



## Regents Report | April 2021

### Greetings from the Board of Regents

We had the privilege last week of recognizing the winners of our Regents Faculty Awards, the highest board honor given to USM faculty. Without question, the excellence they exemplify was even harder to achieve this year, given new challenges, new limitations, new hardships. And so we commend our award winners for sustaining their commitment to excellence and for nurturing that same commitment in their students. And we look forward to celebrating them in person.



Of course, our universities are looking forward to doing many things in person, teaching and learning primary among them. And despite a recent uptick in COVID cases—a stark reminder that this pandemic is still dangerous, still deadly—we do have good news that presages an eventual return to normal, or as close to it as we might safely get.



Vaccine bottlenecks are opening up in Maryland; consequently, many of our universities are now able to provide vaccines directly to the students, faculty, and staff currently on campus. Many students are hopeful that widespread vaccination in the coming months will mean considerably more on-campus instruction and activities this fall, rekindling the vibrant energy—the deep sense of connection and community—that has been missing this academic year.

However, an uptake in vaccination alone will not ensure a safe return to campus. We'll need to sustain, to some degree, many of the protocols that have come to define our new normal: masking, testing, symptom monitoring, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine. We'll need to rely on our own USM experts—together with advice from our health department colleagues—to shape and refine our fall strategy.

More than a year into the pandemic, we have a proven collection of evidence-based tools to guide us through a return to campus. And while we're grateful for these tools, we're equally grateful for a System structure that allows rapid and collaborative decision-making—one that allows consistency in approach, while respecting institutional diversity.

It's been a long year for the USM. But the year has taught us a lot: How to protect safety. How to support one another. How to create community while apart. How to advance our mission in the midst of crisis.

We've learned that COVID hasn't diminished the USM's excellence. In fact, it's made us shine that much brighter.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden  
Chair  
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman  
Chancellor  
University System of Maryland

**Board Actions & Decisions | April 16, 2021**

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on April 16, 2021, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

**Approval of Motion to Delegate Authority to the USM Chancellor to Develop Protocols Related to Vaccination.** The Board voted to give the USM chancellor the authority to decide, after consultation with the USM presidents, whether USM institutions will require students, faculty, and staff to be vaccinated against COVID before returning to campus for the fall semester. [Read more.](#)

**Recognition of 2021 USM Regents' Faculty Award Winners.** Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden recognized the [16 faculty members](#) from institutions across the system who have been selected as the winners in each of four categories: Public Service; Scholarship, Research or Creative Activity; Mentoring; and Teaching. The annual awards are the highest honor presented by the board to exemplary faculty members. [Read more.](#)

**Approval of Four 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 plans to offer\* a new [Master of Science in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Leadership](#), which will prepare professionals to lead institutional efforts to create and maintain environments that support the needs of individuals of diverse identities and center belongingness, and examine policies and practices that disproportionately impact individuals and groups based on their group membership.
- The University of Maryland, College Park plans to offer\* a [Master of Extension Education](#), which will provide an advanced degree opportunity for professionals involved in extension programming by land-grant institutions, as well as those working in community agricultural outreach, technical institutes, and agricultural education.
- The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) plans to offer\* a new [Bachelor of Science in Cloud Computing Systems](#) to equip students with the technical skills and expertise required to analyze an organization's cloud needs, and plan, design, deploy, secure, operate, and maintain cloud computing infrastructure. UMGC also plans to introduce\* a new [Bachelor of Science in Data Science](#) to prepare students to analyze large-scale data sources from interdisciplinary perspectives, gain insights, and make strategic data-driven recommendations that influence organizations' outcomes.

