

REGENTS REPORT

Greetings from the Board of Regents

We've just ended another commencement season. And on every commencement stage at every one of our universities, accomplished leaders shared their hard-earned wisdom, gave sound and inspired advice, and urged our graduates to find their path and their purpose.

But one commencement speaker this year got an outsized share of attention. Last month, Kermit the Frog addressed thousands of graduates at the University of Maryland, College Park, his alma mater. (Well, kind of. His creator, the late Jim Henson, is a UMD alumnus.)

During his address, Kermit acknowledged that things won't always go our way, but he had some salving words to remember when life gets us down. A veteran performer, Kermit said, "There's no guarantee that the show is always good or that it'll go off without a hitch or it doesn't have its hecklers. But the show must go on. And if you're with your people, you won't have to do it alone. Because life is not a solo act. It's a big, messy, delightful ensemble piece—especially when you're with your people."

Luckily, we *are* with our people—more than 200,000 people who learn, work, teach, and discover at the University System of Maryland; people who push every day to improve the world as it is and who never stop imagining what it *could be*. That's such a powerful force.

Mr. Henson knew its power—the power of hope and optimism and hard, hard work. He once said, "It's so much easier to be negative and cynical and predict doom for the world than it is to try and figure out how to make things better. We have an obligation to do the latter."

This commencement season, it's been a source of joy and pride that we are, all of us, figuring out how to make things better. We've found our people—our messy, delightful ensemble. And we ask our 42,000 new USM graduates to do the same: Go find your people and get to work.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025.

Sincerely,



Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Board Actions & Decisions | June 13, 2025

The USM Board of Regents met at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown with public viewing available in-person and via [livestream](#). Highlights from the meeting include:



Recognition of the 2025 Board of Regents Student Excellence Scholars. This scholarship program honors exceptional achievement by students attending USM universities. Twelve \$2,000 scholarships funded by the System and the USM Foundation are presented to students across four categories: Academics, Scholarship, and Research; Innovation and Creative Activity; Leadership and Advocacy; and Outreach and Engagement. Within each category, the Board recognizes one freshman or sophomore, one junior or senior, and one graduate or professional student. Last month, [the winners](#) celebrated their achievements at a special reception that included their families, Board Chair Linda Gooden, Chancellor Jay Perman, and several university presidents.

Front row, from left: Vainavi Gambhir and Arsalan Siddiqui, president and vice president, USM Student Council. Second row, USM Chancellor Jay Perman and Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden. Third row, Imaan Shikoh, Amrutha Alibilli, Quyen Ha, Vicky Vazquez, and Aidan Patrick Wiley. Back row, Jessica Brie Burstrem, Kevin Jili Tu, Abdulmajid Mansour Alrefaie, Pavankumar Umashankar, and Sulayman Khan. Not shown, Julia AnnMarie Carlson, Floralyn Leon Guerrero Villagomez.

Educational Forum on USM Research at the Intersection of Science and Society. Michele Masucci, vice chancellor for research and economic development, presented an education forum on the impact of the System's research enterprise. She introduced faculty who shared how their research is improving health and longevity, advancing sustainability and solutions to climate change, or developing technologies that enhance the security and efficiency of businesses and government agencies. For example, Dr. Stuart S. Martin, deputy director of the Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, shared how the center has connected more than 250 faculty investigators from four USM universities with a statewide network of hospitals to conduct more 300 clinical trials—providing Maryland patients with early access to experimental treatments. The [forum video](#) includes remarks by Dr. Martin; Dr. Xin Zhang, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science; and Dr. Vandana Janeja and Dr. Nilanjan Banerjee, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Dr. Masucci concluded the forum by summarizing threats to USM research, including cuts to federal research grants, and explained how our universities are coordinating their responses to these challenges.

