



## Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

April 29, 2022

Thank you, Chair Gooden. What a wonderful morning it's been already, with the recognition of our outstanding faculty. It was an honor to thank them for their service. I also want to thank Dr. Joshi for the forum on student mental health. We know the last couple of years have exacerbated what's *already* a mental health crisis on college campuses. It's an issue that's profoundly important to us, and I appreciate the chance to discuss it.

Turning to this board, I offer *you* my thanks for selecting such a worthy successor to Pres. Hrabowski at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The universal praise that's greeted the appointment of Dr. Valerie Ashby is a striking endorsement of your work. In the coming months, we'll have many opportunities to share our excitement for Dr. Ashby's arrival, and our gratitude for Pres. Hrabowski's powerful legacy of leadership and service.

Finally, I thank Pres. Schatzel for hosting us today—and for showcasing Towson University's (TU) excellence. It's not hard to do. The Tigers just celebrated impressive Fulbright recognition, with one student and three recent alums receiving Fulbright awards. The awards will advance their teaching and research in Spain, Italy, and the UK. As we speak, TU has two student-led startups competing for more than \$200,000 in prize money at E-Fest, the country's premier college entrepreneurship challenge.

Earlier this month, TU held a grand opening for this beautifully expanded and renovated University Union, a "Brand New U" to accommodate TU's impressive growth. And Pres. Schatzel was just featured in a *Daily Record* profile of women who've led expansive efforts to tackle the pandemic. Pres. Schatzel, I congratulate you and the entire TU family on these achievements and more.

### USM EXCELLENCE

Since we last met, there's been a tremendous amount of good news to share across the USM.

At our last meeting, I highlighted the System's online programs ranked among the best by *U.S. News and World Report*. Today, the *U.S. News* Graduate School rankings take center stage. Once again, evidence of our excellence is abundant. The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP)

was recognized with 56 Top 25 programs, including several Top 10 placements. At the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), every school won an overall ranking in the Top 25 or had individual Top 25 programs. I especially want to congratulate the School of Nursing, which was recognized with five Top 10 specialties. And our newest R1 institution, UMBC, was recognized for statistics, computer science, and several engineering disciplines. My congratulations to these universities on their continued national leadership.

But it wasn't just our large research institutions that made the cut. Every eligible USM university made the rankings, including education at Frostburg State University (FSU) and Salisbury University (SU); computer science at Bowie State University (BSU) and Towson; and rehabilitation counseling at Coppin State University (CSU) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Meanwhile, the clinical training program at the University of Baltimore (UBalt) School of Law clinched a Top 10 spot.

I'd like to note one more ranking: VIQTORY, which serves military personnel and their spouses transitioning into civilian life, has given five USM institutions its 2022–23 Military Friendly Schools rating: Salisbury, Towson, UBalt, UMES, and—for the 11th consecutive year—Frostburg.

Beyond our institutional excellence, our students, faculty, and leaders have individually distinguished themselves.

Salisbury University has absolutely excelled in Fulbright recognition, with a record nine students or recent alumni selected for the upcoming cycle of the Fulbright Student Program. In addition, for the cycle that's wrapping up soon, Salisbury was one of just five institutions nationwide recognized as both a top producer of Fulbright students and a top producer of Fulbright scholars. Chuck, congratulations.

Four UMBC students (Christopher Slaughter, Rachel Myers, Tobi Majekodunmi, and D'Juan Moreland) and three College Park students (Patrick Kim, George Li, and Kevin Tu) have been named 2022 Goldwater Scholars. Each will receive substantial scholarship funding to pursue advanced study and research in the sciences, engineering, and math.

And we just got news that three USM faculty members—out of only 28 scholars nationwide—were named 2022 Carnegie Fellows: From College Park, Sarah Cameron, associate professor of history, and Rashawn Ray, professor of sociology; and from UMBC, George Derek Musgrove, associate professor of history. Each will receive \$200,000 to support their research and writing.

BSU junior Paige Blake was appointed by President Biden to serve on his Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. She's one of only 18 members of the board, and serves alongside some of the country's most prominent leaders in education, business, the arts, advocacy, and culture.

Maryland's media and leadership organizations recognize our people's excellence as well. Six members of the 2022 Leadership Maryland Class—more than 10 percent—have USM connections, including Dr. Peter Goodwin, president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). About the same share of *The Daily Record's* Top 100 Women this year are from the University System, including UMES Pres. Heidi Anderson. And UMB Pres. Bruce Jarrell took his deserved place among *The Daily Record's* Power 30 in Health Care.

I mentioned earlier the many tributes being hosted for Pres. Hrabowski, as he continues his 2022 Farewell Tour. One of several I've attended was put on by the Universities at Shady Grove (USG). That's fitting, as Dr. Hrabowski is the last remaining USM president who was part of USG's founding in 2000. The event showcased the many UMBC programs at USG, including a new mechanical engineering program that launches this fall.

