



REGENTS REPORT

Greetings from the Board of Regents

The start of the fall semester is always a special time of year. The energy at our universities never gets old. This year, we're celebrating growth—growth in our academic programs, in our campus facilities, in our gifts and grants. But surely the most exciting growth we're seeing is in our student body.

For the first time post-pandemic, USM enrollment numbers have begun to rebound. While those numbers aren't yet final, we expect good news from Frostburg State University in Western Maryland to UMES on the Eastern Shore. Meanwhile, Salisbury University is expecting its first-year class to be its second-largest ever. And Towson University is set to welcome its biggest incoming class in university history.



Without question, COVID took a toll on students' college-going plans, here in Maryland and across the country. But this uptick in enrollment strengthens our conviction that Maryland's students do understand the value of the education we offer. And they're betting that our value will pay off for them. All the evidence indicates that it's a good bet, indeed.

Of course, we're not content with modest growth. We'll continue innovating our academic programs, our operations, our outreach and enrichment until we've made a USM education accessible and affordable to all.

There's something else we're celebrating this fall: rising prominence on national and international "best of" lists. In a slew of rankings released in recent weeks, our universities shine. And the metrics used to judge our quality comprise all the things we value, all the things we strive for: our affordability, the student outcomes we produce, how well we drive social mobility.

The rankings speak to our outstanding teaching, research, and scholarship, to our mission of civic engagement and public service, to our productivity in creating new ideas and innovations that improve our health, happiness, and well-being.

Our strong rankings affirm the excellence the USM achieves every day, and we're proud the nation—the world—sees the same greatness we do.

Sincerely,

Board Actions & Decisions | September 22, 2023

The USM Board of Regents met at University of Maryland Global Campus on September 22, 2023, with public viewing available in-person and via [livestream](#). At this meeting, the key actions included:

Presentation of the 2023 Board of Regents' Staff Awards. Prior to the Board meeting, the USM hosted a special breakfast to celebrate the contributions of the winners of the [2023 Board of Regents' Staff Awards](#). Awards were presented to nine exemplary staff members in five categories: Contribution to the Institution; Service to Students in an Academic or Residential Environment; Public Service to the University or the Greater Community; Effectiveness and Efficiency; and Inclusion, Multiculturalism, and Social Justice.



Chancellor Jay Perman and Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden with the recipients of the 2023 Board of Regents' Staff Awards. *Back row, from left:* Michael Humphrys, Anthony Rosas, Chancellor Jay Perman, Dr. Courtney Jones Carney, Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden, and Phillip Brunecz, Jr. *Front row, from left:* Brooke Church, Stanyell Odom, Todd Waters, Margo Young, and Archilline Tablada.

Update on the Status of Consolidated Collective Bargaining Negotiations. Ellen Herbst, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, provided information related to collective bargaining efforts involving the USM. The USM is engaged in ongoing consolidated negotiations on behalf of certain USM institutions with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents about 5,500 staff members, and seeks to reach an agreement through a constructive, transparent process. Herbst affirmed that USM institutions remain committed to providing competitive wages and benefits, noting that eligible USM employees received a 2% cost-of-living adjustment and a 2.5% merit increase in July 2023, which was on top of previously realized increases totaling 10% for fiscal year 2023. Additional details are available through the USM's [employee and labor relations website](#).

Approval of the School of Dentistry Ambulatory Surgery Center and Building Renovations at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Finance, the Board approved the proposed \$29.5 million [project to renovate the School of Dentistry Building](#) at UMB. The project includes improvements to the building's clinical and simulation spaces and equipment, as well as the creation of a state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center. Existing office space in the building will be transformed into new operating, pre-op, and recovery rooms to create a new surgery center serving patients with conditions that require dental care in a hospital setting.

Approval of the Universities at Shady Grove's Community of Innovation Proposal. The Board approved a resolution supporting the Universities at Shady Grove's (USG) pursuit of a new legislative designation as a Community of Innovation within the USM and the state. Dr. Anne Khademian, USG Executive Director, [presented the proposal](#) to seek the Maryland legislature's recognition of USG's unique role as an asset for Systemwide innovation and the USM's gateway to Montgomery County, along with a state commitment to the resources and support to sustain this role for the long term.

