

# Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

University of Maryland Global Campus | September 22, 2023

Thank you, Chair Gooden. I join you in welcoming our new board members, and I thank them for their eagerness to serve our students and our state.

While I'm talking about new family members, I'm delighted to share that Towson University's incoming president, Dr. Mark Ginsberg, will begin his tenure on Oct. 30. He brings 40-plus years of experience to TU, most recently as provost and executive vice president at George Mason University. That means this is the last board meeting for Dr. Melanie Perreault as interim president, and I know I speak for *all* of us when I say how indebted we are to you, Melanie. Thank you for your leadership.

Of course, before long, we'll have a new leader for UMCES. On Monday, we celebrated our dear friend and colleague, President Peter Goodwin, retiring after six years at the helm. Peter, I know you understand just how deeply you'll be missed. A couple of days ago, we initiated the search for Dr. Goodwin's successor—someone who will build on his accomplishments and on UMCES's strength, and position the System for

community on this work. It's little wonder that Greg was named one of *The Daily Record's* most Influential Marylanders.

I join Chair Gooden in congratulating our USM Staff Award winners, whom we honored this morning. And I shower congratulations on our new Elkins Professors:

- **Dr. Karen Cook-Bell** from Bowie State University, who will continue the work she started last year with the W. E. B. Du Bois Center for the Study of the Black Experience, encouraging and disseminating innovative research in African, African American, and African diaspora studies.
- **Dr. Norbert Myslinski** from the School of Dentistry at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, who will expand access to resources for children and teens with brain disorders such as autism, blindness, deafness, and dyslexia. He'll also launch a monthly speaker's series focusing on neurological and psychological conditions, and expand this work to other USM universities.
- **Dr. Michèle Schlehofer** from Salisbury University, who will expand on the successes of the REACH Initiative and create institutional change through the Center for Ethical Responsibility and Transformation, supporting

Looking beyond *U.S. News*

rebounding enrollments. While official numbers aren't yet final, we're celebrating growth from Western Maryland (Frostburg State) to the Eastern Shore (Salisbury University); SU's incoming class is its second-largest on the books.

Towson University is welcoming the largest incoming class in its 130-year history. And UMES is on track for its biggest first-year class in eight years, including the first cohort of STEM STARS, a program funded by \$2.5 million from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Maryland's students *do* understand the value of the education we offer, and they're betting that our value is worth it.

Across the College Park campus, construction is underway on new research buildings, upgraded classrooms, badly needed graduate housing, and other facilities, including the Barry P. Gossett Basketball Performance Center, named for our former colleague on this board.

With \$200,000 from the Richard A. Henson Foundation, Salisbury will enhance its physics program with the construction of a campus planetarium adjacent to Henson Science Hall. TU's College of Health Professions recently opened new locations for its Institute for Well-Being, a hub of programs giving students hands-on experience delivering public-facing health care and wellness services.

At Frostburg, an \$80 million upgrade to the Education and Health Sciences building is nearing completion. It will be the new home for the Brady Health Center, Counseling and Psychological Services, and the Kinesiology and Nursing departments.

## PROGRAMS

Growth in our academic portfolio keeps the System responsive to emerging disciplines, benefiting students and market sectors alike. Among a half-dozen new bachelor's and master's programs at Bowie State, the university welcomed the first students in its Public Health and Information Technology program.

Towson's new interdisciplinary Autism Studies PhD, launched this fall, is one of few in the nation, allowing students to approach autism from several different angles to produce thoughtful and informed scholars in neurodiversity. UBalt's Merrick School of Business has launched a STEM-designated MS in Business–Finance so students can compete in a landscape reliant on data analytics. It emphasizes quantitative analysis, data-driven decision-making, and mathematical modeling.

Frostburg State has a new undergrad



UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory received a \$1 million gift from Brian Hochheimer and Marjorie Wax to study chemicals in waterways and their impact on environmental and human health. And earlier this summer, UMCES celebrated a \$1 million federal award for oyster restoration and resiliency research.

Over the summer, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded College Park nearly \$40 million to fast-track the conversion of its bus fleet from diesel vehicles to electric.

The School of Pharmacy at UMB was named a Top 10 pharmacy school for research funding. The school placed ninth, with nearly \$26 million in research grants and contracts. And the FDA renewed its funding for the University of Maryland Center of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation—a partnership between College Park and UMB—with a new five-year, \$50 million cooperative agreement.

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becoming educators. This is how you build the strong teacher pipeline we say is essential not only to our students' success but, ultimately, to our System's.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report.

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