

I
in-person teaching an

A as much as possible,
T -person learning and on-campus living. The
universities are handling the logistics of vaccination requirements for instance, the
documentation of vaccination, exemptions from the mandate, help for our international
students in securing vaccines authorized by the WHO.

W COVID such as testing, monitoring, and masking
B

As Chair Gooden noted, the June Board meeting tradit C A
Report, a year-in-review for the USM and its institutions. And while my comments will certainly
include recent news, I m glad for this chance to look back at some of the biggest achievements
celebrated during this unprecedented year.

I I begin with a recap of leadership changes and impacts across the USM.

Our first major leadership change came last July, with Darryll Pines assuming the presidency of
the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Chair Gooden and I recently had the privilege
D P as 34th president of our flagship university. Since
last summer, w welcomed Dr. Bruce Jarrell as president of the University of Maryland,
Baltimore (UMB), Dr. Gregory Fowler as president of the University of Maryland Global Campus
(UMGC), Dr. Anne Khademian as executive director of the Universities at Shady Grove (USG),
and Dr. Eileen Abel as the inaugural executive director of the USM at Southern Maryland
(USMSM).

All these leaders hit the ground running. President Pines outlined bold goals in faculty diversity,
climate action, research and innovation, the arts, and honoring athletic trailblazers. President
F UMGC D K raising USG profile in virtual
engagement, and Dr. Abel is positioning USMSM to meet the growing higher education and
research demand in Southern Maryland. U P J UMB been
central in U.S. efforts to end COVID-19. In fact, just a few weeks ago, researchers at UMB
School of Medicine began enrolling children 6 months to 11 years old in the KidCOVE study a
clinical trial of the Moderna vaccine.

Of course, institutions throughout the USM have been engaged in the fight against COVID.
Towson University (TU) offered nursing students early graduation, and dozens took the option,

join COVID Salisbury University (SU) donated laptops to schools in Baltimore City and Wicomico County to help students struggling to access distance learning.

Bowie State University (BSU) launched a research initiative to better understand COVID's disproportionate impact on minority communities. And I'm proud to once again note that Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett, an alumna of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), led the team of NIH scientists helping develop the Moderna vaccine.

As we all know, our COVID fight is by no means finished. But as we look back at our combined efforts over the past year, we can do so with great pride.

We can also take great satisfaction in the academic excellence of our institutions, which continue to be nationally recognized. The University of Maryland System (UMS) was recognized among the top 100 public universities in the U.S. in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report rankings of undergraduate, graduate, and online programs. Additionally, the USM excelled in rankings based on the combination of education quality, affordability, and alumni success. (The Princeton Review), (The Princeton Review Magazine (Best Value Colleges), (The Princeton Review (Best College Values), and the Princeton Review (Best Colleges) place the USM among the top 100 value universities.

And no review of the USM honors won by our people. There are far too many to name, but I congratulate President Kim Schatzel and President Aminta Breaux on being named Influential Marylanders by The Baltimore Sun.

Frostburg State University (FSU) broke ground on its Education and Health Sciences Center. Once finished, the \$80 million facility will be the new academic home for students studying to become educators, nurses, and other health professionals.

S U P R G A C U S
top 20 university libraries by . At USMSM, progress continues on the \$86 million Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) Building. Opening this fall, the SMART building will catalyze new opportunities for education, research, and economic growth.

Advancing its 70-year mission to educate U.S. military personnel serving overseas, UMGC has opened a new permanent office at Spa M

In response to the urgent demand for high-quality remote and hybrid instruction, Towson has launched a post-baccalaureate certificate in online learning and teaching. FSU is expanding its academic programs

Life Cycle Facilities Management.

UMCES launched its first edX professional certificate course Science for Environmental Management helping UMCES develop the next generation of scientists, business leaders, policymakers, and educators equipped to meet emerging environmental challenges.

USG added several new academic programs from partner universities, including Translational Life Science Technology, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Cybersecurity, and Data Science from UMBC; the Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader program from the School of Dentistry at UMB; Information Science, Embedded Systems, and Biocomputational Engineering from UMCP; and a BFA in Graphic Design from Salisbury.

