



## Regents Report | February 2021

### Greetings from the Board of Regents

Four weeks into the spring semester, it's wonderful to see how busy the University System of Maryland (USM) is—how much our institutions are accomplishing, and how those accomplishments amplify the system's power and prominence. Of course, institutional excellence is the aggregate of individual excellence, and we're deeply proud of the USM's people, whose energy, ideas, and talent make the University System such a dynamic place for learning and discovery. We hope you'll read the [Chancellor's Report](#), which details a number of our recent achievements.

The USM's undiminished activity is proof that our mission is resilient: Our students are learning, our research is saving lives, our service is strengthening communities. We're delivering on our promise to remain a public good—across the state and around the world. During a pandemic that has imperiled health, safety, and economic security, this promise is more important than ever.

But it also comes with a cost. It's an understatement to say that the last two budget years have been difficult for colleges and universities across the country. The USM is facing a two-year shortfall of \$715 million, attributable to a number of things: refunding housing and fees for students forced to leave campus last spring, a significant cut to our base budget last summer, a drop in external funding, the canceling of events, and a dip in enrollment.

We've taken aggressive actions to close this deficit, while maintaining academic quality, preserving vital student services, and ensuring the USM remains accessible and affordable for Maryland learners. As we take on this work, we're encouraged by Gov. Hogan's FY 2022 budget, which proposes \$1.4 billion in state support to the USM. At a time of enormous fiscal pain, the proposal demonstrates Maryland's abiding commitment to higher education.

Make no mistake: Maryland's commitment to the USM is matched by our commitment to Maryland. The USM touches nearly every single Marylander, through the education that prepares students for productive careers and engaged citizenship; through the research that creates knowledge and drives discovery; through the service that improves the human condition; and through the daily work that enriches Maryland and fuels its economic growth. This mission continues, and it's an honor to advance it alongside you.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland



### Board Actions & Decisions | February 19, 2021

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on February 19, 2021, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

**Approval of Three New Degree Programs.** After reviewing the recommendations of the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life, the Board voted to approve the following new degree programs:

- The University of Maryland, Baltimore's, Graduate School will offer a new [Master of Science in Health Professions Education](#), which will advance the scholarship of graduate health profession teaching and learning. The program includes 11 courses delivered predominantly through online instruction, as well as an in-person impact week occurring in the second year.
- The University of Maryland, College Park, will offer a [Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics](#), which is the combination of mechanical, electrical, and information systems engineering. This new program addresses the growing need for cross-disciplinary engineers skilled in the areas of robotics, automation, and advanced manufacturing technologies.
- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore will establish a [Bachelor of Science in Sport Management](#), which will prepare graduates to work as managers for sport organizations and events, at all levels of sport, including recreational sports, interscholastic sports, intercollegiate sports, or professional sports.

**Report on USM Public Bond Refinancing and Ratings.** Regent Gary Attman and Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance Ellen Herbst updated the Board on the USM's successful refinancing of previously issued public bonds, **which will save Maryland taxpayers more than \$17.1 million.** The USM recently closed the refinancing of \$153.2 million of previously issued revenue bonds as part of a nationwide financial auction. Agencies overseeing the refinancing process noted the importance of the USM's solid bond ratings to the final outcome. Earlier this month, the system received a rating of Aa1 from Moody's Investor Services and ratings of AA+ from Standard and Poor's and Fitch Investor Services. All three ratings agencies reaffirmed the USM financial outlook as "stable" at a time when the broader higher education sector is experiencing a negative outlook. [Read more.](#)



[View the winning entries in the USM Public Health Challenge](#)

**COVID Research & Innovation Task Force Announces Six Winners in the USM Public Health Challenge.** This systemwide competition invited USM students, staff, faculty, and alumni to develop creative communications that encourage their fellow Marylanders to comply with COVID-prevention guidelines and get the COVID vaccine when eligible to do so. The competition judges, which included communication professionals and public health experts from USM institutions and the business community, selected three winners in two categories—live action/animated video and social media images. The winners included both individual entrants and teams representing six USM institutions.

