



USM Updates

From Chancellor Robert L. Caret

June 2017

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As I complete my second year as chancellor of the University System of Maryland (USM), I continue to be impressed by the widespread support for the USM. Across Maryland, the



USM is seen as a source of pride, an engine of economic growth, and a driver of our shared quality of life. And with the spring 2017 commencements at our institutions, USM's impact is poised to grow even stronger. Our institutions awarded some 40,000 degrees during the past year, representing more than 70 percent of all bachelor's degrees and approximately two-thirds of all STEM degrees issued in Maryland.

I'm also proud of the caliber of students our institutions educate and inspire. USM's Student Regent Brandon Enriquez a

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double major in economics and mathematics and a Meyerhoff Scholar at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) was admitted with full fellowships to doctoral programs in economics at M.I.T., Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and the University of Chicago. Three University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) students received the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship honoring students studying the sciences, engineering, and mathematics. And three Salisbury University seniors earned prestigious Fulbright awards.

These student honors, along with the many other systemwide achievements that have defined this past year of progress and success, are highlighted in my second annual report that I recently presented to the USM Board of Regents. I am pleased to share [the report](#) with you.

■ USM WELCOMES NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

We will welcome a new president on July 1. The USM Board of Regents appointed [Aminta Breaux](#) as the next president of Bowie State University. She will succeed Mickey Burnim, who is retiring after 11 years of exemplary service. Dr. Breaux brings 25 years of higher education leadership and experience to this position. For the past decade, she has been at Millersville University, a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. She has served as the university's vice president for advancement

since 2014 and as its vice president for student affairs from 2008 to 2014.

The board expects to appoint a new president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science soon, as Don Boesch who has led UMCES since 1990 will be stepping down in August. Don is a national leader on environmental issues, and a Maryland treasure, having served five Maryland governors in efforts to protect and restore Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. USM Regent Robert Rauch is chairing the search committee for this position.

USM ONCE AGAIN EARNS SUPPORT FROM STATE LEADERS

Earlier this year, the General Assembly acted on the state of Maryland's budget for fiscal year 2018. The funds allocated to the USM speak volumes about the state support for public higher education and the system. Governor Larry Hogan and the members of the Maryland General Assembly were united in acknowledging the importance of the USM to the state's prosperity.

The General Assembly approved \$1.35 billion in state support for the USM as part of our \$5.3 billion FY 2018 operating budget. This is an increase of \$30.6 million, or approximately 2.3 percent, in state funds over the adjusted FY 2017 level. More than half of this increase \$16.4 million is targeted to "tuition replacement" funding, enabling the USM to keep the increase in in-state,

undergraduate tuition at a moderate 2 percent.

On the capital side, the USM received more than \$300 million for more than a dozen projects. Projects include \$88.6 million to construct the biomedical sciences and engineering education facility at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG); \$26 million to begin construction of the science building at Towson University; and \$3 million-for design and a commitment of a total authorization of \$86.2 million for the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Building at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

I invite you to read a summary of the legislative session, including information on the capital and operating budget, in the USM's post-session report.

NEW RANKINGS HIGHLIGHT NATIONAL EMINENCE

USM institutions continue to excel in prestigious national rankings. In the recent *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Graduate Schools rankings, UMCP is well represented, with the A. James Clark School of Engineering ranked No. 24 overall; the College of Education ranked No. 32 overall; and the Robert H. Smith School of Business ranked No. 47 overall.

Also in the *U.S. News* rankings, the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) earned two overall top-10 rankings: the School of Nursing was ranked 10th in the country and the School of Pharmacy was

ranked as the nation's 9th best. In addition, the School of Medicine, Carey School of Law, and the School of Social Work were recognized for their outstanding programs.

At the University of Baltimore, the School of Law's clinical and part-time programs earned high marks as well in the *U.S. News* rankings. The clinical program ranked as the country's 12th-best clinical program and the part-time J.D. program ranked 29th.

Access a more comprehensive list of USM rankings [here](#).

■ USM ADVANCES THE ECONOMY

Positioning the USM as an impactful and adaptable economic force remains one of our top priorities. Our efforts to nurture a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship continue to yield positive results. Here are just a few recent examples.

The Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology a consortium led by UMCP and UMBC will embark on a new era of innovative research and teaching, supported by \$87.5 million from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center.

NASA also awarded a five-year, \$64.8 million grant to UMCP's Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center, which studies the impact of earth's systems on environment and climate change.

Coppin State University has launched a

new Cyber Warrior program. Through the program, Northrop Grumman and Digit All City, a Baltimore technology firm, will offer cybersecurity training to help Coppin students work toward cybersecurity certifications required by the U.S. Department of Defense.

A key part of the USM's FY 2018 budget increase will support the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act, the 2016 state legislation that is enhancing the strategic alliance between UMCP and UMB known as *MPowering the State*. This includes \$4 million for the Center for Maryland Advanced Ventures at UMB and \$2 million for the Center for Economic Entrepreneurship Development at UMCP.

Building on the momentum of my fall 2015 statewide bus tour, I held a series of day-long regional business visits during 2016-17. In my last communication to you earlier this year, I mentioned my visits to Baltimore, Southern Maryland, and Montgomery County. Since then, I have met with business leaders in Prince George's County, Howard County, the Upper Eastern Shore, and Western Maryland. Throughout the state, the message I have received from business leaders and economic development advocates has been remarkably consistent. They view the USM as a valuable resource and a critical partner in regional and statewide economic growth, and they are eager to increase partnerships with the system and institutions. Members of my staff and I are following up on their suggestions and other

feedback.

In addition, the USM is playing a key role in Governor Hogan's new statewide economic development strategy called Excel Maryland. The initiative focuses on developing new collaborations to accelerate growth in the life sciences and cybersecurity industries. Ron Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University, and I are co-chairing the Excel Maryland steering committee. The committee is working to produce a report by the end of August 2017 to serve as a roadmap to securing Maryland's position as the epicenter of cybersecurity and advancing Maryland's leadership position in biohealth and the life sciences.

■ THE POWER OF SYSTEMNESS

The ribbon of "systemness" that runs through virtually all our priorities working together, leveraging our resources, and using economies of-scale is intensifying. Along with our economic development activities, UMB's and UMCP's *MPowering* partnership, and our B-Power initiative to expand the college and career pipeline for Baltimore City students, our "systemness" activities are growing.

For example, we organized for the first time two "USM Nation" events. In April, we held a family night at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore; more than 2,700 USM alumni, family, and friends attended. The event involved nine campuses, our Universities at Shady Grove higher education center, and

the System Office. On September 19, we will host a reception and attend a baseball game at the new SunTrust Park in Atlanta, with an expected attendance of 300 USM alumni, family, and friends.

In addition, USM institutions and the System Office worked together to sponsor EduLab@LightCity, part of Baltimore's spring 2017 festival of light, entertainment, and innovation. The power of systemness was on display as experts from across the USM shared their knowledge during the EduLab as well as the other Light City labs that reached thousands of people.

■ **SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS**

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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