

Professions at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), and the Education Professions and Health Sciences Center at Frostburg State University (FSU). Our leaders in Annapolis were very generous with us in terms of our campus infrastructure, knowing that our facilities enable our teaching, research, and service missions. We're deeply grateful.

I also want to acknowledge the historic agreement reached earlier this month when the governor signed HB1/SB1, giving Maryland's HBCUs \$577 million over 10 years to achieve funding equity with the state's traditionally white institutions. The bill settles a longstanding lawsuit and positions our HBCUs for even greater growth and prominence. I know our colleagues at Coppin State University (CSU), Bowie State, and UMES are thrilled—as am I.

This was an incredibly busy legislative session for the USM Office and for our universities, with a number of bills requiring input and testimony. I thank our government relations team, led by Vice Chancellor Patrick Hogan, and colleagues across the System who worked around the clock to help shape a legislative agenda that benefits our students, our employees, and Maryland as a whole. I'm proud of the work we've done together.

ON-CAMPUS VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

I know many of them are grateful for the chance to get a vaccine from someone they know and trust, in a setting that's familiar to them. At the same time, I know that—this week especially—there's some anxiety around vaccination. Maryland has paused use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, following the

