



Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

September 16, 2022

Thank you, Chair Gooden. I join you in welcoming our new board members, and I thank them for their willingness to serve the students and the state of Maryland. I add my congratulations to Gary Attman, our new vice chair. I know we'll benefit from his leadership.

My thanks, as well, to my friend and colleague, Dr. Zimpher, for her insights into how systems can better leverage their power to advance higher education's central goals. NASH's important research and consensus-building in this area will continue to guide our work.

I thank President Pines and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) for hosting our meeting today. We've already heard about some of the incredible things happening here, but let me "brag on" our flagship just a little more.

Last month, the NSF placed College Park among the country's top 10 colleges for Black undergraduates who later earn a doctoral degree. There's more: UMCP, ranked eighth overall, is the highest ranked non-HBCU on the list. Congratulations, Darryll. I want to add here that UMBC is #12 on that same list, and Morgan State is #16. And I think we should consider the enormity of the fact that *three* Maryland public universities make the Top 20 on this tremendously important metric. It's extraordinary.

Earlier this summer, College Park formed a consortium of DC-area universities to stem gun violence through research-based recommendations. President Pines said he was launching this effort because universities are a source of change and progress; because we believe in science and data; because gun violence is a public health crisis—full stop. Thank you, Darryll.

The summer also saw UMCP initiate a strategic partnership with Microsoft focused on diversifying robotics and autonomy, countering a downturn in diversity among incoming students, which threatens our innovation capacity.

And UMCP continues to expand its footprint as the "Capital of Quantum" with new partnerships and initiatives.

I'll have more to share on our host institution later in my report, but for now I congratulate the College Park family on these accomplishments. It's little wonder Darryll was named one of *The Daily Record's* most Influential Marylanders.

I also congratulate our USM Staff Award winners, whom we honored this morning. These women—yes, all women—embody the excellence of our System, and I'm so grateful for their work.

More congratulations are due to our new Elkins Professors:

- **Dr. Paz Galupo** at Towson University (TU), whose work examines the legal and cultural factors that affect the health care experiences of transgender and nonbinary Marylanders, and lead to disparities that threaten their health.
- **Dr. Heather Congdon** from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), who will collaborate with the Kirwan Center on a digital badging initiative to scale targeted interprofessional education strategies that strengthen Maryland's health care workforce.
- **Dr. Karen Cook-Bell** from Bowie State University (BSU), who will establish the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for the Study of the Black Experience—integrated with BSU's Thurgood Marshall Library—to encourage and disseminate research in African, African American, and African Diaspora studies.

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footprint by 2½ acres, while adding to a thriving city center. UBalt also established an accelerated pathway for students at the multicampus

Another U.S. Department of Ed program, Upward Bound, will funnel money to UMES, Frostburg, and UMBC. They'll share in \$3.8 million awarded to Maryland colleges to help students from underrepresented groups enter and complete degree programs.

The School of Medicine at UMB announced a \$1 million gift from Maurice Reid, CEO of ExpressCare, bringing his total giving to \$2.2

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine profiled Towson University's remarkable success in closing the graduation gap. At Towson, Black students graduate at a rate *higher* than the overall completion rate, and there's no difference in the graduation rates of white and Black students. The *INSIGHT* piece holdsrTU up as a model, highlighting the programs that

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Last month, Gov. Hogan led a ceremonial oyster planting to mark a major milestone: 10 billion oysters planted in the Chesapeake Bay—all of them born and raised at UMCES's Horn Point Oyster Hatchery—a key tool in restoring Bay health.

Last week, Bowie State screened two PBS documentaries it's sponsoring—the first HBCU ever to do so. The films explore the lives and legacies of two iconic Marylanders: Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. I know you'll want to tune in to MPT on Oct. 4 and Oct. 11 for these masterful pieces of storytelling.

The USM at Southern Maryland hosted a free summer program at its SMART building, connecting local high school students interested in STEM with classroom and experiential learning in engineering and math.

With \$65,000 from NASA's Office of STEM Engagement, UMES hosted a two-week pre-college summer program, giving students—many from underrepresented groups—exposure to academic and career paths in STEM.

At UMB, the School of Medicine welcomed eight students from universities across the country to a new 11-week paid internship, created to help diversify the biomedical sciences. The students spent the summer in the lab, working with mentors, and conducting research.

The Universities at Shady Grove joined with Montgomery County Public Schools and Montgomery College to launch the Talent Ready program to grow four-year degree attainment

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