



Regents Report | December 2020

Greetings from the Board of Regents

As we close out 2020, with two COVID vaccines having secured FDA approval, we're filled with hope that this might be, at last, the beginning of the end of the pandemic. At the same time, we know that we have several more difficult months ahead of us, and that we must continue our work to end this virus, to keep our people safe, and to keep our students learning.

That work will be advanced by the distribution of vaccines across Maryland, and the USM is proud to partner in the state's mass vaccination effort. Our campuses will serve as vaccine distribution sites, our health sciences students will serve as vaccinators, our university leaders will serve as examples to those who are skeptical of a vaccine, especially people of color whose distrust is borne of the unethical practices and inequitable outcomes suffered over centuries.

This work will not be easy, but it will, in time, enable a return to normal. Still, we won't let the progress we've made in access and innovation languish, nor will we shelve the lessons we've learned from this crisis: how to optimize remote and hybrid learning; how to meet the needs of our students in a way that honors their differences. We will emerge from this pandemic a stronger, more agile, and more resilient USM.

Certainly, 2020 has brought great pain. But it's brought, as well, six new USM leaders whose commitment to the system and to the students they serve is a daily inspiration. The last of these new leaders is Dr. Gregory Fowler, this month named the next president of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). We'll welcome Dr. Fowler next month, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Larry Leak for his invaluable service as UMGC interim president.

The end of the year also brings Leading Maryland, the [USM's 2020 Annual Report](#). It's a striking compilation of our systemwide achievements in critical mission areas—education, research, economic development, public service—and it showcases the USM's enormous impact in Maryland. Please take a look.

Together, we faced extraordinary challenges this year, and together, we met every one. This holiday, we wish you comfort, peace, and all the joy of the season. And, more than ever, we wish you a healthy, happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Gooden
Chair
USM Board of Regents

Jay A. Perman, MD
Chancellor
University System of Maryland



Board Actions & Decisions | December 18, 2020

The USM Board of Regents met via video conference on December 18, with public viewing available via [livestream](#). At this meeting, key actions by the Board included:

Election of Board Officers for 2021. In accordance with the bylaws of the USM Board of Regents, the board ratified its slate of officers for 2021. These elected officers will begin their term January 1, 2021:

2021 Board Officers

Chair: Linda Gooden
Vice-Chair: Barry Gossett
Treasurer: Gary Attman
Assistant Treasurer: William "Bill" Wood
Secretary: Michelle Gourdine
Assistant Secretary: Robert Rauch

Report on Long Term Plans for Collaboration on Business Process and System Modernization.

The Board received a report from its Committee on Finance regarding systemwide information technology initiatives, including long-term plans for collaboration among USM universities to collaborate on acquisition and implementation of new IT and upgraded business processes. These initiatives emerged from earlier recommendations by the [Effectiveness & Efficiency Workgroup](#) and the [Statement of Values and Expectations on Collaboration and Cooperative Efforts](#), which was approved at the June 2019 meeting. The initiatives discussed include:

- *Strategic Partnership Between University of Maryland, Baltimore and University of Maryland, College Park.* The institutions will continue to partner on administrative system collaboration with significant emphasis in the area of research administration. Both institutions are in the process of upgrading their core enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems.
- *Consortium of Six* – This consortium of Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Frostburg State University, Salisbury University, University of Baltimore, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore has fully committed to operating with uniform administrative processes and five of the six have committed to implementing one ERP system for finance and HR in which they would all operate. UMES has committed to staying in UMCP's ERP environment. The four to five-year implementation of this new operating model is scheduled to begin in FY 2022.
- *UMGC/UMBC Learning Analytics* – University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) are partnering with the USM Office on ways to improve UMG's learning analytics platform. When complete, the enhancements could be implemented by all USM institutions to improve intelligence related to student enrollment and retention factors.

Read more about these initiatives in the [Board meeting agenda](#).

Recognition of the Wilson H. Elkins Professorship Awardees. The Elkins Professorship was established in 1978 to recruit outstanding individuals to USM institutions to fill vacancies or to provide special recognition and support to retain current outstanding members of the faculty. The recipients of the FY 2021 Elkins Professorship are:

- *Dr. Kesslyn Brade-Stennis, Coppin State University.* Dr. Brade-Stennis plans to facilitate community change by creating policy and service-related community engagement experiences for students at Coppin State and across the USM to promote social justice leadership and community empowerment.
- *Dr. Julius Davis, Bowie State University* (receives the second installment of a two-year award). