



# USM Updates

From Chancellor Robert L. Caret

June 2016

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As my first year as chancellor nears conclusion, I am again providing an update on University System of Maryland (USM) activities, achievements, and initiatives related to our strategic priorities: enhancing quality, advancing college completion, growing the workforce and the economy, and improving efficiency.



I am especially pleased to write to you as we celebrate the newest graduates of USM institutions. This is when awareness of the USM's core mission - educating and graduating enlightened citizens who are ready to make their lives, their communities, this state, and our nation better - is perhaps at its height. USM institutions grant more than 37,000 degrees annually, including approximately 75 percent of all bachelor degrees and 80 percent of all STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degrees awarded by Maryland institutions, public and private.

The end of the academic year is also a time when many of our current students receive special honors. For example, four undergraduate students from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and three from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) were named 2016 Goldwater Scholars by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. A team of Salisbury University marketing students took home top honors in the Direct Marketing Association of Washington Education Foundation's annual Collegiate MAXI Award Program. And a Towson University student won the Goldman Environmental Prize for community leadership in her Baltimore Curtis Bay neighborhood.

[University of Maryland  
Eastern Shore](#)

[University of Maryland  
University College](#)

[University of Maryland  
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Science](#)

[Universities at Shady  
Grove](#)

[University System of  
Maryland at Hagerstown](#)

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I invite you to join the USM community in applauding our students and wishing them success as they take on their next challenges.

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## WORKING WITH OUR STATE TO ■ INCREASE COLLEGE ACCESS AND COMPLETION

Helping the USM to ensure access to exceptional and affordable academic opportunities, the Maryland General Assembly earlier this year approved \$1.34 billion in state funding to support the system's FY 2017 operating budget. Working with Governor Larry Hogan and legislators, the USM secured an increase of \$75 million - or approximately 6 percent - over our FY 2016 state funding.

In addition, the USM will redirect at least \$17 million in added savings to priority areas through cost-cutting and reallocation actions driven by our ongoing Effectiveness and Efficiency (E&E) efforts.

As a result, we will be able to keep the tuition increase for in-state undergraduates at a modest 2 percent and direct nearly \$7 million in funding to support efforts to increase college completion rates.

The General Assembly allocated nearly \$308 million for USM's FY 2017 capital budget, up from \$261 million in FY 2016. The allocation includes funding for various phases of critical projects, including the Health Science Facility III at University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), A. James Clark Hall at UMCP to cultivate new bioengineering technologies, a new natural sciences building at Bowie State University, a new pharmacy and allied health facility at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and an education and health professions building at Frostburg State University.

Also during the legislative session, the USM worked diligently to help ensure that [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1052](#), The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016, would work in the best interests of our students and state. This legislation codifies the strategic collaboration between UMCP and UMB launched in 2012, known as The University of Maryland: *MPowering the State*. As passed, SB 1052 will help ensure a stronger and more impactful relationship between our flagship institution in College Park and our professional schools campus in Baltimore, even as the two institutions maintain their separate identities and independent standing. In addition, the bill as approved seeks to protect and enhance other USM institutions. Expected outcomes of implementing the legislation include improved academic programs, stronger research activity, and increased technology

## TAKING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

This spring, we welcomed Thomas Sadowski to the newly created position of [vice chancellor for economic development](#). Former president and CEO of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, he brings more than 25 years of successful experience in economic development to this position. He will mobilize the USM's support for key Maryland industry and workforce clusters and represent the system on university-industry-government collaborations statewide.

The state of Maryland has an incredible "ecosystem" of talent, knowledge, and research capacity. Considered as a single body, the USM ranks 9th in industry-sponsored research expenditures and 10th in total federal R&D funding nationally, according to data compiled by the Association of University Technology Managers. However, the next step - taking technologies created by faculty members or students and getting them to the commercial marketplace - isn't as automatic as it should be. With the Sadowski appointment, a stronger UMB-UMCP partnership as described above, and other initiatives, we will change that.

Already, technology transfer and commercialization are becoming more firmly embedded in the USM culture. Just this past year, USM institutions facilitated the launch of scores of companies: medical device companies like Orablas (associated with UMBC), which commercializes groundbreaking wearable sensors and associated analytics for sleep monitoring; life sciences companies like Patagin (associated with UMB), which develops new diagnostic tests for bacterial infections to reduce the suffering and expense of infectious diseases; and technology companies like Potter Rapid Prototyping (associated with UMCP), which manufactures 3D printing devices.

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## NEW RANKINGS HIGHLIGHT NATIONAL EMINENCE

USM academic excellence is on full display, notably in the most recent national rankings issued in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2017 Best Graduate Schools:

- At UMCP
  - Clark School of Engineering, No. 24
  - College of Education, No. 26
  - School of Public Policy, No. 31

- At UMB
  - School of Nursing, No. 8
  - School of Pharmacy, No. 9
  - School of Medicine, Carey School of Law, and School of Social Work, each recognized for outstanding programs.

Four USM institutions are among the *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* list of the 300 best values in higher education - a measure that takes into account quality and affordability: UMBC, Towson, Salisbury, and UMCP. Business Research Guide has ranked Coppin State University as home to one of the nation's top 50 innovative small college business departments. And *Forbes* named University of Maryland University College No. 3 among the best colleges for returning adults. Access a more comprehensive list of USM rankings [here](#).

Also related to growing distinction, UMES achieved the status of [Doctoral University](#) in the most recent Carnegie Classification, joining UMCP and UMBC as the USM's doctoral universities.

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## ■ EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

Our *MPowering* partners - UMCP and UMB - will collaborate on a four-year, \$10 million grant to lead the [United States Department of Agriculture's "CONSERVE" Center of Excellence](#). The center will focus on developing water reuse solutions, nontraditional water sources, and new water treatment technologies to safely and sustainably grow food crops. Also joining the effort will be experts from UMES.

UMBC and IBM Research announced a new collaboration to create the [Accelerated Cognitive Cybersecurity Lab](#) (ACCL), opening at UMBC in fall 2016. Housed within the College of Engineering and Information Technology, the ACCL will advance scientific frontiers in cybersecurity and machine learning.

UMBC also announced a [\\$1.6 million initiative](#) uniting Baltimore City Public Schools, UMBC, and the Northrop Grumman Foundation to boost science, technology, engineering, arts, and math education at Lakeland Elementary/Middle School. Lakeland was once one of the lowest performing schools in Baltimore. It is now in the top third in performance in its area in part due to its partnerships with UMBC.

The University of Baltimore is collaborating with the Hippodrome Foundation and Everyman Theatre to establish Performance Studies, a pathway to college for high school students who want to continue their education as growing artists.

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## ■ IN CLOSING

I have spent this past year as chancellor listening, learning, and telling USM stories of success and challenges. Last fall [I crisscrossed the state of Maryland](#), from the Eastern Shore to Western Maryland, traveling more than 900 miles by bus in four days. I also completed a series of daylong-plus visits to each USM institution to meet with administrators, faculty, staff, and students. In addition, I gave presentations to dozens of economic development and business groups across the state, underscoring the USM's critical role in advancing the state's economy.

As a result, my knowledge of the state's needs and of how the USM can enhance its role in meeting those needs has expanded greatly. Operating effectively as a system will be critical as we look for better ways to share our expertise and resources to advance the state. By promoting greater collaboration and partnerships internally and externally, we can significantly magnify the USM's educational and economic impact across Maryland.

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](mailto:chancellorletter@usmd.edu).

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