*\* Pending approval of the Maryland Higher Education Commission.*

**Presentation of USM Enrollment Projections, FY 2022-2031.** The Board received the enrollment projects report from the Finance Committee as required by the Board Policy on Enrollment. Although the USM's aggregate institutional enrollment is projected to decrease 868 students in Fall 2021, over the long term, headcount enrollment for the ten-year period is projected to increase 6.9 percent, from 170,180 students in Fall 2020 to 181,878 students in Fall 2030. [Read the full report.](#)

**Approval of the Charter and By-Laws for the New Standing Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare.** The establishment of the new Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics and Student-Athlete Health and Welfare was approved by the Board of Regents in November 2020, at which time the Chancellor was charged with proposing a charter for the committee. The committee is charged with performing all necessary oversight of compliance with Board of Regents policy expectations, and considering issues associated with intercollegiate athletics and student-athlete health and welfare concerns and the need for further or changed Board of Regents policy requirements. [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 Institutions Rank as a Top Producers of Fulbright Students.** In the *Chronicle of Higher Education* list of [Top Producers of Fulbright U.S. Scholars and Students, 2020-21](#), three USM institutions are recognized: The University of Maryland, College Park had 16 Fulbright U.S. Students, while the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) had 11 and Salisbury University (SU) had six. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program gives student

recipients a one-year grant to conduct study and research, or teach English, in more than 150 countries. In addition, faculty at several USM institutions have received Fulbright Scholar, Postdoctoral, Specialist, and Administrator awards. [Read more.](#)

**Students Across the USM Serve in Maryland's Vaccination Site Student Volunteer Program.** When the State of Maryland invited college students to volunteer at mass vaccination sites across the state, more than 300 students attending USM institutions answered the call. Through the state's [Vaccination Site Student Volunteer Program](#), which is part of the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps, USM students are serving as greeters, ambulatory assistants, observers, and in other roles to help these sites run safely and efficiently. [Read more.](#)

**Chancellor Announces USM Plans to Observe Juneteenth.** Last month, Chancellor Jay Perman announced that Juneteenth, a day commemorating the end of slavery, will be recognized as a holiday across the USM. Because Juneteenth (June 19) falls on a Saturday this year, the USM Office and institutions will observe the holiday on Friday, June 18, granting administrative leave to employees. In future years, the Juneteenth holiday will be included in the USM holiday calendar. [Read more.](#)

**Maryland Momentum Fund Invests in Dynamhex.** In March, the Maryland Momentum Fund made a \$250,000 investment in a \$1.5 million seed round for Dynamhex, which provides complex energy consumption and carbon footprint data for corporate, utility, and government entities. Dynamhex developed an artificial intelligence-based platform that provides customized carbon emission reduction recommendations. The company was founded in 2019 by Sanwar Sunny, assistant professor of entrepreneurship at the University of Baltimore. [Read more.](#)

**USM Collaborates on the Maryland Entrepreneur Hub.** Maryland's entrepreneurs have a new one-stop resource for funding, training, mentors, events, space and more! The [Maryland Entrepreneur Hub](#), a new online portal designed to support the state's innovation ecosystem, is the result of a collaboration between TEDCO (Maryland Technology Development Corporation), the Maryland Department of Commerce, and the USM. The hub contains information on more than 2,000 resources for entrepreneurs, including those offered by USM institutions. [Read more.](#)

**USM Office, Foundation, and Institutions Shine in Maryland Charity Campaign.** The compassion and generosity of the entire USM community was fully evident during the 2020 Maryland Charity Campaign, which is an annual workplace giving campaign for Maryland State employees and retirees. The USM Office, the USM Foundation, and 7 of 12 USM institutions exceeded their giving goals for the campaign, which ran from October through December 2020. [Special awards](#) were presented to UMBC, University of Baltimore, Salisbury University, and the USM Office, which receive the Governor's Cup Award for Outstanding Performance (small department). In addition, Cara McCandless, USM Office communications officer, was recognized as the Maryland Charity Campaign Coordinator of the Year. The 2020 Maryland Charity Campaign raised more than \$2 million to support more than 1000 participating charitable organizations.