Report on the USM Prison Education Initiative. USM Regent Bill Wood provided an update on the [progress of the USM prison education program](#), which provides higher education opportunities to incarcerated individuals to enhance their future prospects, reduce recidivism, and improve the safety of prisons and communities. Two USM institutions, [Bowie State University \(BSU\)](#) and the [University of Baltimore \(UBalt\)](#) currently participate in the U.S Department of Education's Second Chance Pell Grant Experimental Sites Initiative, which provides need-based Pell Grants to eligible incarcerated individuals to help them cover the costs of participation in approved postsecondary Prison Education Programs (PEPs). Both BSU and UBalt offer undergraduate programs at the Jessup Correctional Institution. In addition, [Towson University](#) plans to launch a prison-based education program at a men's prison in Hagerstown. Working with the USM's Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, the USM Prison Education Programs Workgroup is developing plans for additional PEPs in the USM and exploring partnerships and grant funding sources to support these new programs.

Report on the USM Vision for Environmental Science Research, Education, and Community Engagement. Dr. Michele Masucci, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, shared a report on the USM's vision for the [University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science \(UMCES\)](#) and plans to strengthen UMCES' vital role as a driver of research excellence across the System in alignment with the [Vision 2030 Strategic Plan](#). As the USM's only graduate and research university focused specifically on environmental science education and research, UMCES leads the System as it works to fulfill the responsibility of building a sustainable future. The report includes initial recommendations focused on advancing UMCES' position as a state, national, and international leader in developing solutions to environmental problems.

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

Other News from the System



DR. MARK GINSBERG SET TO BECOME 15TH PRESIDENT OF TOWSON UNIVERSITY

Last month, the [Board of Regents announced the appointment](#) of Dr. Ginsberg as TU's next president following a comprehensive national search. For the past three years, he has served as provost and executive vice president of George Mason University, the largest public research university in Virginia. He previously served as Mason's dean of the College of Education and Human Development. His career spans more than 40 years as an administrator, professor and psychologist, and he has published extensively in the areas of education, psychology, and human development. He will begin his tenure as president on October 30.

THE MARYLAND LAUNCH FUND AWARDS FIRST GRANTS TOTALING MORE THAN \$280,000

The new Maryland Launch Fund announced its [initial round of grants and microgrants](#) to entrepreneurs affiliated with USM institutions. The fund, which will deploy up to \$600,000 over three years, was established to provide small, early capital to ventures in the start-up phase. In this round, grants up to \$30,000 were awarded to ventures led by or connected to students, faculty, and alumni of ten different USM institutions. In addition, the Maryland Launch Fund awarded \$5,000 microgrants to four USM universities, which will use these funds to support participants in entrepreneurial



THE FALL 2023 SEMESTER BEGINS WITH MILESTONES AT SEVERAL USM INSTITUTIONS

The USM kicked off the fall semester with steady enrollment, projected to reach more than 163,300 students across the System's 12 universities and three regional academic centers. Undergraduates represent about 77 percent of the systemwide enrollment with an estimated 80 percent of those students coming from in-state. [Several universities are celebrating milestone classes](#), including the largest first-year class in the history of Towson University, the second-largest incoming class for Salisbury University, and the largest influx of freshmen and transfer students in eight years for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

USM INSTITUTIONS RISE TO PROMINENCE IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

The consistently high quality and value of the USM is on display this fall, as every USM institution has received [recognition in recent rankings of regional, national, or world universities](#). USM institutions shined in a broad spectrum of categories, including innovation, value, social mobility, diversity, military-friendly, and strength of undergraduate teaching. Of particular note, the University of Maryland, College Park earned its highest-ever ranking among national universities from *U.S. News & World Report*, reaching the top 50 for the first time. *U.S. News* also ranked all three of the

programs and competitions on their campuses.

USM's Historically Black universities among the top 35 HBCUs in the nation.



FOUR NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS BEGIN THEIR SERVICE TO THE SYSTEM

At Friday's meeting, the USM welcomed the four newest members of the Board of Regents, who were attending their first Board meeting since their appointment by Governor Wes Moore in July. Regents [Anwer Hasan](#), [Charles T. \(Tom\) McMillen](#), and [Steven Sibel](#) were each appointed to five year terms, in accordance with the USM bylaws. New student regent [Josiah Parker](#), an undergraduate at Salisbury University, was appointed to a two-year term and will serve as a non-voting member in the first year of his term. Their impressive range of qualifications will provide new perspectives, ideas, and solutions that will guide the ongoing work of the Board.

