



**Friday, December 15, 2017**  
**Report to the USM Board of Regents**  
**Chancellor Robert Caret**

Thank you, Chairman Brady. My thanks as well to our “host” institution today, **Coppin State University** (CSU) and President Maria Thompson. Some truly exciting things are taking place here at CSU:

- Last month, a strategic partnership between PNC Bank, Coppin, and Open Works Baltimore was honored by the Greater Baltimore Committee with a Bridging the Gap Award recognizing support for local and regional minority businesses. The co-working space developed in partnership is designed to nurture the next generation of small manufacturers and support CSU business students.
- Coppin’s Cyber Warrior Diversity Certification Program—launched this past spring with Northrop Grumman and Baltimore tech firm Digit All City—certified its first class last month. The program offers cybersecurity training to help Coppin students working toward cybersecurity certifications required by the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Math and Computer Science assistant professor Dr. Leshell Hatley was awarded a research grant from the Kapor Center for Social Impact and Dr. Jamal Uddin with the Center for Nanotechnology was awarded an E2 Energy to Educate Grant from Constellation Energy.
- Finally, Coppin was highlighted as part of a United Negro College Fund report about the strength of HBCUs as economic engines for local economies; with Coppin having an economic impact of \$158 million locally and generating over 1400 jobs.

I commend and congratulate the entire CSU “family” on these wonderful achievements. While it has only been a few weeks since we last met, there has been no shortage of notable developments across the system.

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore County** (UMBC) announced the first Rhodes Scholarship in that institution’s history. Naomi Mburu—a chemical engineering major set to graduate next year—is one of only 32 students from across the United States to receive this prestigious honor for the 2018 year. This is a tremendous accomplishment.

UMBC also celebrated several major grants:

- More than \$550,000 from the National Science Foundation (NFS) to expand the university's High Performance Computing Facility;
- \$1.3 million from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to increase the number of students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who complete highly competitive doctoral programs in economics;
- And \$6 million from the George and Betsy Sherman Family Foundation to establish a new Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities and expand the work of the Sherman STEM Teacher Scholars Program.

**Towson University** (TU) will also benefit from new grants. Earlier this year, TU's Department of Nursing received a \$1.2 million grant from the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission to set up the Collaborative Partnership Program to strengthen the relationship between TU and five area health care systems. A few weeks ago, that same department received a grant of over \$100,000 from the Maryland Clinical Simulation Resource Consortium to update its simulation labs, which prepare students for their work in the nursing field after graduation. I am also pleased to note that construction has begun on Towson's new science complex. The complex is expected to open in fall 2020 and will be the largest academic area on TU's campus, with more than 50 teaching laboratories, 30 research laboratories, and 50 classrooms. When you consider that TU produces 21 percent of Maryland's health care professionals, that is an important development.

Continuing with theme of grants and gifts, with the most recent donation to the **University of Maryland Eastern Shore's** (UMES) School of Pharmacy and Health Professionals, Walgreen's overall support for UMES's Pharmacy Program is nearing \$100,000. UMES has also entered into a wonderful partnership with ReGreen Organics, through which leftover food generated across the campus will be converted into fuel pellets, environmentally friendly fertilizer, and livestock feed. This is a great example of a land-grant institution embracing a 21<sup>st</sup> century role.

**Frostburg State University** (FSU) announced that starting next fall it will offer a four-year, face-to-face bachelor of science in nursing degree, established in partnership with Allegany College of Maryland. This will be the **only** four-year program of its kind available in Western Maryland. Frostburg has also been accepted to form a chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, America's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. FSU's chapter will initiate its first members in spring of 2018, providing a wonderful opportunity for outstanding students to receive the high academic honor that they deserve.

The **University of Maryland, Baltimore's** (UMB) commitment to partnership was on full display as representatives from the University of Maryland Medical System and the University of Maryland School of Medicine joined with federal, state, and county officials for the groundbreaking of the long-anticipated University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center. And, in a separate partnership with Prince George's County, UMB's Center for Human Trafficking Survivors and the Prince George's County Police Department have received a joint

three-year grant totaling more than \$1.3 million from the U.S. Department of Justice to coordinate work to fight human trafficking in that county.

Finally, I was pleased to join UMB President Jay Perman and President Wallace Loh of the **University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)** to announce the UM Ventures Baltimore Fund, with the University System, UMCP, UMB, and the State of Maryland—joined by the City of Baltimore—coming together in an exciting new effort to support, develop, and enhance entrepreneurial opportunities here in the City. This is another great example of the impact of “systemness”, the value of the MPowering partnership, and our important commitment to the City of Baltimore.

