



Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

UMBC | December 16, 2022

Thank you, Chair Gooden. What an honor it is to have Chancellor Emeritus Kirwan with us today talking about his namesake commission and its landmark report: a blueprint transforming early childhood, elementary, and secondary education in Maryland. It's fitting that this roadmap will forever be linked with your name, Brit.

As we close out the calendar year and prepare to celebrate the holidays, I do have to revisit some news that we're *not*, in fact, celebrating—namely, that Dr. Kim Schatzel will step down as Towson University's (TU) leader on Feb. 1 to assume the presidency of the University of Louisville.

President Schatzel has been a game-changer for TU. The university has grown significantly under her leadership, enrolling a larger and more diverse student body. She's modernized the campus with state-of-the-art facilities. She and her team have eliminated the achievement and graduation gaps for underrepresented students. She's strengthened Towson's long-standing commitment to community, undertaking hundreds of projects and partnerships that enrich learning on the TU campus and transform the region surrounding it.

I know Kim's vision and strength will mean great things for UofL, and I add my warm wishes to the hundreds pouring in. Kim, congratulations. I also thank Provost Melanie Perreault for stepping in to serve as Towson's interim president as we launch a national search for Dr. Schatzel's successor.

Finally, I thank our hosts this morning, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and President Valerie Sheares Ashby. Dr. Ashby has taken UMBC's reins at an exciting time. Shortly after last month's mid-terms, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge named America's Most Engaged Campuses for Student Voting. UMBC was one of four USM schools recognized, together with Towson, the University of Baltimore (UBalt), and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP).

UMBC Volleyball just captured its third-straight America East championship title. And *off* the court, UMBC's chemical engineering students won the "ChemE Jeopardy" national championship, hosted by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

Last month, UMBC was announced as a key partner in the NASA-funded TIGERISS mission, which launches to the International Space Station in 2026. The point of the mission is to determine the source of heavy elements that find their way to Earth—elements like gold, platinum, and lead.

Back here on *terra firma*, UMBC was just named a Top 10 Workplace by *The Baltimore Sun*. It's the eighth time UMBC has won the Top Workplace honor—a powerful endorsement of the university's climate and culture.

Congratulations, Valerie. You've set a high bar in your first few months leading this university, and I can't wait to see what you do next.

STRENGTHENING THE P20 PIPELINE

Though it's been only a matter of weeks since we last met, there's no shortage of good news across the System.

Sticking with UMBC for just a moment, there's one more item I want to mention. Last month, *The Baltimore Sun* ran a terrific profile of two UMBC programs: the Sherman Scholars program, which supports professionals to be culturally competent and compassionate STEM teachers in urban schools, and the Reach Together tutoring program, which provides what's called “high dosage” math tutoring in city schools. The *Sun*'s feature was a great example of efforts across the System to recruit and develop high-talent teachers and to strengthen our P20 pipeline, so that all Maryland learners are ready for rigorous college-level work.

For instance, last month, Coppin State University (CSU) won a \$3.7 million federal grant for its Pathways to Professions program. The program aims to close the teacher shortage by targeting preparation and support to Black and Latinx teachers, whose turnover in the classroom is significant, and place these teachers in high-need urban and rural schools. Thank you, Anthony.

Earlier this month, Frostburg State University's (FSU) College of Education was granted national accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. Frostburg was one of just 55 schools across 28 states to win this prestigious endorsement of its teacher ed program. Congratulations, Ron.

Last month, the U.S. Department of Education awarded \$3 million to the Upward Bound program at College Park. The money will support 120 Prince George's County high schoolers for five years. With their sights set on college, these students will be able to access classes and tutoring in math, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, and foreign languages.

Salisbury University's (SU) Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative won \$2.4 million from the Office of Statewide Broadband to develop the maps and data points necessary to expand

internet capacity to every corner of the state—access that’s indispensable for success at every level of education.

The USM at Southern Maryland (USMSM) has gotten some well-deserved press lately for its outreach efforts. The local chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. holds monthly STEM Exposure events at the campus. Schoolchildren from the tri-county area explore electrical, mechanical, and chemical engineering—and marry their science to innovative art and design. Thank you, Eileen.

Just last week, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) hosted the 3rd annual Man the Shore Summit, bringing together educators, experts, and high school and college students with an interest in education. The summit examines strategies to recruit and retain teachers of color, and support them to success. It’s fitting that the event’s organizer, UMES education professor Richard Warren Jr., is co-chairing the governor-elect’s education transition team.

