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Baltimore

University of Maryland,

The first two months of the academic year have already brought exciting University System of Maryland (USM) news. In September, we learned that *Times Higher Education* ranked the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP), our flagship institution, [67th among universities worldwide](#) - public and private. This ranking represents a jump of 50 spots from last year's ranking.



Also this fall, [Kim Schatzel](#) was formally inaugurated as the 14th president of Towson University (TU). She articulated her vision of working with TU's faculty, staff, students, alumni, and surrounding community to lead and build a stronger and more engaged university.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) celebrated its 50th anniversary, highlighting its role as an institution of innovation, exceptional teaching and learning, profound community service, and critical economic impact.

[James Brady](#), a former secretary of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development, presided over his first meeting as chair of the USM Board of Regents. We also welcomed four new members to the board: [Ellen Fish](#), executive vice

Baltimore County

University of Maryland,
College Park

University of Maryland
Eastern Shore

University of Maryland
University College

University of Maryland
Center for
Environmental Science

Universities at Shady
Grove

University System of
Maryland at
Hagerstown

president and chief lending officer with Hamilton Bank; [Louis Pope](#), president and owner of Century 21 Trademark Realty in Bethesda & Greenbelt; [James Holzapfel](#), managing director of investments with The Holzapfel Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC; and student regent Brandon Enriquez, a junior at UMBC majoring in economics and mathematics.

Among the Board or Regents' first actions this year was approval of the establishment of a USM Diversity and Inclusion Council. The board has chartered this group - comprising 29 members from across the university system - to examine best practices, implement new strategies, and reaffirm our systemwide commitment to diversity and inclusion. I look forward to updating you on the council's progress.

It is with pride and enthusiasm that I update you on other USM news.

■ NEW RANKINGS HIGHLIGHT NATIONAL EMINENCE

Along with the *Times Higher Education's* World University Rankings, USM's academic excellence was also acknowledged in the latest *U.S. News & World Report* rankings:

- * UMCP is ranked 20th among all public universities nationally, and 60th among all universities, public and private.
- * UMBC is ranked 18th among schools with the "Best Undergraduate Teaching."
- * The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) and Bowie State University (BSU) were again ranked in the top tier of America's historically black institutions, 22nd and 26th respectively.
- * Towson, Salisbury University (SU), and Frostburg State University (FSU) were all ranked in the top 50 among Top Public Regional Universities (North).

You can access a full list of current USM rankings [here](#).

■ GROWING ECONOMIC IMPACT

Thanks to our focus on economic and workforce development, USM institutions during the past five years have directly impacted the creation of more than 450 companies and almost 1,300 invention disclosures. One example is Gel-e Life Sciences, a company that has developed an advanced wound care platform to stop bleeding in a clean and safe manner based on technology from UMCP. The Federal Drug Administration has approved the company's first product, Vascular gel-e.

Later this year, USM's economic impact is set to accelerate with the launch of a \$25 million early-stage venture fund focused on investing in USM-affiliated companies. Through this fund, the system will invest in companies based on USM-owned intellectual property; founded by USM faculty, students, or recent graduates; and/or located in USM research parks, incubators, or Maryland's Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise ([RISE](#)) Zones.

To further underscore USM's vital role as the state's primary workforce development engine and a powerful catalyst for economic growth, I will be embarking on an extended statewide tour throughout the academic year. During these full-day regional visits, I will meet with business, community, and other leaders to discuss USM's economic development role and to hear their perspectives on how we can strengthen that role.

For more information on economic development at USM, please visit the [Economic Development and Technology Commercialization](#) section of the USM website.

■ PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF KNOWLEDGE

Our economic impact moves in tandem with our growing research activities. The Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) received a [\\$14.4 million grant](#) from the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to tackle a significant scientific challenge in HIV vaccine research: the inability to produce long-lasting antibodies to protect against HIV infection.

In addition, a team of researchers at UMCP's Energy Research Center was awarded a [\\$1.25 million grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Energy for research to develop better, safer lithium-ion battery technology.

Delmarva Power pledged [\\$1 million](#) to UMES to launch the Green Collar Initiative, a series of energy conservation projects that include crafting a "sustainable curriculum" using research, development, and training assistance targeting rural businesspeople, especially those in agribusiness.

■ COMINGS AND GOINGS

We welcomed [Ronald Nowaczyk](#) as president of Frostburg State University in May. He has nearly four decades of experience helping public universities in rural areas advance academically and expand their community impact.

We will say farewell to two long-standing USM presidents next year. [BSU President Mickey Burnim](#) has announced plans to retire on June 30, 2017, capping a 40-year career in higher education and nearly 11 years at the helm of Bowie State. [Don Boesch](#), who has led the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) since 1990, will be stepping down as president in August. Fortunately, he will remain part of the USM community as a UMCES researcher.

TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF USM'S "SYSTEMNESS"

From the beginning of my chancellorship, I have emphasized the importance of our work as a system. I believe it is our "systemness"-working together, leveraging our resources, and using economies of scale - that strengthens our ability to have broad-based, positive impact. Here are a few examples of how our "systemness" positively impacts the people and the state that we serve.

As of October 1, the University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016 (Senate Bill 1052) is in effect, enhancing and expanding the existing [M-Powering the State](#) partnership between UMCP and UMB. In early fall, the *MPowering* partners announced the new [Maryland Academy for Innovation in National Security](#) to leverage their joint leadership in counterterrorism studies, intelligence analysis, forensic studies, cybersecurity, homeland security law, and other criminal justice disciplines. The academy has the potential to be a key factor in attracting the FBI headquarters to the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

This past summer, the USM entered into a [partnership with EdX](#), the nonprofit online learning destination founded by Harvard and MIT. Through this agreement, we will leverage USM's leadership in online education and EdX's innovative platform and data analytics capabilities to expand offerings and improve learning outcomes for our students. As we accelerate our efforts to utilize academic innovation as a way to maintain quality and decrease costs, this partnership will help advance us toward that goal.

Our new [B-Power \(Baltimore Power\)](#) initiative also will leverage USM resources to better serve the city, its citizens and, in particular, its students. This initiative will work with organizations - initially through formal partnerships with the CollegeBound Foundation, Baltimore City Community College, and Junior Achievement of Central Maryland - to increase education and career opportunities for the city's students. Leading the initiative will be two of USM's urban institutions, Coppin State University and the University of Baltimore. As it advances, B-Power will forge a much wider alliance with other USM institutions, nonprofits, businesses, schools, elected officials, and education advocacy organizations.

FINAL NOTES

I want to bring your attention to the [new USM logo](#) that appears at the beginning and end of this e-letter. After four months of research and creative work, we recently launched the new logo to better reflect the innovative and forward-thinking USM of today. You'll also note that through a modern treatment of elements of the iconic Maryland flag, the logo demonstrates our continuing strong alignment with the state's priorities.

As always, I very much appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to respond to this letter or any other USM news, please write me at: usmupdates@usmd.edu.



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of MARYLAND

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