And at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH),

advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. And just last month during National Nurses Week Alena and David M. Schwaber gave \$1.32 million to the University of Maryland School of Nursing, creating scholarships for 10 nursing students each year.

At USMH, the second annual Spirit Run and the annual Feaste & Frolic both held virtually due to the pandemic combined to raise nearly \$60,000 in scholarship support for USMH students.

The University of Maryland School of Nursing at UMB has received a commitment of nearly \$14 million from Bill and Joanne Conway. This gift



UMES, Frostburg, UB, Towson, and UMBC earned the Voter-Friendly Campus designation from the Fair Election Practices Act, perhaps the most well-known champion of voter rights, delivered the commencement address at Bowie State.

Earlier this month, USG and the Maryland Tech Council hosted a life sciences industry roundtable to address workforce issues in key sectors like biological research, diagnostics, and manufacturing. And this week, Chair Gooden and I helped kick off USG's first-ever strategic planning process, as the center seeks to amplify its regional impact in economic and workforce development.

As a result, USG awarded more than \$200,000 to Mid-Atlantic startups through its spring Student Entrepreneurship Competitions and Shore Hatchery program. Similarly, UB awarded nearly \$30,000 in prize money to six winning students and recent alumni in its Rise to the Challenge business pitch competition.

Last fall, Bowie State and UMCP launched the BSU-UMD Social Justice Alliance, promoting dialogue and direct action on issues of racial and social justice. The alliance honors the memory of BSU alumnus 1st Lt. Richard W. Collins III.

In fact, while this past year was obviously dominated by our response to COVID, I believe it will ultimately be our commitment to racial and social justice that distinguishes these months within the USM.

This spring, in the wake of appalling acts of brutality against BIPOC communities across the Challenge ID, I believe

UMCP is also honoring trailblazers within its own university community. The new Johnson-Whittle Hall honors Elaine Johnson Coates, the first African American woman to graduate from UMCP with an undergraduate degree, and Hiram Whittle, the first African American man to be admitted to the university. Pyon-Chen Hall pays tribute to Pyon Su, the first Korean student to receive a degree from any American university, and Chunjen Constant Chen, the first Chinese student to enroll at what is now UMCP. Earlier this month, UMCP unveiled the Jones-Hill House, named for former Maryland basketball player Billy Jones and former football player Darryl Hill, both of whom broke the color barrier in athletics.

Two Frostburg campus buildings will now commemorate African American community. A new residence hall will be known as Brownsville Hall, honoring the largely African American community that was displaced between the 1920s and the 1960s as FSU the site of a one-room, segregated schoolhouse for Brownsville residents will become the Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center at the Lincoln School, thanks to a generous gift from FSU alumni Sandra Wyche Adams, class of 1986, and Tyrone Adams, class of 1987.

At UMB, the Francis King Carey School of Law received a \$5 million gift from biotech entrepreneurs Marco and Debbie Chacón to establish the Chacón Center for Immigrant Justice. The center provides direct representation on asylum cases, advocates for law and policy reforms to fundamentally improve the U.S. immigration system, and trains future lawyers in asylum and immigration issues.

The schools of nursing at both UMB and TU were honored with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. The HEED Award recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

UBP K S UMBP B J P P S
Justice and Structural Racism in Baltimore, discussing education, housing, drug decriminalization, and the importance of opportunity in marginalized communities. Also at UB, second-year law student Ernesto Villaseñor was tapped to serve as the Delegate for Diversity and Inclusion on the American Bar Association Law Student Division 2021-22 Council.

UMES President Heidi Anderson initiated a year-long social justice symposium series, attracting speakers who addressed trending topics in racial equity and justice. G popularity,4.460 g90015W*law

like have every day of this most difficult year. I saw in those 400 Coppin graduates the entire USM Class of 2021. Now I them, too.

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I e have students who earned their degrees this year while also taking care of their children, their parents, their

