



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
of MARYLAND

DECEMBER 2023

REGENTS REPORT



Greetings from the Board of Regents

As another year draws to a close, we thank our USM family and friends for your faith in our mission and your work to make it real.

Over this past year, American higher education has been asked to prove its value. That's only right. Every student should be confident in the return on their investment. Every student should know what a degree promises them. Of course they should.

But in a year that's brought so many challenges at home and abroad, perhaps the greatest value of higher education isn't what it promises each of us

personally, but what it promises the world in which we live. Without question, we're invested in graduating successful students. But more than that, we're invested in graduating committed citizens—citizens who are thoughtful, discerning, empathic, humane.

Because, at its best, education salves our pain with hope, ignorance with knowledge, darkness with light. It's our greatest act of optimism. And so, at the University System of Maryland, we are gathered together—this resilient community of optimists—to prove that there is a better way forward and to light the path for others.

We wish you a New Year of peace and joy.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Linda R. Gooden in black ink.

Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents

Handwritten signature of Jay A. Perman in black ink.

Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | December 15, 2023

The USM Board of Regents met at the University of Maryland, Baltimore on December 15, 2023,

with public viewing available in-person and via [livestream](#). Highlights from the meeting include:

Address by Maryland Governor Wes Moore. Attending his first official meeting of the Board of Regents, Governor Wes Moore spoke about the unifying power of public service, the State's new Service Year Option for high school students, and the USM's role in transforming Maryland into "the state that serves." He also discussed the strength of Maryland's four HBCUs, increased State support for student financial aid, and the USM's contributions to Maryland's successful bid to become the home of the new FBI Headquarters. [View the video of his full remarks.](#)



Governor Wes Moore (front row, center) with Chancellor Jay Perman, Board Chair Linda Gooden, presidents and other leaders from the USM's 12 universities, and the members of the Board of Regents.

Approval of Six New Academic Programs. After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety, the Board approved the following new undergraduate and graduate academic programs, which will be offered pending the approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Science, [Global Health](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Applied Machine Learning](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Bioinformatics and Computational Biology](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Data Science](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Gaming and Software Engineering](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- [Doctor of Veterinary Medicine](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore. This proposed program, which reflects UMES's Land Grant Mission of teaching, research, and extension, will be only the second such program at an HBCU nationwide.

Approval of Revisions to the Policy Concerning the Scheduling of Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observance. The Board of Regents approved [revisions to this USM policy](#) to bring it into alignment with the new State law requiring higher education institutions to adopt policies and procedures that provide reasonable academic accommodations for students to practice sincerely held faith-based or religious beliefs. The USM policy revisions were proposed by the Office of the Attorney General and reviewed and vetted by the USM Office of Academic and Student Affairs in consultation with stakeholders at all 12 universities, including the USM's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Student Council, Council of University System Faculty, and Council of University System

Staff. The revised policy includes the requirement for institutions to provide on-campus space to accommodate faith-based or religious practices; as a result, the policy was renamed the *Policy Concerning the Scheduling of Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observance; Campus Space for Faith-Based or Religious Practices*.

Approval of Revisions to the Policy on Academic Transcripts. The Board of Regents [approved revisions to the Policy on Academic Transcripts](#) to bring it into alignment with the new State law passed during the 2023 legislative session. The revised policy states that USM institutions may not refuse to provide a transcript to a student because the student owes a debt or condition the issuance of a transcript on the payment of a debt. Institutions may continue to charge a fee for transcripts, but they may not charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript because a student owes a debt.

Report on \$1.8 Billion in Extramural Funding to the System in FY 2023. The Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety shared its [annual report on extramural awards](#) (funding from sources other than another USM institution) received by USM institutions in support of specific initiatives in research, education, or service. In FY 2023, the System received \$1,818,662,202 in extramural funding, a 15.5% increase from FY 2022.

For more information about the December Board of Regents meeting, you may view the [meeting agenda](#), [video archive](#), and [full report by Chancellor Jay Perman](#).

Other News from the System



THE USM RECEIVES \$4 MILLION GRANT FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BOOST STUDENT SUCCESS

USM institutions will build and train a corps of peer mentors to help newly enrolled students navigate their first year, thanks to a [\\$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education](#). The grant will fund a new program known as *Maryland's ABCs for Student Success: Advising*,



MARYLAND TOPS THE NATION IN HIGH SCHOOL COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION WITH SUPPORT FROM MCCE

For the second year in a row, Maryland was recognized as number one in the nation for high schools offering computer science education ([2023 State of CS Report](#)). The Maryland Center for Computing Education (MCCE), led by Dianne O'Grady-Cunniff, recently shared [information](#)

Belonging, and Coaching, led by the P-20 Education Division in the USM Office for Academic and Student Affairs. Dr. Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and Outreach, is Principal Investigator and Dewayne Morgan is Co-PI on the grant. Through this program, peer mentors will help first-year students connect to existing resources on their campus—including advising, writing and math centers, and mental health services—to provide the support that new students need to persist, succeed, and feel a sense of belonging.

INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH COMPUTING WILL USE COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE TO IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH

At Friday's Board meeting, the regents received an update on the new University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing, which was established one year ago as a partnership between the University of Maryland, Baltimore, the University of Maryland, College Park, and the University of Maryland Medical System with funding from partners Montgomery County and the *Empowering the State* initiative. The Institute's co-directors, Dr. Sujal Bista and Dr. Bradley Maron presented the Institute's initial work to bring together the partners' computational, clinical, and research expertise to identify new ways to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. They also highlighted plans to collaborate with the region's biotech industry and federal health agencies to drive economic growth throughout the state. [View the full Institute for Health Computing presentation.](#)

[on the Center's work and contributions](#) to this statewide achievement. Since 2018, more than 1,400 educators have participated in professional development opportunities offered by MCCE. By developing the technology skills of Maryland educators and increasing the number of computer science certified teachers, MCCE has made it possible for local school systems to offer more computing instruction. Among the state's 2022 high school graduates, 44% had taken at least one computing course, compared to just 23% of graduates in 2018.

