

Legislative Testimony to  
**The Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation  
Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration  
February 21, 2006**

Presented by  
Dr. Stanley F. Battle, President



**COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY**

*Nurturing Potential . . . Transforming Lives*

# **Coppin State University Legislative Testimony**

**The Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation  
Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration  
February 21, 2006**

The Maryland House Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Education and Economic Development  
March 1, 2006

*By President Stanley F. Battle*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for this opportunity to testify on the Governor's FY '07 budget recommendations for Coppin State University.

I would also like to thank the budget analyst for the work put in to evaluate our campus for the budget analysis. Given the great quality and continual needs of the State's institutions, Coppin is extraordinarily pleased with the Governor's budget, and the budget recommendations.

## **Coppin State University - *Nurturing Potential . . . Transforming Lives***

As you know, our institution plays a unique and critical role within the University System of Maryland's (USM) family of institutions. Coppin's mission focuses on the problems, needs and aspirations of the people of Baltimore's central city and its immediate metropolitan area. The University is committed to meeting the educational needs of its urban population and improving the quality of life in its urban community.

Building upon its legacy of affording access to higher education for students traditionally underrepresented in higher education, the University plans to continue to offer enrichment bridge programs for students needing some developmental learning experiences. As always, Coppin's strategic goals guide our efforts to meet the Governor, the General Assembly and the University System of Maryland mutual goals of quality, access, and affordability.

# Quality

During the past year, Coppin has continued to grow its academic environment under the rubric of creativity and perseverance. Coppin had success in technology advancement, increasing private funding, and academic collaborations. This success is direct evidence that the institution remains relevant and dynamic.

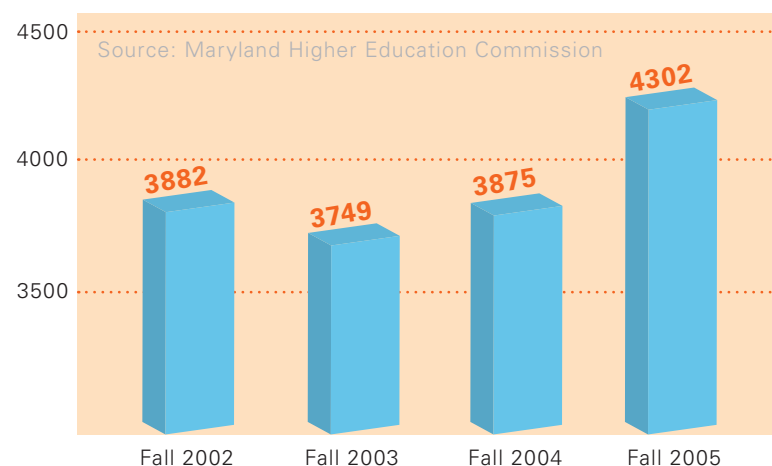
## Coppin . . .

- Ranked 19th by the U.S. News & World Report of the top 50 colleges and universities throughout the nation with absolute wireless capability.
- Received the Historical Society Award for the *State of Black Baltimore* publication
- Pioneered Tegrity Campus - combining digital audio and video recording of the class lecture with electronic note-taking and computer usage
- Received \$200,000 from NASA through the Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations (H.R. 2862) for a Middle Passage Project to support the Geospatial Sciences Project
- Received the National EDUCUASE Award “Excellence in Network” for 2005
- First in the region to implement Enterprise Portal Technology for the faculty, staff, and students
- Selected as a “Technology Innovator” by Campus Technology
- Received \$100,000 from the Department of Justice through the Fiscal Year 2006 Science, State, Justice, Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations (H.R. 2862) for the Urban Criminal Justice Research and Training Institute
- The University has made significant contributions to the shortage of nurses and other health professionals in the State. 80% of the baccalaureate prepared minority nurses in Maryland have graduated from Coppin’s Helene Fuld School of Nursing. 95% of nursing graduates go on to work in underserved areas. 100% of nursing graduates have jobs prior to graduation



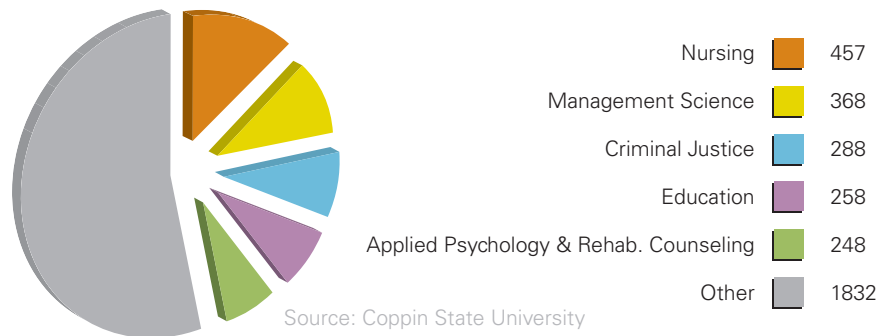
During this same period, Coppin continued to grow and dismiss the notion that quality of education may be lessened by efforts to achieve equity of access. Providing access to higher education is a day-to-day practical agenda for Coppin State University. Coppin's strategic plan provides a roadmap for the institution to attract and retain students from diverse backgrounds and introduce inclusive teaching and learning strategies into the institution's curriculum.

