleased to once again share news and success stories from across the University System of Maryland (USM). From advancing the state's cybersecurity industry to attracting private philanthropy that supports groundbreaking research and student success, the USM continues to drive innovation and job creation throughout Maryland.

NEW REPORT UNDERSCORES MARYLAND'S CYBERSECURITY LEADERSHIP...AND CHALLENGES

In a newly issued report, the Business Higher Education Forum commended the USM's ongoing efforts to dramatically expand cybersecurity education, research, and workforce development. Referring to Maryland as the "epicenter of national cybersecurity," the forum called upon the state and the system to enhance cybersecurity efforts further--including the creation of new work-based learning experiences for students--to meet the region's growing workforce needs and cement Maryland's leadership in the field.

[Salisbury University](#)

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[University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
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[Universities at Shady
Grove](#)

[University System of
Maryland at Hagerstown](#)

The USM is committed to helping Maryland meet and master this challenge. To that end, I recently joined Governor Larry Hogan, Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation Secretary Kelly Schulz, and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) President Freeman Hrabowski to announce an innovative new Cyber Apprenticeship Program offered by UMBC Training Centers that will effectively bridge the gap between apprenticeships and college.

■ NEW RANKINGS HIGHLIGHT THE USM'S NATIONAL EMINENCE

Between highly regarded national publications such as *Kiplinger's*, *The Princeton Review*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Washington Monthly*, and others, you will find literally every USM degree-granting institution singled out for praise. An updated list of rankings can be viewed on our website.

■ CELEBRATING CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN ANNAPOLIS FOR THE USM

Thanks in part to your support and advocacy, the legislature approved \$1.39 billion in state funding for the USM, an increase of \$39 million--or 3 percent--over last year. This budget will enable the USM to keep tuition affordable, particularly for in-state, undergraduate students. In addition, the funding will support the operating costs of new facilities, especially new STEM facilities; the continued implementation of *MPower*, the strategic alliance between the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and the University of Maryland,

Baltimore (UMB); and the launch of a new three-year, \$32 million Workforce Development Initiative to address critical labor shortages by generating hundreds of new STEM and healthcare degrees and certificates. The USM's 2018 End of Session Report provides a complete summary of the USM's successful legislative session, including information on capital funding and legislative initiatives.

■ LEADERSHIP CHANGES ACROSS THE USM

The Board of Regents has appointed Charles Wight president of Salisbury University (SU), beginning July 1st. Charles succeeds Janet Dudley-Eshbach, who will be stepping down after 18 years as SU President.

Regent Michelle Gourdine is currently chairing the search and screening committee for the new president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), as Juliette Bell is stepping down on June 30th after six years as president of UMES.

Denise Wilkerson brings 23 years of higher education administrative experience to her new position as the USM Chief of Staff, which she assumed on April 9th.

■ EXPANDING THE CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY

With support from the USM Foundation and Office of Advancement, more than \$300 million has been raised across all USM institutions as of April 30, 2018, exceeding the USM's system-wide goal for the year.

Major gift commitments to UMCP include:

- * \$219.5 million from the Clark Foundation for need-based scholarships, graduate fellowships, faculty positions, programs, and infrastructure for the university and its engineering school, and
- * A \$21.5 million COMMITMENT from Barry and Mary Gossett to establish an innovative, three-part support model to support the academic success of student-athletes.

At UMB, key gift commitments include:

- * \$10 million to the School of Nursing from Bill and Joanne Conway for student scholarships, and
- * \$20 million from biotech inventor and entrepreneur Robert E. Fischell to support the Center for Bioengineering Innovation.

■ "SYSTEMNESS" CONTINUES TO DRIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT

In recent months, the USM has been central to several efforts to create and fill new jobs in Maryland. A short list includes:

- * North American Wave Engine, a US-based jet propulsion technology startup from UMCP, secured \$1.5 million from investors, including \$350,000 from the USM's Maryland Momentum Fund. This was the Momentum Fund's third equity investment.
- * This summer, five USM institutions will begin piloting digital badges to help students validate and communicate their career-ready skills.
- * USM's three research parks (UMCP, UMB, and UMBC) have grown to include 275 tenants and over 9,800 employees and the incubators on 10 USM campuses feature

over 174 corporate tenants and included spaces and services for student entrepreneurs. Since FY 2011, the USM has helped launch 589 new startup companies.

■ THE LOSS OF A USM ICON

On March 28th, the USM--and indeed all of Maryland--lost a true giant when Cliff Kendall passed away at the age of 86. A successful entrepreneur, generous philanthropist, and respected member of the Greater Washington business community, Cliff's impact on higher education in Maryland and the USM is without peer. His leadership as the long-time chair of the Board of Regents, service to the USM Foundation, and generosity to both his alma mater, UMCP, and to the Universities at Shady Grove, have created a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

■ LET ME HEAR FROM YOU

I would very much appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to respond to this letter or any other USM news, please write me at: chancellorletter@usmd.edu.



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