And I got a first-hand look at how strong our pipeline really is when I visited the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) last month. Students shared with me the different paths that brought them to USG and where they see themselves going now. Several had come through pathways like UMBC’s STEM Ready program and the ACES partnership with Montgomery College and Montgomery County schools. Thank you, Anne, for having me. And congratulations on your first in-person open house in three long years. I know many of the hundreds of prospective students you hosted will find a welcoming home at USG.

INITIATIVES & ACHIEVEMENTS

In the past few weeks, we’ve launched significant initiatives and partnerships across the System.

The School of Nursing at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) has established two complementary research Centers of Excellence. The Placebo Beyond Opinions Center will advance unbiased knowledge of placebo effects by promoting interdisciplinary investigation of the placebo phenomenon and nurturing a research program. The SYNAPSE Center will use neuroscientific and psychological approaches to yield a stronger understanding of how symptoms manifest, thereby helping researchers and doctors better predict, prevent, and treat them.

UMES—one of five historically Black institutions taking part in Princeton University’s HBCU research collaboration—has announced two projects to be co-led by a team of researchers from the two schools, one focused on coastal flooding and the other on food safety.

And I’d be remiss if I didn’t publicly congratulate UMES President Heidi Anderson on her election as chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. It’s an enormous honor; congratulations, Heidi.

As we approach Christmas, it seems timely to note that five researchers from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) have just returned from the North Pole. Dr. Lee Cooper and Dr. Jackie Grebmeier, both Arctic veterans, led the UMCES group on a two-month expedition as part of the international Synoptic Arctic Survey. Their work helps assess the state of the Arctic Ocean as climate change reduces sea ice and warms our planet's northernmost waters. Peter, I hope they got a *warm* welcome home.

UMCP has established the Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction, the latest component of The 120 Initiative on gun violence, launched by College Park and the Consortium of DC-area Universities. The center will gather and synthesize the most rigorous research on community-based violence, and make it available free of charge to the public, and to federal, state, and local leaders. Thank you for this important work, Darryll.

College Park's Quantum Technology Center has partnered with the U.S. State Department, informing the agency's understanding of how quantum technology will reshape world economies, global militaries—the future as we know it—and how we can protect U.S. national interests as that happens.

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) has launched two new marketing certificate programs—one in digital marketing and one in multicultural marketing—to help students navigate a field wholly reshaped by data, technology, and analytics. And I have to share that UMGCC hit an incredible milestone this month—100,000 alumni living in Maryland. Greg, this is what makes Maryland strong—this is what advances social mobility and builds wealth for those who will serve and strengthen our great state. Thank you.

With the grand opening last month of the TU Cyber Center, Towson University is advancing its national leadership in cybersecurity education and interdisciplinary research. TU is one of just 21 U.S. universities designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Operations. And last year, the university won \$2 million from the NSA to enhance cybersecurity education. This new center builds on that excellence. Congratulations, Kim.

Another cyber powerhouse, UMBC, is growing its cyber training with a \$1.2 million Department of Defense grant. The grant expands CyMOT, which helps manufacturing professionals protect the sector from threats, and develop skills in cyber and machine learning.

Last week, Dietra Trent, executive director of the White House Initiative on HBCUs, visited Bowie State University (BSU) to engage with students and tour the Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community. And earlier this week, NBA star Kevin Durant put some celebrity shine on BSU's name, giving \$500,000 to Bowie's Athletics Department. Congratulations, Aminta.

TU's Armory was honored last month with the Maryland Department of Planning's Sustainable Communities Award. The Armory was singled out as an exemplar of sustainable growth.

College Park was named a Top 10 university for entrepreneurship by the *Princeton Review* and *Entrepreneur* magazine. Its No. 7 rank puts it at the top of the entire Mid-Atlantic region.

Dr. Joan Serafin, a political science professor at Frostburg, won the 2022 Global Citizenship Award for her work to develop globally engaged curricula and opportunities for students at FSU.

UMGC President Greg Fowler yesterday delivered George Mason University's commencement address at its winter ceremony and received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from his alma mater. Congratulations, Greg.

UBalt's RLB Tutoring program has been awarded the highest level of certification by the College Reading and Learning Association, considered the gold standard for academic support programs. Certification is the culmination of a goal a dozen years in the making. Congratulations, Kurt.