**Enrollment increase at Coppin State University**  
(11.1% between 2004 and 2005)



Through these efforts, Coppin had an enrollment increase of 11.1% from 3,875 to 4,302. The growth occurred in both the undergraduate and graduate student population. The growth coupled with the Urban Education Corridor and creative collaborations with Helwan University and the Baltimore Teacher's Union has provided opportunities to link local and international students to the University.

Coppin strives to achieve the vision of excellence in teaching, research and continuing service to the community. The University will continue to address critical workforce shortages within the State with growing student enrollment in particular academic programs that mirror the State's needs.



**Top 5 undergraduate majors**  
(Out of 3451 undergraduate students enrolled in 2005)

It is imperative that funding for enrollment growth remain in order for the University to cover mandatory cost increases and keep in-state, undergraduate tuition increase the lowest in the System. Coppin will surpass the University System of Maryland enrollment projections (102 students) for 2007. This past year alone, Coppin was 352 students over last year's projection. Coppin rejects more applicants than it accepts, particularly in nursing. With the additional funds, Coppin will be able to accept more qualified students and help alleviate critical workforce shortage areas.

### Nursing applicant statistics at Coppin (13 % accepted in Fall 2005)

Total number of applications received in nursing

**1203**

Total number of applicants admitted

**154**

Source: Coppin State University

### Coppin . . .

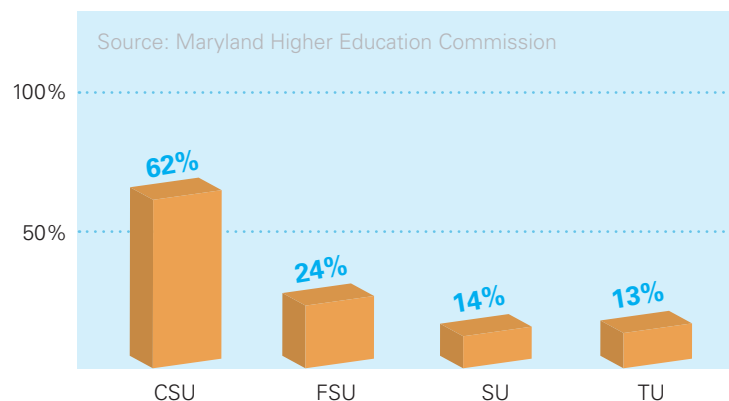
- Completed an International Collaboration Agreement with Helwan University in Egypt
- Rosemont Elementary School was selected as one of 19 2005 NASA Explorer Schools (NES)
- Received a \$75,000 grant to offer a three-week SAT Camp to urban youth who participate in GEAR-UP programs at Walbrook High School, Digital and Forest Park high schools
- In partnership with the city school system and with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation/Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund Grant, Coppin established the Coppin Academy as part of the national effort to "reform and redesign" high schools in the U.S.
- Admitted a number of college students displaced from Southern HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in New Orleans due to Hurricane Katrina
- Received \$100,000 from the Abell Foundation and \$115, 000 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in support of the k-16 West Baltimore Urban Education Corridor. Funds will support a mentoring program and the Rosemont Elementary transition to add seventh and eighth grade

# Affordability

As you know, Coppin's mission to provide educational access and diverse opportunities for students with a high potential for success and for students whose promise may have been hindered by a lack of social, personal or financial opportunity is critical to the State of Maryland and the City of Baltimore. Despite growing costs (employee costs, energy, health care costs, facilities renewal), Coppin will continue to examine and implement innovative strategies to deliver financial aid and education to improve affordability.

While Coppin's tuition has increased to cover the growing mandatory costs and enrollment growth, the University has worked for years to keep higher education affordable for students. In addition to Coppin's tuition and fees remaining the lowest in the system with the smallest tuition increase (3%) for next year, the institution will also more than double its institutional financial aid to need-based students. Coppin continues to expand its resource base by cultivating alumni donors, and forging partnerships with businesses and foundations in order to increase need and merit base financial aid opportunities. Within the confines of available funding and federal, state and institutional policies, Coppin makes every effort to assist students in making education financially possible.

**Percentage of students receiving  
Federal Grant Aid**  
(CSU serves more financially disadvantaged  
students than any other Maryland four-year institution)



For students that Coppin serves, actual family income in the state and the portion of income families should be expected to devote to college tuition is important. The institution considers both institutional needs and the ability of students and families to pay. Coppin will systematically and rigorously explore increasing financial aid, focusing student financial aid programs on college-eligible students with financial need, and the potentials of information technology to improve the educational effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of on-campus and off-campus instruction.