Twelve New Programs Receive Board Approval. At the recommendation of the Committee on

Education Policy and Student Life and Safety, the Board approved the following new degree programs, which will be offered pending approval by the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

- Bachelor of Arts, [Dance](#), Bowie State University
- Bachelor of Arts, [Global and Foreign Policy](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Bachelor of Arts, [Global Culture and Thought](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Bachelor of Arts, [Public Service Interpreting and Translation](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- [Bachelor of Music](#), Frostburg State University
- Bachelor of Science, [Artificial Intelligence](#), Bowie State University
- Bachelor of Science, [Biochemistry and Molecular Biology](#), Salisbury University
- Bachelor of Science, [Mathematics](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Bachelor of Science, [Private Club and Resort Management](#), University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Master of Science, [Applied Artificial Intelligence](#), University of Maryland Global Campus
- Master of Science, [Artificial Intelligence](#), University of Maryland, College Park
- Master of Science, [Information](#), University of Maryland, College Park

Board Approves the FY 2026 Schedule of Tuition and Mandatory Fees. Each year, the presidents of USM universities can recommend tuition and fee adjustments for the upcoming academic year. The Finance Committee shared the proposed rates for [FY 2026 tuition and fees](#), which were approved by the Board. Across the System, in-state undergraduate full-time and part-time tuition rates will not increase by more than 4%. Out-of-state undergraduate, graduate, and professional rates will not increase by more than 5%. The Board also approved the proposed self-support charges and fees, which includes increases to room and board rates at some USM universities due to state-mandated salary and fringe benefit increases and rising costs for goods and services.

Board Approves the USM FY 2026 Operating Budget. The Board approved the USM's [FY 2026 operating budget](#) authorized by the Maryland General Assembly. The total budget of approximately \$7.98 billion includes revenue from state appropriations, tuition and fees, auxiliary services, federal grants and contracts, and other sources. This represents a 7% year-over-year cut to the USM's base operating budget. During the meeting, Ellen Herbst, senior vice chancellor for administration and finance, [provided an overview of the operating budget](#), the impact of the reductions in state and federal support, and the financial outlook for FY 2026 and beyond.

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

Thank You and Farewell



During the June meeting, the Board Chair Gooden and Chancellor Perman recognized several prominent USM leaders who are leaving their roles at the end of the fiscal year.

Leonard Raley, Vice Chancellor for Advancement, will retire on June 30, 2025, following nearly 20 years as the USM's chief advancement officer and president and CEO of the USM Foundation. His contributions include guiding the Foundation through its first-ever strategic planning process, instituting a robust enterprise risk management process to safeguard System resources, adding five Maryland community college foundations to the Foundation's

partners in asset management, and launching an advocacy program to raise the System's visibility among legislators. In recognition of his exceptional leadership and service, he has been named president emeritus of the Foundation.



Eileen Abel, Executive Director, is retiring this summer, after leading the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM) for nearly five years and developing a strategic plan that will guide the next five. Her efforts in building and fortifying partnerships—in education, research, innovation, economic development—advanced the USM's work to expand education opportunities throughout Southern Maryland.

Shared Governance Chairs. The Board presented [Resolutions of Appreciation](#) to the individuals who completed their service as chairs of the USM's advisory councils: *Vainavi Gambhir*, USM Student Council; *Dr. Heather Rogers Haverback*, USM Council of University System Faculty; and *Kalia R. Patricio*, USM Council of University System Staff.

Members of the Board of Regents. The Board presented [Resolutions of Appreciation](#) to five individuals who completed distinguished terms of service on the Board of Regents:

- Kevin Anderson, who served on the Committee on Economic Development & Technology Commercialization and the Committee on Education Policy & Student Life and Safety.
- Hugh Breslin, who served as assistant secretary to the board and chair of the Committee on Advancement, Governance & Compensation.
- Yehuda Neuberger, who served as vice chair of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology Commercialization.
- Louis Pope, who served as secretary to the Board, chair of the Committee on Audit, and chair of two workgroups; and
- Josiah Parker, student regent, who served on the Committee on Education Policy & Student Life and Safety, the Committee on Economic Development & Technology Commercialization, and the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics & Student-Athlete Health and Welfare.