## GROWTH IN ACADEMIC PROGRAMS AND USM REACH

Certainly, there are other impressive examples of our institutions growing their academic programs to meet pressing needs and serving new student populations.

FSU has introduced three new programs: a Working Professional Certificate, with offerings in Manufacturing Leadership, Retail Management, Small Business Management, and Nonprofit Management; a Social Media minor, featuring internship opportunities with campus and community partners; and—joining with UMES—an accelerated Pharmacy track, which allows completion of a PharmD degree in just six years total.

Taking advantage of its location between the Atlantic and the Chesapeake, SU has added a Marine Science minor with an emphasis on field work. TU has introduced an entry-level MS in Nursing, providing a pathway that allows more students to pursue careers in nursing. This is critical, given the grave nursing shortage facing Maryland and the U.S.

The NSA recently designated Bowie State a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense, positioning its students as prime recruits to serve on the front lines protecting the nation. At UMB, the School of Medicine has launched the Center for Advanced Research Training and Innovation—or CARTI—focused on growing and developing the next generation of clinician-scientists and biomedical research-scientists. CARTI will be led by Dr. Al Reece, as he transitions back to the faculty following his 16-year tenure as the school's dean.

Last month, CSU Pres. Anthony Jenkins was in Philadelphia as the former Andrew Jackson Elementary School was renamed in honor of the trailblazing educator Fanny Jackson Coppin. But that renaming came with a surprise: Pres. Jenkins announced the "Philadelphia Pathway" scholarship, guaranteeing free tuition to CSU for any Coppin Elementary alum after they graduate high school. What a great way to reach a whole new pipeline of students.

UMGC has announced a slew of new partnerships. One with Springboard, an online learning platform, will allow UMG students to take Springboard courses in software engineering, cybersecurity, data analytics, and more. A partnership with Guild Education, which connects working adults to education opportunities, will make UMG's wide range of career-focused online degree and certificate programs available to a significant number of adult learners. And next fall, UMG will be working with the ed-tech company VictoryXR, using virtual and augmented reality to create a "digital twin campus" to make online classes more immersive and interactive.

## PARTNERSHIPS, GRANTS, AND GIFTS

Along with these partnerships to advance our academic mission, several more will strengthen our economic and social impact, as will key grants and gifts.

Coppin State has announced two impressive partnerships. Teaming with PNC Bank, CSU will provide students and neighbors access to financial literacy education and expanded banking services. Meanwhile, a new partnership with the Charles Schwab Foundation and Advisor Services—accompanied by the single largest gift in CSU history—will position the university as a major hub for financial education and financial services. It will bring more diversity to the financial services industry so that it better reflects the makeup of current and future investors, and it will build wealth in communities long deprived of it.

Earlier this month, representatives from the USM at Hagerstown (USMH) were on site at Hagerstown Community College (HCC) for USMH at HCC Transfer Day. The theme was "Stay close. Go far," and USMH staff showed HCC students the programs and opportunities available to them—the careers possible for them—should they choose to continue their education at the regional center.

College of Southern Maryland (CSM) President Maureen Murphy, who sits on the Board of Advisors for the USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM), has announced that she'll be retiring at the end of the year. I know USMSM Executive Director Eileen Abel looks forward to working with CSM's new leader to build on the strong transfer partnership the two institutions already enjoy.

UMCES has entered into an expansive partnership with Baltimore-based US Wind. With \$11 million in funding over eight years, UMCES will execute three research projects aimed at understanding the potential effects of offshore wind development on marine mammals, fish, and birds. The timing is key, as offshore wind developments are eyed for Maryland's coast.

At UMES, the True North Scholarship Program—opening up aviation careers to students of color—has named its first recipient: Izaiah Brown. Plus, the university welcomed Republic Airways as its latest corporate aviation partner. And Troon, the world's biggest golf and club

management company, just launched a scholarship program for students enrolled in the UMES PGA Golf Management program.

With a gift from Whiting-Turner—matched by Maryland’s E-Innovation Initiative Fund—TU is launching an interdisciplinary cybersecurity center and appointing its first endowed professor of cybersecurity.

Just last week, UBalt’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation hosted the finals of its Rise to the Challenge Pitch Competition. Seven UBalt undergraduates, graduate students, and alumni competed for \$30,000 in seed money to support their ventures. The competition is now in its 10th year.

Researchers at UMB’s School of Medicine won a \$5.5 million award from the National Institutes of Health to foster the next generation of global health scientists. Two College Park researchers have received \$2.6 million from the Department of Defense to study how national security and climate change intersect in the U.S. and around the world.

In philanthropy news, the estate of George Miles, a NASA engineer who lived in the Salisbury area and worked at the Wallops Flight Facility, made two hugely generous gifts—\$3.3 million apiece—to SU and UMES. The gifts will benefit students through scholarships and financial aid.