The Governor's FY 07 budget will allow Coppin to hire additional faculty to address a high faculty workload and increase support services (public safety, grounds, maintenance, and house-keeping) to effectively maintain the growing campus. The budget will also allow the institution to increase need-based aid, support the campus' 11.1% enrollment growth, support our capital campaign efforts, maintain a modest tuition increase, and enhance the overall academic experience.

By strengthening existing programs in the liberal arts and sciences, humanities, education and nursing, and adding new programs in allied health, science and technology, the University will be poised to address the critical shortages of teachers, nurses, and science and technology professionals across the State. With continual investments, Coppin is becoming a model comprehensive urban university. The institution echoes the Chancellor's sentiment that the Governor's proposal represents an extraordinary investment . . . not just in higher education or Coppin State, but in the future of Maryland as well. For these reasons, Coppin supports the Governor's FY 07 budget proposal.

## Response to the Legislative Issues and Recommended Actions

FY 2007 – Maryland Executive Budget

### **The President should comment on best practices and efforts that will be used to increase graduation rates in the future.**

The campus will pursue several different initiatives for increasing the graduation rates. Among those include implementation of a campus-wide assessment plan. While the institution is seeking re-accreditation by Middle States, new assessment systems have been designed to better track and inform faculty of the student learning outcomes. These systems will also allow faculty to review their own level of teaching effectiveness based on those outcomes and focus more heavily on graduation rates.

The institution is also examining initiatives that will decrease time-to-degree. In the last academic year, Coppin was able to institute a comprehensive academic advisement strategy to ensure that students receive specialized advisement by faculty and staff. Implementation of the initiative has been successful and CSU expects to be able to articulate results of the initiative in the next academic year.

CSU will also continue workshops in financial counseling and other specialized tutorial supports.

### **The President should comment on how the \$1.5 million Access and Success fund will be used to address retention and graduation rates at CSU.**

Access and Success has impacted retention and graduation rates for the entire institution. Because of support from the infusion of funds, Coppin State University has been able to create new and use existing programs to maintain an average retention rate of approximately 70% over last five years. CSU plans to expand current use of the funds to programs with proven track records of success. Such programs include the following: Nursing and Natural Sciences Recruitment and Retention Program, Pre-College Summer Program, Student Cohort Tracking Program, Academic Resource Center Programs, Recruitment and Enrollment Program, Counseling Support Services, Freshman Seminar Program, Attendance Monitoring Program, Emerging Leaders Institute, Degree Audit Program and Graduation Seminar, and the Financial Resources Tracking and Monitoring System.



**The President should comment on how CSU will spend the additional general funds to accommodate increased enrollment and how CSU will accommodate the additional students given current space limitations.**

Based on Coppin State University's Strategic Plan, additional funds will be used to restructure and revitalize key academic programs such as allied health, nursing, urban studies, and education. The University will use these additional funds to add additional full-time tenure-track faculty and provide new academic program offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels that complement the uniqueness of the University's mission and prepare graduates for service to the State's increasingly diverse and aging citizenry. The additional full-time tenure-track faculty will also begin to address the University's high faculty workload at 9.0 course units annually (Board of Regents' recommendation is 7.5 course units for comprehensives). Furthermore, CSU will use these additional funds to strengthen and provide support services such as housekeepers, maintenance staff, and police officers to support its growing University student population and to provide need-based financial aid.

Over the last year, Coppin State University has experienced a significant increase in enrollment. To accommodate the additional students, faculty, and staff, the University has re-examined scheduling of courses and is seeking temporary space adjacent to campus and utilizing alternative rooms such as conference rooms and faculty offices to conduct classes. The University will continue to examine other alternatives to accommodate future enrollment growth.

**The President should comment on how the Access and Success funds have been used in the past, the performance measures used to evaluate the program, and plans for the program in the future.**

As a result of the funding from the grant, CSU has been able to host a variety of academic support programs targeted for individuals and for the entire campus population. Access and Success has impacted retention and graduation rates for the entire institution. Because of support from the infusion of funds, Coppin State University has been able to provide services to over 4,000 students and create new and use existing programs to maintain an average retention rate of approximately 70% over last five years.

The University attributes much of its success to various initiatives that were enhanced as existing or newly created programs. Such programs include, but are not limited to the Nursing and Natural Sciences Recruitment and Retention Program, Summer Cohort Attack Program, the Academic Resource Center Programs, and the Pre-College Summer Program. Within the Pre-College Program alone, the initial 1999 retention rate of its students affected by Access and Success of rose from 58% to 70% in 2004 and 88% in 2005. The program has been successful at recruiting qualified mentors, tutors, and speakers as active participants. It is a goal of the institution to replicate this program and others that have been successful in providing necessary supports and that have been successful at enrolling, retaining and graduating students.

As indicated earlier, the campus will continue its implementation of a campus-wide assessment plan designed to track and better inform faculty of the student learning outcomes. These systems will also allow faculty to review their own level of teaching effectiveness based on those outcomes and focus more heavily on student success.