Bowie State will partner in a \$3.2 million USDA grant just awarded to Prince George's County. The grant funds a pilot program to support local farmers and producers of color, and to implement climate-centric practices in organic farming.

The School of Medicine at UMB is partnering with UMBC to develop a device that could prevent overdose deaths in real time—a non-invasive CO2 monitor that more effectively detects and reverses opioid overdose. The project was just awarded a \$500,000 NIH grant.

A study by *U.S. News and World Report* shines a light on gender diversity at UMB's Francis King Carey School of Law. The study finds that, historically, Maryland Carey Law is No. 1 among all U.S. law schools for women's representation among faculty, No. 2 for representation among students, and No. 17 among deans. This is the legacy borne of valuing gender equality and investing in it. Bruce, congratulations, and please pass on my thanks to Dean Hutchins.

Turning to student support, I thank Salisbury University, where 95 percent of admitted students receive some sort of financial aid—either scholarship support or need-based aid. SU is now doubling down on its commitment to affordability, announcing a 21 percent increase in merit scholarship funding for the upcoming academic year. Lyn, thank you.

And the USM at Hagerstown (USMH) just hosted its annual Elizabethtowne Feaste and Frolic gala, raising \$43,000 for student scholarships. At the event, our very own senior vice chancellor (and USMH board member) Jo Boughman was “knighted” in absentia for her years of service to the regional center and its students. Now, Larry, I need to share that Jo's knighthood is only her *latest* title, as we've already canonized her a saint.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SERVICE

As this is the time of year when giving is top of mind, I'm proud that we've embraced the holiday spirit, centering generosity and compassion in our work, and being of service to the communities we're so fortunate to call home. I couldn't possibly highlight them all, but I'll share just a few examples.

In partnership with WJZ-TV and the University of Maryland Medical Center, UMB raised a record-breaking \$55,000 for its annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, providing nearly 1,500 West Baltimore families a full Thanksgiving feast.

Bowie State University was one of 33 colleges taking part in the Sack to Give Back challenge to fight hunger. With Food Lion providing 1,000 meals per sack, BSU's 27 quarterback sacks this season delivered 27,000 meals to the Maryland Food Bank.

TU is reinstating its swipe donation program next year, allowing students to donate the remaining weekly balance on their OneCards to classmates facing food insecurity. Given that nearly 30 percent of college students don't have enough food to get by in a single week, this can make a real difference.

In Salisbury last month, hundreds of SU students volunteered at more than 40 homes near campus to rake leaves and clear yard waste for those in need of help.

The 18th annual Storybook Holiday celebration, hosted by the Children's Literature Centre at FSU, brought its seasonal cheer to downtown Frostburg. This year's festival—bigger and better post-pandemic—will be featured on UpTV's Small Town Christmas program.

At UBalt, students are running a collection to support the university's Campus Pantry, providing food and staples to classmates facing hunger.

This spirit of service, of empathy, of grace and humanity, define our universities and our people—not just during the holidays, but all year long. I'm so very grateful for their kindness.

END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR

Before I wind down, let me share just a few things. First, we'll soon release the USM's Annual Report, outlining progress toward our strategic goals—access and achievement, equity and justice, research and development, workforce preparedness and statewide prosperity. I'll make sure you get a copy.

Second, I'm sure you've heard of a threat gaining steam this winter—the collision of COVID, flu, and RSV. We continue to urge everyone on our campuses to remain up to date with their

vaccinations. Of course, having been through COVID, we're better prepared than ever to meet this challenge.

And here it's fitting that I acknowledge another departure that's bittersweet for us. At the System level, there are two people largely responsible for guiding us through COVID. As you know, one of them, Dr. Jo Boughman, is retiring in March. The *other* person is Dr. Kate Tracy, who's accepted a position at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine. Dr. Tracy has been appointed associate dean for research and professor of medicine at UVM. I can't thank Kate enough for her confidence-building leadership—and calming presence—during such a challenging time. We'll miss her greatly.

And finally, as we close out the calendar year, I want to express my gratitude for your work and what it does. In my holiday message, I say that in each of our missions is the power to shape the future. And in that way, we don't merely inherit this world of ours. We build it. We forge it—together with the 40,000 faculty and staff we employ, the 43,000 students we graduate each year, the 160,000 learners we enroll, the 1 million+ USM alumni living and working around the globe.

We are the architects of our future. And so I thank you for the brilliant, beautiful world you make every day.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report.

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