

**Friday, December 11, 2015**

**Report to the USM Board of Regents**

**Chancellor Robert L. Caret**

**AS DRAFTED**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. And let me also thank our “host” institution this morning, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and President Wallace Loh.

As you all know, during my first several months as Chancellor, I am scheduling daylong visits to each USM campus to meet with institutional leaders, faculty, staff, and students to talk about how we can work together as a system even more effectively to make progress on our agenda. Earlier this week at UMCP I held my 7th such visit. I want to thank President Loh for arranging such a productive day.

And there was certainly no shortage of good news the UMCP community had to share:

* At the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities 2015 Innovation & Economic Prosperity University Awards last month, UMCP took home the top award—the Connections Award—which recognizes an institution working to build connections between innovation and entrepreneurship, talent development, and social, community, and cultural development.
* UMCP was also named a Top 25 School for Entrepreneurship Studies by *The Princeton Review.*
* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its list of the Top 30 College & University green power users, with UMCP ranked 12th, up 10 spots from last year.
* Northrop Grumman renewed its commitment to UMCP's Advanced Cybersecurity Experience for Students (ACES) program with a $2.76 million gift.
* President Loh’s thoughtful piece on the importance of both free speech and racial justice in the pursuit of truth in a higher education setting was featured in *TIME.*
* And the campus saw many high-profile dedications:
	+ Frederick Douglass Square
	+ The William E. Kirwan math building
	+ And the Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Building

As you all know, it has only been a few weeks since we last met. So while I plan to keep my report short this morning, there nevertheless has been no shortage of notable developments across the system.

Just last week we announced that Kim E. Schatzel will join Towson University (TU) as president on January 25, 2016. I am pleased to note that Dr. Schatzel was able to join us last evening for the Board of Regents dinner and is with us this morning as well. It is a pleasure to welcome her to the USM.

She is currently serving as interim president, provost, and executive vice president of academic and student affairs at Eastern Michigan University. She will bring extensive educational and private sector experience to TU, with a collaborative leadership style and a commitment to expanding partnerships between higher education and business. I thank Timothy Chandler for his tremendous work as Towson’s interim president this past year.

In other Towson news, TU’s new middle school education major won the Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program award from the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education. The award recognized the College of Education’s outstanding teaching, quality supervision, and the proven success of its graduates. And the TU Police Department has been named one of Safe Campus’ 2016 Top 25 university administrative departments making a difference in student safety. ​

In some ranking news, Coppin State University (CSU) has been ranked among the most innovative small college business departments by the Business Research Guide, coming in at 43rd. Coppin also received recognition as a Yellow Ribbon School, a special designation that position CSU to better support veterans with matching funds from the Department of Veteran Affairs for eligible students.

UMCP and the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) were also acknowledged for their commitment to those who served our country in the armed forces. In the list of the Top 10 Colleges in the U.S. for Veterans—published on Veterans Day last month in *USA Today*—UMUC ranked 3rd and UMCP ranked 6th based on programs and resources for veterans.

In addition, Frostburg State University (FSU) was named a Military Friendly School for the 5th straight year in recognition of its efforts to embrace America’s military service members, veterans, and spouses as students and ensure their success on campus. Also at FSU, the website Top-Masters-In-Education listed Frostburg’s Master’s in Curriculum and Instruction among Top 50 Best Value Residential Programs.

At an event featuring Senator Barbara Mikulski—who was recently awarded the 2016 Presidential Medal of Freedom—and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy Dennis McGinn, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) formally launched its Naval ROTC program, now recruiting its first class of students. This is the first NROTC program hosted in Maryland, with the partnership establishing a new consortium that also includes UMCP. This effort also builds upon the growing UMBC-Navy partnership, which recently expanded through a Collaborative Research and Development Agreement between UMBC and the U.S. Naval Academy.

In other rankings, *The Economist* recently named Bowie State University (BSU) among the best colleges and universities in the nation **for value added education**. The newspaper ranked Bowie 61st out of 1,275 U.S. institutions for economic value, the highest of USM institutions. Also making the top 200 on the list were Frostburg, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and Salisbury University (SU). Using information from the U.S. Department of Education’s 2015 College Scorecard database, the rankings were derived by comparing students and graduates’ actual earnings to the earnings researchers projected, thereby identifying institutions that graduate students who “over-perform.”