Also at UMCP, MF Fire—a startup created by two UMCP students developing a much more efficient stove—received the first-ever investment from the Maryland Momentum Fund, almost \$200,000. When the Board of Regents created this fund last year, to invest in and support promising commercial opportunities arising from its campuses, this is exactly the type of forward thinking, impactful innovation we had in mind. I look forward to many more future announcements as the fund continues to grow and invest.

Finally, UMCP has received several impressive recognitions recently, ranked in Top 10 for Innovation & Entrepreneurship Education for third straight year by the *Princeton Review*, named a Top 50 Global University by *U.S. News & World Report*, and ranked 80<sup>th</sup> in *The Center for World University Rankings*, a list which also included UMB and UMBC.

**University of Maryland University College (UMUC)** also had some impressive ranking news with *The Military Times* rating UMUC **#1** in its annual survey of the best online and non-traditional universities for military personnel and veterans. In addition, UMUC’s Computer Networks and Cybersecurity program has received the International Council of E-Commerce Consultants 2017 Circle of Excellence award. And just last week, UMUC hosted a pivotal summit on the role of Open Educational Resources—or OER—in addressing the issues of quality, access and affordability in higher education.

Dior Ginyard, a recent **Bowie State University (BSU)** graduate and a manager for player affairs in the NFL Players Association, was named to the *Forbes* “30 Under 30 in Sports 2018” list for his work to help current NFL players prepare for life after football. In addition, Bowie, Howard Community College (HCC), and Prince George’s Community College (PGCC) announced a new agreement that provides opportunities for PGCC and HCC students to work toward a four-year bachelor’s degree in Bowie State’s accredited business administration program, beginning in fall 2018.

At the **University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)**, Dr. Bill Dennison, Professor of Marine Science and Vice President for Science Applications, received the first-ever 2017 Margaret A. Davidson Award for Stewardship from the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation for professional contributions to the estuarine scientific community.

At **Salisbury University (SU)** the president search is progressing. Regent Will Shorter, Chief of Staff Janice Doyle, and I met with student leaders in late October to discuss the search

process and get student input. And just last week Regent D'Ana Johnson, Chair of the SU Search Committee, facilitated the first public meeting. Also at Salisbury, Dr. Dean Ravizza received a 2018 Rotary International Peace Fellowship to further his work in using sport to bring people together across war zones and ideological divides. Ravizza is one of only 25 professionals selected globally for a program at the Rotary Peace Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the **University of Baltimore** (UB), the School of Law and Notre Dame of Maryland University signed an articulation agreement last month that will enable qualified Notre Dame undergraduates to begin law school at UB after their junior year. This is UB's first such agreement with a private school. In addition, UB and Baltimore City Community College (BCCC) are partnering through the B-Power Initiative to offer new ways for high school students from across the city to make college a priority—including opportunities for them to begin their higher education while they are in their senior year. This new effort will further expand efforts to open new educational pathways for Baltimore students and improve their economic potential.

Last month at the **University System of Maryland at Hagerstown** (USMH), Executive Director Mark Halsey was joined by UMB President Jay Perman and FSU President Ron Nowaczyk—and many private donors—to celebrate a newly created health sciences center for a new public-private partnership to educate more Physicians Assistants.

At the **Universities at Shady Grove** (USG), more than 300 scholarship recipients and donors were honored during USG's annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Luncheon last month, recognizing organizations and individuals who donated to more than 70 scholarship funds.

There has also been some news from the System Office since our last meeting.

As you all know, Ellen Herbst—who previously served as Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration at the United States Department of Commerce—joined us as Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance last month, succeeding Joe Vivona, who has served the USM since 1996. We will have opportunities in the near future to formally thank Joe Vivona for his incredible service, but I want to underscore what a tremendous asset he has been.

Janice Doyle, who has served as chief of staff to the USM chancellor and secretary to the Board of Regents since 2006, will step down from those positions on at the end of the year. Janice has served higher education in Maryland for more than 40 years. Her knowledge, insight, and leadership will be missed.

And in our final piece of System Office news, last month I had the honor of being elected chair of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Board of Directors. I look forward to serving in this capacity as an advocate for all higher education.

Closing with some system-wide items, I want to thank all of you for your active involvement in last month's Regents' Retreat and the Presidents' Retreat earlier this month. We addressed a lot of important issues and I believe both gatherings were very valuable.

I also want to note that the State of Maryland has filed a “Notice of Appeal” in the Coalition case. As this moves forward, I want to stress that the USM will continue to stay true to our mission of excellence and inclusion. Our historically black universities play an important and valued role in fulfilling this mission

We are still in the early stages of our budget negotiations with the governor and his team. As things progress, I will keep you informed as to where we stand. And while it is still early in the process, I am optimistic about USM’s position.

Finally, the new USM Scorecard highlighting our strategic plan progress has just arrived from the printer. I encourage you to share either a hard copy, or the web link, with your friends and colleagues to underscore the progress USM is making and the incredible impact we are having.

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