KIRWAN CENTER ADVANCES SYSTEMWIDE COLLABORATIONS FOCUSED ON AFFORDABILITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Nancy O'Neill, acting director of the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, shared good news regarding progress on two Center initiatives. The [Maryland Open Source Textbook \(M.O.S.T.\) Initiative](#) has generated \$22.9 million in cumulative savings for Maryland students by facilitating the adoption of open educational resources (OERs)—free or affordable, openly-licensed instructional materials used in place of costly textbooks. Dr. O'Neill also shared details on Center's [Maryland Interprofessional Education \(IPE\) Digital Badging Project](#). This academic year, five USM institutions will participate in a digital badging project focused on bringing together students from different areas of health and social care to help them develop the core competencies needed for the provision of team-based care. [View the full Kirwan Center presentation.](#)

News from USM Institutions



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY



FROSTBURG STATE

With a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant and matching funds totaling more than [\\$1.2 million](#), the Alliance for the Bay is boosting its [five-year partnership with the university](#).



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

During her [State of the University address](#), President Carolyn Lepre announced the addition of new academic programs, a new strategic innovation fund, and—most exciting of all—plans to formalize a graduate school.

CSU hosted a timely and important discussion on supporting Black women entrepreneurs. [TEDCO's Black Female Founders Venture Capital Forum](#) focused on themes of empowerment, collaboration, and success.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU will spend more than [\\$150 million](#) to transform a former science building into a new home for the university's mass communication, communication studies, electronic media, and film departments.

UNIVERSITY

FSU was recognized by Phi Kappa Phi—the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines—as a [Circle of Excellence Silver Chapter](#).



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

The university has been named an [inaugural Host Partner](#) for the newly established Maryland Corps Program, a statewide effort to strengthen Maryland's workforce through service learning, volunteer activities, and opportunities to match talent with need.



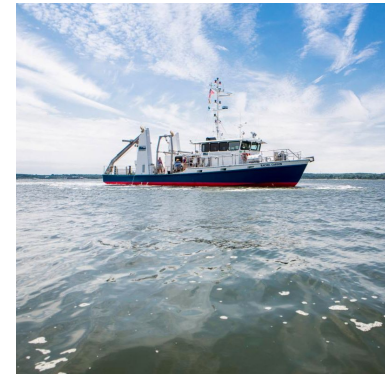
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

UMB will partner with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County to create one of five NIH-funded, [life science startup accelerator hubs](#) in the United States to help transform local technological advances into large companies.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

At UMBC, a team of researchers made the first-ever observation of a "[Vampire Virus](#)" attaching to another virus, which was published in a paper in the Journal of the International Society of Microbial Ecology, and later by The Washington Post.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

A nearly [\\$2 million award from NOAA](#) will support a three-year project led by UMCES to explore how existing infrastructure like wastewater treatment plants could be used to help mitigate global warming.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The university climbed into the nation’s [top five colleges for cultivating student entrepreneurialism](#), according to rankings released by The Princeton Review and Entrepreneur magazine.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES broke ground on a new [Agricultural Research & Education Center](#). Supported by a \$9.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$17 million from the Maryland Legislature, the facility will enhance teaching, research, and extension programs in agriculture.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC’s [cybersecurity competition team](#) posted two impressive accomplishments during Cybersecurity Awareness Month, moving into third place for U.S.-based teams in the Hack the Box rankings and placing second in the 15th annual Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory Competition Capture The Flag event.

News from USM Regional Centers



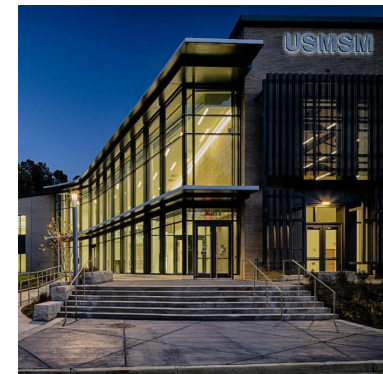
UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG is aiming to attract students, especially local area students, by offering a \$500 [“JumpStart Scholarship”](#) to all newly enrolled, undergraduate students who start their studies at USG this spring.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH’s annual [Feaste & Frolic](#) celebration raised more than \$90,000 for student scholarships and honored its first Executive Director, David Warner, for his contributions to higher education in the region.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND (USMSM)

The Maryland Department of Commerce awards [grant to support growth at the AeroPark Innovation District](#), home to the USMSM and the University of Maryland’s UAS Research and Operations Center.

Dates to Remember

Meetings below will be virtual unless a location is listed. For the complete meeting schedule, visit:

www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/

Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive: [View](#)

Board of Regents

Phone: 301.445.2701

JANUARY 16, 2024

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life and Safety

9:30 a.m.

JANUARY 24, 2024

Committee on Governance and Compensation

8:30 a.m.

JANUARY 24, 2024

Committee on Finance

10:30 a.m.

JANUARY 25, 2024

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

12:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Committee on Advancement

11:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Board of Regents Meeting

University of Baltimore

8:30 a.m.



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