Each winning entry will receive a \$3,000 award, made possible by the generosity of the Public Health Challenge sponsors: Maryland Marketing Partnership; BioHealth Innovation, Inc.; the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore; the Maryland Technology Council; Connected DMV; the Baltimore Metropolitan Council; and the USM Foundation. [Read more.](#)

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

## Other News from the System

**USM Chancellor and Presidents Join in Effort to Promote COVID-19 Vaccinations.** On February 3, Chancellor Jay Perman and the presidents of all 12 USM institutions launched a promotional campaign to encourage COVID vaccinations across Maryland.

This campaign, which includes a video and [statement signed by these leaders](#), is designed to complement

the state's efforts to promote the safety and efficacy of vaccines, including the Maryland Department of Health's [GoVAX](#) campaign. The USM statement and video address the issue of vaccine hesitancy and stress the need to vaccinate those most at risk, including communities of color. These USM communications also highlight the many ways in which USM faculty, staff, and students are contributing to fight the pandemic.



**University of Maryland Research Enterprise Achieves Its Highest Ranking in the Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) Survey.** For the first time, the [University of Maryland, Baltimore](#), and [University of Maryland, College Park](#), were linked together as one research enterprise in this important ranking by the National Science Foundation, which now shows the institutions' combined research expenditures of \$1.1 billion. This expanded research effort earned a ranking of No. 14 overall and No. 8 among public institutions. This successful strategic research partnership, known as [MPowering the State](#) (MPower), was made possible by the vision and action of the late Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Governor Larry Hogan, Senator Bill Ferguson, and the Maryland General Assembly; and realized through the talent and efforts of numerous USM faculty members and leaders, especially Presidents Bruce Jarrell and Darryll Pines, former President Wallace Loh, and Vice President for Research Laurie Locascio.

**USM Forms Partnership to Connect Its Campuses to Western Maryland.** The Maryland Research and Education Network (MDREN), a USM technology service provider, has partnered with the Shenandoah Telecommunications Company ("Shentel") to connect USM campuses to Frostburg State University with high-speed fiber network services. Shentel Business will establish a new fiber route from Berkeley Springs, WV, to Frostburg, MD, which will provide vastly improved connectivity resources to the USM's western-most campus in Frostburg, as well as to other educational institutions and underserved business communities throughout Western Maryland. [Read more.](#)

**Maryland Momentum Fund Invests in Voxy EnGen.** In January, the Maryland Momentum Fund announced a \$500,000 investment in Voxy EnGen, an educational technology company that provides new Americans with career-specific language training that accelerates English language skill acquisition. Founded by graduates of the University of Maryland, College Park, Voxy EnGen's adaptive, mobile platform is designed to provide English language lessons focused on the users' interests, academic pursuits, or career goals. "Improving immigrant English language skills is critical for a new job force, and this platform has excellent academic efficacy evidence, with over ten years of use," said Claire Broido Johnson, managing director of the Momentum Fund. [Read more.](#)

---

## News from USM Institutions

**Bowie State University.** LAIKA, the Oscar-nominated and Golden Globe-winning animation studio, is partnering with Bowie State to build the first stop-motion animation studio at a Historically Black College and University (HBCU). [Read more.](#)

**Coppin State University.** The university was named as one of the best public colleges for studying psychology in the *Forbes* article "Affordable, Best Colleges For Psychology in 2021." [Read more.](#)

**Frostburg State University.** Bachelor of Fine Arts student Will Baxter won an international design contest and received an exclusive 2-year deal with the Illustration Room, an Australia-based design company. [Read more.](#)

**Salisbury University.** The university has been named an AmeriCorps School of National Service and will provide in-state tuition, deferred admission, and recognition of AmeriCorps status in the admissions process to all AmeriCorps members and alumni. [Read more.](#)

**Towson University.** The university's Science Complex opened earlier this month, featuring 50 teaching laboratories, 30 research laboratories, a rooftop greenhouse complex, a new planetarium, an observatory, and more. Now the largest academic building on campus, this new facility will bolster TU's nationally-recognized STEM programming. [Read more.](#)