And the largest gift in UMBC’s history—\$21 million from the Sherman Family Foundation—will help launch the Betsy & George Sherman Center. The center will expand and integrate UMBC’s work in teacher preparation, school partnerships, and applied research focused on early childhood education and improved outcomes for Baltimore City students.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

This kind of outreach and engagement are emblematic of our commitment, Systemwide, to equity, opportunity, and excellence for all.

Earlier this month, FSU held a ribbon-cutting for Brownsville Hall—its newest residence hall named in honor of the largely Black community displaced as the university grew its footprint in the early and mid-20th century. Together with the ribbon-cutting, FSU held a unity march and a week of programming to talk openly about issues of bias and microaggressions and to promote racial healing.

At College Park, a private ceremony was held breaking ground on Collins Plaza, a permanent memorial honoring 1st Lt. Richard W. Collins III, a Bowie State student killed by a College Park student in 2017. Pres. Pines and Pres. Breaux were joined by Lt. Collins’s parents, Richard and Dawn Collins, each expressing a commitment to pursue racial equity and justice.

Just last week, BSU became the nation's first HBCU to sign on as a premier sponsor of a national PBS film. The two original public television documentaries will feature two Marylanders, both towering figures in the struggle to end slavery, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

UBalt has officially launched its Center for Criminal Justice Reform. Made possible by a generous donation from School of Law alumnus Samuel G. Rose, the center will address a broken criminal justice system beleaguered by mass incarceration, inequitable prosecution, juvenile justice failures, and rising violence. And on the world stage, UBalt Law Prof. Margaret Johnson was announced as a Fulbright Scholar just a few days ago. She'll continue her study of gender equity issues in Australia.

And—as part of a groundbreaking partnership with the nonprofit International Rescue Committee—College Park is temporarily housing refugee and evacuee families from Afghanistan. This approach to resettlement is the first-of-its-kind for a public university.

As chancellor, I'm justifiably proud of so much we do as a System. And our commitment to action in racial equity and social justice—lived and modeled throughout the USM—is among my greatest sources of pride.

## 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

I turn now to the just completed legislative session.

The operating budget submitted by the governor and approved by the legislature showed tremendous—even historic—support for higher education and for the USM. The budget cuts we suffered early in the pandemic were fully restored, and tens of millions of dollars were added in new funding. This generous support will allow us to expand financial aid for students and keep college affordable for more Marylanders.

New funding for our three HBCUs will enable scholarships, faculty recruitment, and academic innovation and excellence. State dollars supporting the operation of new and renovated facilities will expand education and research capacity across the state, strengthening Maryland's knowledge economy. And money allocated for pay raises will help us attract and retain the faculty and staff who are the very people responsible for Maryland's unparalleled success in college attainment and quality.

Turning to the capital budget, I again use the word "historic." The General Assembly approved every USM project included in the Governor's Capital Budget, committing more than \$500 million, the largest single-year capital appropriation ever for the USM.

Projects funded or advanced include \$58 million for the Chemistry Building at College Park, \$73 million for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Communication Arts and Humanities Building at BSU,

nearly \$89 million for the College of Health Professions Building at TU, \$8 million to complete the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Building at UMES, and \$90 million for facilities renewal Systemwide.

All of this underscores how much our leaders in Annapolis value public higher education and how committed they are to investing in it. They recognize that, together, we've built one of the most educated, most innovative, most entrepreneurial, and most successful populations in the country. They understand that Maryland's place in the innovation economy is virtually unsurpassed, and that an exceptional system of public higher education is what sets us apart from our competitors and drives our success. I'm grateful to the Hogan administration and the legislature for their commitment to the System and the work we do.

I'm grateful, as well, to our government relations team, led by Vice Chancellor Patrick Hogan, and his colleagues throughout the USM, for steering us through such a productive session. They had a big assist from Academic and Student Affairs, led by Senior Vice Chancellor Jo Boughman. I also thank Vice Chancellor Ellen Herbst and her staff for their hard work in support of our operating and capital budgets.

Just one more word of thanks to the people elevating the University System: A couple of nights ago in New York City, the USM Foundation's investment office, led by chief investment officer Sam Gallo, was named Endowment of the Year. We bested some stiff competition, and it just goes to show how skillfully we steward the dollars entrusted to us. Thank you to Leonard Raley, Sam Gallo, and the entire investment team.

## FROM PANDEMIC TO ENDEMIC DISEASE

One final thought before I close: Things obviously look very different today than they did even a year ago. Federal and state public health authorities have begun transitioning their COVID disease response from a pandemic to an endemic phase of infection. And Systemwide, our vaccination rates are high, and disease positivity rates are low.

And so as we enter this next phase of endemic disease, the USM *strongly encourages* all of our students, faculty, and staff, unless exempted, to be fully vaccinated and up-to-date on all booster shots when eligible, so that we're well positioned to remain safe this coming fall. And, of course, we'll continue to analyze data and policy developments, so that our universities have what they need as they consider campus protocols going forward. I thank all of our institutions for their continued leadership in protecting public health and safety.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report.

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