Other News from the System



NEW GOOGLE PARTNERSHIP WILL BRING GOOGLE CAREER CERTIFICATES AND AI TRAINING TO USM STUDENTS

The USM and Google have announced a new partnership that will help thousands of USM students and other Maryland learners earn [Google Career Certificates](#) in high-growth fields including cybersecurity, data analytics, and project management at no cost. On June 17, leaders from the USM and Google gathered at the University of Baltimore to celebrate this important development, which will advance our universities' efforts to prepare learners for an artificial intelligence-focused economy. The William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation will spearhead the rollout of Google Career Certificates and AI courses across all 12 USM universities and two of the System's regional higher education centers. This partnership also advances the USM's and Google's shared goal of supporting military-affiliated learners with career-focused training that helps them translate their experience into credentials.

MARYLAND MOMENTUM FUND ADDS TO ITS GROWING PORTFOLIO OF USM-AFFILIATED COMPANIES

Last month, the USM's Maryland Momentum Fund announced that it had joined funding rounds for two companies with strong ties to the USM. [CoapTech Inc.](#) was founded by Dr. Steven Tropello, faculty at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), with co-founder Howard Carolan. While working clinically at UMB, Dr. Tropello invented the company's PUMA System™, which enables minimally-invasive surgical procedures in hollow organs using point-of-care ultrasound. [Omega 3 Nutrition, Inc.](#) was founded by Bright Djampa while he was a nutritional food science student at the University of Maryland, College Park. Omega 3 Nutrition offers a growing line of plant-based, brain-boosting food products designed to support cognitive health and overall wellness. The Maryland Momentum Fund provides late seed investment funding for promising technology ventures developed by USM universities and research parks and their students, graduates, faculty, and staff.

News From Our Universities



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

The Maryland Higher Education Commission awarded BSU's [Department of Nursing a \\$2.2 million grant](#) to increase the number of Ph.D. faculty and to begin a doctoral program.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

The university announced a [\\$6.22 million investment from CareFirst BlueCross/BlueShield](#)—the largest philanthropic gift it has ever received—to expand health services and education.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

In the wake of flash flooding that forced the closing of [Westernport Elementary School](#), the university stepped up to allow these students to finish out the school year on the FSU campus.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

President Carolyn Ringer Lepre joined Governor Wes Moore in Tokyo to sign an agreement with the [Japan Study Abroad Foundation](#), making SU the first degree partner in the state for the foundation.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

The College of Health Professions received a \$1 million gift from alumna Mildred Burkman to establish TU's [first endowed professorship in nursing](#).



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

The university has introduced Maryland's [first-ever M.S. in Artificial Intelligence for Business](#), which explores how AI can be integrated into various industries and functions and examines AI's capabilities, limitations, and ethical considerations.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

The university has launched the [Breakthroughs Can't Wait: Changing the Future Today](#) public awareness campaign highlighting the importance and impact of federally funded scientific research.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Jayo Adegboyo, a UMBC track and field student-athlete, was honored by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* as the [2025 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male Sports Scholar of the Year](#).



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

UMCES recently announced that it will [move its headquarters from Cambridge to Annapolis](#), creating an environmental research hub and setting the stage for future expansion.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

[Kermit the Frog](#), created by UMD alumnus Jim Henson, charmed thousands at Commencement 2025 with



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES announced that a new [Aircraft Maintenance Technician program](#) will be



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

UMGC was honored by the [Fulbright Association with its 2025 Champion Award](#)

humor and heart, urging grads to “leap together” and “write your own ending.”

starting this Fall in partnership with Piedmont Airlines.

recognizing the university’s longstanding support for international exchange and global citizenship.

News From USM Regional Centers



UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG partnered with UMBC and the Institute for Bioscience and Biotechnology Research on a [Bionetworking Summit](#) bringing together academia, government, and industry to highlight the area’s unique life science ecosystem.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

This year marks [USMH’s 20th Anniversary](#), a major milestone being celebrated by students, alumni, partners, and the broader community.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

[A Congressional delegation](#) including Senators Chris Van Hollen and Angela Alsobrooks and Representatives Steny Hoyer and Sarah Elfreth toured the USMSM SMART Building and the MATRIX Lab.

NEXT MEETING

September 19, 2025
Salisbury University

[FULL MEETING SCHEDULE](#)

[VIDEO ARCHIVE](#)

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