**University of Baltimore.** Three students from the University of Baltimore's College of Public Affairs have been selected for the 2021 Maryland Legislative Fellows Program. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB).** The University of Maryland School of Nursing at UMB has received its largest financial gift to date, a commitment of nearly \$14 million from Bill and Joanne Conway, to create an additional 345 Conway Scholarships, which cover in-state tuition, fees, and (at the undergraduate level) books. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** The university's newest undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Science in Translational Life Science Technology, received the inaugural BioBuzz Workforce Champion of the Year award for its contributions to enhancing the regional biotech workforce. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).** Two UMCES scientists have been named Fulbright Scholars for 2021-2022. Associate Professor Lora Harris will use her award to work in Finland on questions of estuarine ecology. Ph.D. candidate Christina Goethel will use her award to support post-doctoral research and teaching in Iceland. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, College Park.** A \$1.5 million gift from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the School of Public Health will support efforts to prepare a new generation of leaders to confront emerging challenges, including disease pandemics, systemic racism, and the climate crisis. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** The University has been enlisted by technology giant Apple as a Community Center for Coding and Creativity and will expand its curriculum to provide instruction in programming language for Apple's X-code platform. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Global Campus.** President Gregory Fowler was profiled in both [The Washington Post](#) and [Inside Higher Ed](#) with pieces that highlighted his vision and leadership as well as the tremendous, world-wide impact of the university.

---

## News from USM Regional Centers

All three of the USM's regional higher education centers—the **Universities at Shady Grove**, the **University System of Maryland at Hagerstown**, and the **University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland**—were prominently featured in *Maryland Matters* in an [opinion piece](#) jointly authored by the executive directors of the three centers. The piece outlined the pivotal role regional centers will play in higher education's "new normal."

---

## Dates to Remember

For the complete schedule of meetings and public access information, please visit the USM website at: [www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/](http://www.usmd.edu/regents/meetings/)

**MARCH 5, 2021**  
**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**  
9:30 a.m.

**MARCH 25, 2021**  
**Committee on Governance and Compensation**  
8:30 a.m.

**MARCH 25, 2021**  
**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**

## Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive: [View](#)

**Board of Regents**  
Phone: 301.445.2701  
Email: [regents@usmd.edu](mailto:regents@usmd.edu)  
Web: [www.usmd.edu/regents](http://www.usmd.edu/regents)

**Chancellor's Office**  
Phone: 301.445.1901  
Email: [chancellor@usmd.edu](mailto:chancellor@usmd.edu)  
Web: [www.usmd.edu/usm/chancellor/](http://www.usmd.edu/usm/chancellor/)

**Office of Academic and Student Affairs**  
Senior Vice Chancellor: Joann Boughman  
Phone: 301.445.1992  
Email: [jboughman@usmd.edu](mailto:jboughman@usmd.edu)  
Web: [usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/](http://usmd.edu/usm/academicaffairs/)

12:30 p.m.

**MARCH 26, 2021**

**Committee on Audit**

10:00 a.m.

**APRIL 1, 2021**

**Committee on Finance**

10:00 a.m.

**APRIL 16, 2021**

**Board of Regents Meeting**

9:00 a.m.



**Office of Administration and Finance**

Vice Chancellor: Ellen Herbst

Phone: 301.445.1923

Email: [eherst@usmd.edu](mailto:eherst@usmd.edu)

Web: [usmd.edu/usm/adminfinance/](http://usmd.edu/usm/adminfinance/)

**Office of Government Relations**

Vice Chancellor: Patrick Hogan

Phone: 410.269.5085

Email: [phogan@usmd.edu](mailto:phogan@usmd.edu)

Web: [usmd.edu/usm/government-relations/](http://usmd.edu/usm/government-relations/)

**Office of Economic Development**

Vice Chancellor: Tom Sadowski

Phone: 410.576.5742

Email: [tsadowski@usmd.edu](mailto:tsadowski@usmd.edu)

Web: [usmd.edu/usm/economic-development/](http://usmd.edu/usm/economic-development/)

**Office of Communications & Marketing**

Vice Chancellor: Tim McDonough

Phone: 301.445.2722

Email: [tmcdonough@usmd.edu](mailto:tmcdonough@usmd.edu)

Web: [usmd.edu/usm/office\\_of\\_communications](http://usmd.edu/usm/office_of_communications)

**University System of Maryland**

© 2020 University System of Maryland. All rights reserved.

University System of Maryland | 3300 Metzert Road, Adelphi, MD 20783

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [usmnews@usmd.edu](mailto:usmnews@usmd.edu)