USM CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARYLAND OPEN SOURCE TEXTBOOK (M.O.S.T.) INITIATIVE

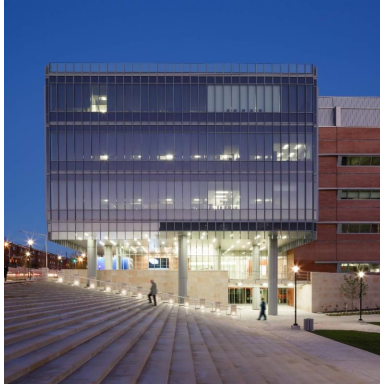
The 2023-24 academic year marks the tenth anniversary of [M.O.S.T.](#), an initiative to advance the statewide adoption of open educational resources (OER), which are openly-licensed instructional materials that are available to users at little or no cost. M.O.S.T. is led by the [USM William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation](#) in partnership with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, the Maryland Independent College and University Association, MarylandOnline, and the USMAI library consortium. Since its creation, M.O.S.T. has delivered more than \$20 million in cumulative textbook cost savings to students. Over the course of the year, M.O.S.T. will be sharing stories about the impact of open education on teaching and learning, as well as hosting a series of events beginning with the [2023 Maryland OER Summit: Cultivating Agency through Open Educational Practices](#) on Friday, December 1, 2023 at Salisbury University.

News from USM Institutions



BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY

BSU's fundraising campaign — [BSU Bold: The Campaign for Excellence](#)—has met its \$50 million goal more than two years ahead of schedule.



COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY

Starting next fall, [CSU will offer in-state tuition](#) to students from more than 30 states that offer limited HBCU options.



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

FSU just announced that its [Forging Futures campaign](#) has reached its initial goal, raising \$25 million for students, the university, and the region.



SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

The Princeton Review ranked the Patricia R. Guerrieri Academic Commons as a [Top 10 "Best College Library"](#) for the 3rd consecutive year.



TOWSON UNIVERSITY

TU welcomed the [largest freshman class](#) in the school's 130-year history.



UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE

UBalt has been named [Community Partner of the Year](#) by the Baltimore chapter of Urban Alliance for its efforts to place high school students into paid internships that lead to college.



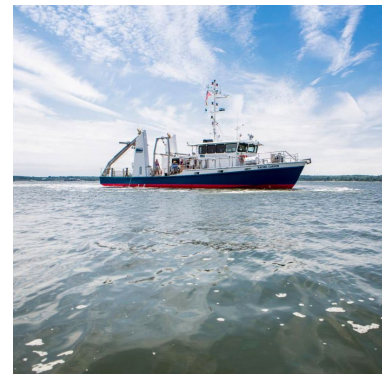
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE

UMB is using a [\\$5.5 million grant](#) to send select students from Coppin, UMBC, and the UMB School of Social Work into local public schools as mental health providers.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

UMBC has been [awarded \\$1 million in grants](#) from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to support students with financial need who intend to pursue degrees in STEM fields.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory has been awarded a transformative [\\$1 million gift](#) from Brian Hochheimer and Marjorie Wax to study contaminated waterways.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

The university will receive nearly \$40 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to fast-track its plans to convert its bus fleet from diesel to electric vehicles.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

UMES has launched a new partnership with Wor-Wic Community College allowing students interested in pharmacy to earn a PharmD in just 5 years.



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS

With a grant of more than \$450,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UMGC is identifying new models for closing the higher education equity gap and quickly scaling up innovative programs for underrepresented students.

News from USM Regional Centers



UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE

USG has launched "Hire U", a new campus-wide initiative to ensure all students are prepared with career-ready skills, based on nine career competencies.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAGERSTOWN

USMH awarded \$81,000 in scholarship funds to students enrolled in programs offered at the regional center for the 2023-2024 academic year.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND AT SOUTHERN MARYLAND

Joe Anderson, a force for higher education in Southern Maryland, will be stepping down from his role as chair of the USMSM board of advisors, moving into a "chair emeritus" role.

Dates to Remember

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

www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Committee on Education Policy and Student Life

Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive: [View](#)

Board of Regents

Phone: 301.445.2701

Email: regents@usmd.edu

Chancellor's Office

10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 11-12, 2023

Board of Regents Retreat

University of Maryland Global Campus

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Committee on Governance and Compensation

8:30 a.m.

OCTOBER 24, 2023

Committee on Advancement

11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Committee on Finance

10:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare

1:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

Board of Regents Meeting

Towson University

8:30 a.m.

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