The University of Baltimore's (UB) online master's degree in public administration has also been recognized. The website OnlineColleges.net reviewed all institutions offering an online M.P.A., and determined UB's to be one of the best choices for students in 2016, ranking it 12th in the nation. And for the first time at UB, the Ethics Bowl team has qualified for the National Ethics Bowl to be held next February in Washington, D.C. The six-member team of undergraduates beat out such schools as Wake Forest, the University of Florida, the University of Miami, Auburn, and 15 other larger universities at the Southeast Regional Ethics Bowl last month.

Members of Salisbury’s Model United Nations Club recently earned recognition for their high-level diplomatic negotiations with other students from around the world. At the team’s first national Model UN conference, SU students represented Thailand. For their efforts, including two months of preparation and participation in committee sessions during the conference, SU’s team received the Distinguished Delegation Award.

As part of an $11 million multi-institution effort by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, researchers at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) School of Medicine will focus on new and innovative ways to improve how hospitals and other healthcare facilities can better prevent the spread of germs. In addition, UMB’s School of Social Work has received notification of **five** newly awarded federal grants totaling more than $40 million to enhance the well-being of people ranging from children and adolescents to middle-aged men. Also at UMB, the Institute of Human Virology announced two significant grants: $13 million to strengthen infectious disease laboratory capacities and infrastructure in Kenya; and $10 million to enable early detection and rapid responses to new and emerging infectious disease threats in Nigeria.

At the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), a trio of researchers have secured nearly $1.2 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support their research projects. Also at UMES, Ph.D. candidate Laura Almodovar-Acevedo landed a $45,000 Graduate Research and Training Scholarship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) continues to lead the way in higher education’s commitment to take action on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming more resilient to climate disruptions. Partnering with the White House and more than 200 college and universities across the country, UMCES has signed the Act on Climate Pledge to take action to avoid irreversible costs to our global community’s economic prosperity and public health. UMCES also is a signatory to Second Nature’s Climate Commitment, a network of 600 colleges and universities across the country committed to eliminating net greenhouse gas emissions and to promoting the research and educational efforts in higher education to address climate change.

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH), which is celebrating its 10 anniversary this year, recently held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new simulation lab intended for use by the Towson University nursing program at USMH. An existing classroom was converted to create the lab space for this facility that will help meet the critical need for nursing professionals.

And the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is one step closer to the new biomedical building with construction now complete on a new 700-spot parking garage. This clears the way to begin moving dirt on the planned $162 million biomedical sciences building at the Rockville campus.

Turing now to our budget status . . .

In late October, Joseph Vivona, USM’s Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, made a fairly comprehensive presentation to the Maryland Higher Education Commission highlighting the USM’s operations, impact, and budget requirements.

I have provided David Brinkley, Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), with the USM’s FY2017 Enhancement Request, which was followed up with a meeting with DBM last Friday.

I have met with Maryland State Treasurer Nancy K. Kopp to share my vision for the USM, discuss her perspectives on higher education, and talk about the status of Maryland’s FY 2017 Budget. It was a very productive meeting.

And I have had numerous conversations with the Governor and Lt. Governor, leadership in the House and Senate, and with legislators, which will continue in the days and weeks ahead leading up to the legislative session.

While we are still in the early stages, I believe we are making solid progress and I will certainly keep you informed.

Finally, let me introduce the man who has agreed to jump feet first into this process and will help steer the USM through the 2016 legislative session and the FY 17 budget deliberations. Now, since the **old** Patrick Hogan—or P.J.—did such a good job, we have decided that the best way to go is with a **new** Patrick Hogan! Two weeks ago, Patrick **N.** Hogan joined the USM as our new vice chancellor for government relations. He served in the House of Delegates from 2003-2007, and again from 2011-2015. Most recently, he was deputy legislative officer for Maryland's Office of the Governor.

Patrick, Andy Clark, their colleagues in Government Relations across the USM, and the staff in Annapolis have a lot of work ahead of them. But I think we have a great team together and I think this will be very successful session for the USM.

Mr. Chairman . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

###