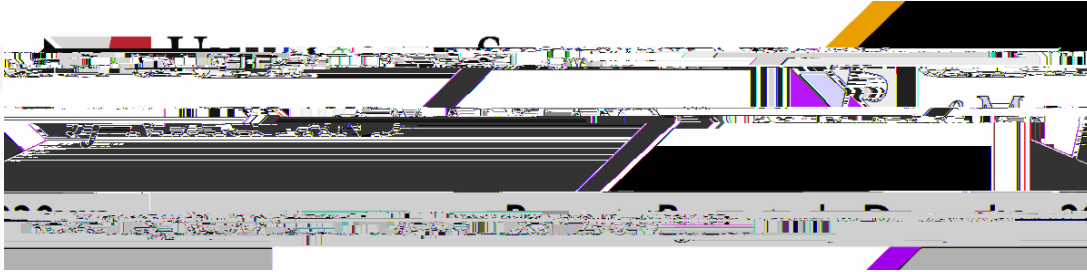


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## Greetings from the Board of Regents

As we close out 2020, with two COVID vaccines having secured FDA approval, we're filled with hope that this might be, at last, the beginning of the end of the pandemic. At the same time, we know that we have several more difficult months ahead of us, and that we must continue our work to end this virus, to keep our people safe, and to keep our students learning.

That work will be advanced by the distribution of vaccines across Maryland, and the USM is proud to partner in the state's mass vaccination effort. Our campuses will serve as vaccine distribution sites, our health sciences students will serve as vaccinators, our university leaders will serve as examples to those who are skeptical of a vaccine, especially people of color whose distrust is borne of the unethical practices and inequitable outcomes suffered over centuries.

This work will not be easy, but it will, in time, enable a return to normal. Still, we won't let the progress we've made in access and innovation languish, nor will we shelve the lessons we've learned from this crisis: how to optimize remote and hybrid learning; how to meet the needs of our students in a way that honors their differences. We will emerge from this pandemic a stronger, more agile, and more resilient USM.

Certainly, 2020 has brought great pain. But it's brought, as well, six new USM leaders whose commitment to the system and to the students they serve is a daily inspiration. The last of these new leaders is Dr. Gregory Fowler, this month named the next president of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). We'll welcome Dr. Fowler next month, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Larry Leak for his invaluable service as UMGC interim president.

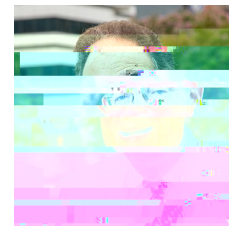
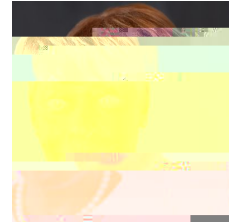
The end of the year also brings Leading Maryland, the [USM's 2020 Annual Report](#). It's a striking compilation of our systemwide achievements in critical mission areas—education, research, economic development, public service—and it showcases the USM's enormous impact in Maryland. Please take a look.

Together, we faced extraordinary challenges this year, and together, we met every one. This holiday, we wish you comfort, peace, and all the joy of the season. And, more than ever, we wish you a healthy, happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

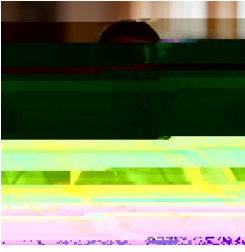
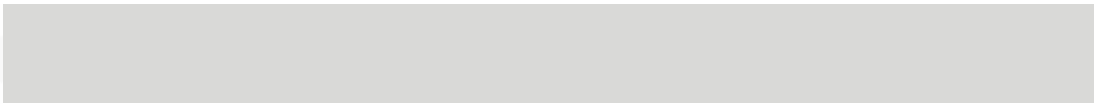
Jay A. Perman, MD  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland



## Board Actions & Decisions | December 18, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on December 18, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:





**Salisbury University.** SU senior Jessica Pierce was named a finalist for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. If selected, she would be the first SU student to earn the honor, allowing her to travel to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience with a focus on epilepsy research. [Read more.](#)

**Towson University.** The university celebrated the largest single donation from an alum in the institution's 154 years—a \$5.3 million gift from Dr. Fran Soistman Jr., a 1979 TU graduate. The gift will be used to support the College of Health Professions, the College of Business & Economics, athletics, and programming to advance equity, diversity and inclusion. [Read more.](#)

**University of Baltimore.** Seven finalists have been announced for the 2020 Attman Business Pitch Competition. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore.** For the second time this year, the university's School of Nursing has approved an early exit for nursing students to bolster the nursing workforce and help the state of Maryland respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** UMBC student Sam Patterson was one of only 32 American students awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship this year. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.** UMCES launched its first edX professional certificate course—Science for Environmental Management. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, College Park.** Phillip and Elizabeth Gross, who run a family foundation bearing their names, are making a \$6.8 million gift to the university's Incentive Awards Program, which provides scholarships and academic support to underserved populations from the state of Maryland and D.C. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** UMES alumnus James Akinola '15, a combat medic assigned to Fort Jackson in South Carolina, was recently named the 2020 U.S. Army Soldier of the Year! [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Global Campus.** UMGC alumna Bonnie Broh-Kahn and her husband recently established endowment funds through a \$1 million bequest to the university. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Regional Centers

**Universities at Shady Grove.** Last month the Universities at Shady Grove held its 11th Annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Celebration. The event—moved to a virtual format—honored more than 650 scholarship recipients and donors. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH).** The annual Feaste at Yuletide scholarship fundraiser raised nearly \$45,000 to support students enrolled in programs offered at USMH. [Read more.](#)

**University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM).** TechPort—a UMCP-managed business incubator that also supports USMSM—is providing critical assistance to frontline health care workers. [Read more.](#)

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## Dates to Remember

For the complete schedule of meetings and public access information, please visit the USM website at:

[www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/)

**JANUARY 12, 2021**  
**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**  
9:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

## Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive [View](#)

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**Committee on Governance and Compensation**

8:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

**Committee on Finance**

10:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**

12:30 p.m.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2021**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

8:30 a.m.

**FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

**Committee on Advancement**

11:00 a.m.

**MARCH 26, 2021**

**Committee on Audit**

10:00 a.m.



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University System of Maryland