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## News from USM Institutions

**Bowie State University.** The U.S. Army Cadet Command named Bowie State University's ROTC program a winner of the 2019-20 Gen. Douglas MacArthur Award recognizing the program as one of the best in the nation. [Read more.](#)

**Coppin State University.** Coppin has been awarded top national ranking status for two degree programs by Intelligent.com, a higher education resource guide that ranks institutions annually. Both CSU's master's in adult education and business management degree were ranked in the top 40 nationwide. [Read more.](#)

**Frostburg State University.** VIQTORY, which serves military personnel and spouses transitioning into civilian life, has named Frostburg State to its coveted Military Friendly Schools list for the 10th time in a row. [Read more.](#)

**Salisbury University.** *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the university's graduate education program among the nation's best. The publication placed SU's Samuel W. and Marilyn C. Seidel School of Education at No. 205 on its 2021 list of Best Graduate Education Schools in the U.S. [Read more.](#)

**Towson University.** President Kim Schatzel was named to the Maryland *Daily Record's* Top 100 Women in Maryland list for a third time, making her one of 12 women joining the Circle of Excellence this year, the publication's highest honor. [Read more.](#)

**University of Baltimore.** The university received a record \$5 million gift from real estate developer Samuel G. Rose. The funding will create a new scholarship fund for college students having trouble affording tuition. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore.** After a national search, UMB named its first-ever chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer and vice president, Dr. Diane Forbes Berthoud, who held a similar post at the University of California, San Diego. She will assume the position July 1 and report directly to the president. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County.** The UMBC Cyber Dawgs, a student team focused on computer and network security, took first place in the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition finals. They will compete at the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition later this month. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.** The National Science Foundation awarded Assistant Professor Xin Zhang a CAREER Award to lead a five-year research program to help support sustainable nitrogen use and effective ecosystem management in the Chesapeake Bay and estuaries around the world. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland, College Park.** IonQ—a quantum computing hardware and software company located in the university's Discovery District—entered into a merger agreement with dMY Technology Group, becoming the first publicly traded pure-play hardware and software company in the quantum computing space, doing so with a \$2 billion valuation. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore.** Eastern Shore-based biotech company IES Life Sciences, in partnership with UMES, is seeking emergency approval from the Food and Drug Administration for a test that can predict the severity of COVID-19 symptoms, so that individual patients get the right types of therapy and medical attention needed. [Read more.](#)

**University of Maryland Global Campus.** Advancing its 70-year mission to provide education to U.S. military personnel serving overseas, UMGC has opened a new permanent office at Spain's Morón Air Force base, which often serves as a jumping-off point for deployment to Africa. [Read more.](#)

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## News from USM Regional Centers

**Universities at Shady Grove.** Student Ambassadors at USG have developed a [virtual tour](#) for prospective students, while USG Executive Director Anne Khademian has also now hosted 20 episodes of her weekly video podcast, ["This is USG."](#)

**University System of Maryland at Hagerstown.** USMH held a [virtual open house](#) last month, with representatives of various academic programs on hand to discuss their programs. USMH administrators discussed plans for a safe return to campus in the fall 2021.

**University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland.** Progress continues on the \$86 million [Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology \(SMART\) Building](#). The facility, slated to open this fall, will be transformative for USMSM and for the broader Southern Maryland region.

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## 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/)

**MAY 4, 2021**  
**Committee on Education Policy and Student Life**  
9:30 a.m.

## Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive: [View](#)

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**MAY 12, 2021**  
**Committee on Advancement**  
11:00 a.m.

**MAY 13, 2021**  
**Committee on Governance and Compensation**  
8:30 a.m.

**JUNE 4, 2021**  
**Committee on Audit**  
10:00 a.m.

**JUNE 10, 2021**  
**Committee on Governance and Compensation**  
8:30 a.m.

**JUNE 10, 2021**  
**Committee on Finance**  
10:30 a.m.

**JUNE 10, 2021**  
**Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization**  
12:30 p.m.

**JUNE 17, 2021**  
**Board of Regents Meeting**  
8:30 a.m.



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

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University System of Maryland

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