



Building on Strength

Without question, the last 19 months have been tough, requiring a lot of work to assure the safety of the University System of Maryland's people. But as hard as that work has been, the pandemic never succeeded in distracting us from our central purpose—our core missions of education, research, and service.

As we draft and refine our [USM Strategic Plan](#)—a plan that will shape our priorities and goals over the next several years—we've heard again and again that the USM has long been excellent, that we've achieved prominence that was, frankly, inconceivable at our founding in 1988. But excellence, these same people say, is no longer enough. We must move from excellence to preeminence. We have the talent, the ideas, and the drive to take our place at the very top of American higher education. And our universities continue to earn [national rankings](#) that put them within reach of it.

But preeminence requires more than the raw materials of success. It takes sustained investment in the environments that bring those materials together in ways that compound their value: Giving our people classrooms that make it easier to learn and teach and collaborate. Giving them state-of-the-art labs that facilitate world-class R&D and game-changing innovation. Giving them communal spaces where they can connect with one another and knit together a community of support—a community of ideas.

We're building the future. Every day, our students, faculty, and staff are building the future. They deserve facilities that make this vital work easier, spaces that improve their effort, invite partnership, stimulate discovery, and enable progress.

We're 21 years into the 21st century, and we need campus buildings that look to the future, not the past. We need to invest in the things that push the USM forward, push Maryland forward—from excellence to *preeminence*.

In the article that follows, you'll see only some of the construction projects recently begun or completed across the USM. They join many others that are remaking the

University System and giving Marylanders the public universities they deserve. All of the projects are undertaken with generous state support as well as non-state funds, including private donations. For that, we're deeply grateful to Maryland's elected leaders, who understand the power of their investment; to the friends of the USM, whose faith in our vision makes it real; and to the taxpayers of Maryland, whose support so capably builds our future.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor
University System of Maryland



At the opening of the SMART Building at the USM at Southern Maryland, Chancellor Perman (2nd from left) shared ribbon-cutting honors with (l-r): Randy Guy, Commissioners of St. Mary's County; Lisa Swoboda, Maryland Department of Commerce; President Darryll Pines, University of Maryland, College Park; Joe Anderson, USMSM Board of Advisors; Speaker Adrienne Jones, Maryland House of Delegates; President Pro Tem Melony Griffith, Maryland Senate; and Dean Samuel Graham, UMCP Clark School of Engineering.

Building Our Way to a Beautiful Future

Our USM campuses are growing, with new and better buildings that help us advance knowledge and discovery, drive Maryland's economy, support students to success, and serve the public good. The following summary, by no means exhaustive, spotlights facilities recently initiated or completed.



TU's Science Complex, overlooking the Glen Arboretum, houses 50 classrooms, 80 teaching and research labs, a planetarium, observatory, rain garden, and rooftop greenhouse.

Towson University's (TU's) [Science Complex](#) (above), completed earlier this year, had its grand opening this month. By far TU's largest academic structure, the complex houses undergraduate and graduate programs in the physical, mathematical, computational, and life sciences, where enrollment has grown by 2,000-plus students in 25 years. Not long after the ribbon was cut on the Science Complex, ground was broken on TU's new home for the [College of Health Professions](#). Towson already confers 30 percent of the USM's undergraduate health degrees and has nearly tripled health professions enrollment over two decades. With this new building, TU will be able to do even more to shrink the state's health care workforce gap.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) is working toward the same goal. Its [School of Pharmacy](#)—currently spread among six buildings—will be consolidated under one roof with classrooms and state-of-the-art laboratories for training and pharmaceutical research. UMES leaders envision the \$90 million, three-story building as the first of two phases to create an allied health sciences complex on the east side of campus.

Frostburg State University (FSU) will soon add to the state’s pool of educators and health professionals, as its [Education & Health Sciences Center](#) remains on track for completion in fall 2022. The new building will house FSU’s College of Education, as well as fast-growing programs in nursing, health sciences, and exercise and sport science.

This summer, the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) broke ground on a new [Chemistry Building](#). Expected to open in 2023, the building will feature 34 research labs, two core research facilities, and 13,000 square feet of collaboration space supporting innovations in advanced materials, energy storage, nanoscience, drug discovery and delivery, and quantum chemistry.

The [SMART Building](#) at the University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM), dedicated earlier this month, has two distinct parts and functions. The academic half nearly doubles USMSM’s education footprint, giving students across the region access to high-demand programs, and letting them live, work, and study close to home. The innovation half features an autonomous technologies research facility, sparking partnerships—with the U.S. Navy, defense contractors, and technology companies—that foster an R&D economy in Southern Maryland and catalyze job growth.



At Bowie State’s Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community, students can explore ideas for new businesses, products, and innovations in spaces equipped with the latest technology.

Growing the innovation economy is also the mission of Bowie State University’s new \$42 million [Entrepreneurship Living Learning Community](#) (above). This incubator—with residential space for 557 students, on-site training programs and mentors, makerspaces for students, and a co-working environment for early-stage startups—provides targeted support to aspiring entrepreneurs and promotes innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship campuswide.

Social entrepreneurship is the mission of Coppin State University’s [Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship](#), which opened virtually this year. The center—focused on the people and neighborhoods of West Baltimore—nurtures entrepreneurship that helps solve

complex social problems and stimulates inclusive economic opportunity and growth. Ultimately, the center will move to its home in Coppin's new College of Business building (below), opening in 2022.



Coppin State's Center for Strategic Entrepreneurship—to be housed in the College of Business—supports founders, early-stage ideas, and small businesses looking for capital and advice.

At the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, the new [Center for Well-Being](#) brings together under one roof health, counseling, and health promotion services. The \$14 million complex provides a gathering space for spiritual well-being and connection, and offers programs in restorative practices that promote personal and community wellness.

UMCP dedicated its newest residence hall earlier this month, [Pyon-Chen Hall](#), named for two students—Pyon Su and Chunjen Constant Chen—who helped integrate the university. The building brings together 450 high-achieving students from diverse backgrounds to live and learn jointly. A second new residence hall—Johnson-Whittle Hall—will be located in the recently established Heritage Community and will open in 2022.

Finally, the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB's) new [Community Engagement Center](#)—at 20,000 square feet, seven times larger than the original center—has its grand opening this week. The center (below) allows UMB to work hand-in-hand with its West Baltimore neighbors on community-identified needs, like connecting residents with jobs, providing afterschool and enrichment activities, giving children a safe space to learn and play, hosting health and fitness programs, even bringing neighbors together for a monthly meal.



UMB's Community Engagement Center, occupying a newly renovated historic building in West Baltimore's Poppleton neighborhood, offers programs promoting community health and well-being.

These new buildings—and many more in planning, design, and construction across the University System—allow us to do what we do best: Educate the students who put their knowledge to work in Maryland; grow a workforce that strengthens our economy and serves our communities; and enable the research and innovation that are changing our world every day.



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