



USM Updates

From Chancellor Robert L. Caret

Summer 2019

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I am pleased to share news and success stories from the University System of Maryland (USM).

CELEBRATING CONTINUED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN ANNAPOLIS FOR THE USM

The Governor proposed, and the General Assembly approved, state support for the USM totaling \$1.49 billion, coming from the General Fund and the Higher Education Investment Fund. This is an increase of \$100 million - or 7 percent - over the FY 2019 revised budget. First and foremost, this budget will allow the USM to limit its tuition increase for in-state, undergraduate students to a modest 2 percent. In addition, the increase in state funds will fund: year two of the USM's Workforce Development Initiative; operating expenses for new USM facilities; the continued implementation of SB 1052-the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016; and other initiatives. The USM's [2019 End of Session Report](#) provides a full rundown of the USM's successful legislative session, including information on capital funding and legislative initiatives.

[University of Maryland,
Baltimore County](#)

[University of Maryland,
College Park](#)

[University of Maryland
Eastern Shore](#)

[University of Maryland
University College](#)

[University of Maryland
Center for Environmental
Science](#)

[Universities at Shady
Grove](#)

[University System of
Maryland at Hagerstown](#)

[University System of
Maryland at Southern
Maryland](#)

■ IMPRESSIVE NATIONAL RANKINGS

Graduate programs from across the USM received high marks in the 2020 *U.S. News and World Report* Graduate School Rankings that came out last month: University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) has more than three dozen schools, colleges, and programs featured in the rankings, with several programs and specialties ranked in the Top 10; the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) professional schools boast nearly two dozen acknowledgements, with many Top 10 rankings overall; a dozen University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) graduate programs across various disciplines were recognized; and the University of Baltimore (UB), Towson University (TU), the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and Salisbury University (SU) all had programs and/or specialties ranked. A full list of USM rankings can be accessed [here](#).

■ CHANGES ACROSS THE USM

The USM recently welcomed former Montgomery County Executive [Isiah "Ike" Leggett](#) as the newest member of the USM Board of Regents. [Drew Needham](#), a student at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, will begin his term as Student Regent July 1, 2019. In addition, the legislature has approved significant changes to the composition of the Board of Regents through the [University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Transparency and Oversight Bill](#). The board will expand to

include new members appointed by legislative leaders, the Secretary of Commerce as an ex officio member, and a second student regent. The legislation also requires that the board membership include expertise in finance, experience in diversity and workplace inclusion, and administration in higher education. These changes align with and support the board priorities of good governance and increased transparency.

Earlier this year, the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) - previously known as the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center - became the USM's third regional higher education, joining The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) and USM at Hagerstown (USMH). Along with its educational component, USMSM also boasts a major research element through a partnership with the University of Maryland Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Site.

Maryland Governor Larry Hogan has signed legislation to change the name of University of Maryland University College (UMUC) to University of Maryland Global Campus, effective July 1, 2019. This new name more accurately conveys the institution's public mission and global reach.

On May 30, 2019, Timothy McDonough will be joining the USM Office as the system's vice chancellor for communications and marketing. A veteran communications professional with considerable experience in higher education on a national scale, Tim

comes to the USM from his current position as Vice President for Government and Public Affairs at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB).

**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE,
HIGH-LEVEL RESEARCH, AND
SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT**

* Salisbury University has announced that the NCLEX-RN first-time pass rate for its nursing students stands at a near-perfect 98.8 percent.

* UMES's School of Pharmacy has achieved a first-time pass rate of 96.23 percent on the Pharmacy Licensure Exam, well above the national average, the highest in Maryland, and the highest among HBCU pharmacy programs nationwide.

* UMCP held a dedication ceremony for the Brendan Iribe Center for Computer Science and Engineering, a transformative facility supported by a gift of more than \$30 million from Brendan Iribe, UMCP alumnus and co-founder of the virtual reality company Oculus.

* UMB's Institute for Genome Sciences (IGS) was recently awarded \$17.5 million from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to fund the IGS Genome Center for Infectious Diseases for another five years.

* UMCP and UMB last month celebrated the launch of the Robert E. Fischell Institute for Biomedical Devices, bringing together engineers, clinicians, scientists, and students to design and build life-changing biomedical devices.

* The College of Business at Frostburg

State University has launched a new Center for Regional Engagement and Economic Development, strengthening partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, and local governments in the tri-state area.

* PaVerGuide - a Maryland company that has developed a permeable paving system that lessens harmful storm water runoff - secured \$650,000 from investors, including \$300,000 from the USM's Maryland Momentum Fund. The fund has now made five equity investments totaling \$1.4 million that have been matched by \$4.1 million in private funds.

■ CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC GOALS

The third edition of the USM Scorecard underscores our commitment to accountability and transparency. Through this Scorecard, we show the progress we have made toward the goals outlined in *The USM through 2020: A Renewed Vision for Powering Maryland Forward*. The revised plan updated goals from the original 2020 strategic plan, many of which have been met or exceeded. It also creates a new set of goals focused on supporting campus equity, diversity, inclusion and civic engagement.

■ LET ME HEAR FROM YOU

As always, I 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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