Report to the USM Board of Regents

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   , UMBC was just named a Top 10 Workplace by   . 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,   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   '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

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   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.

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 a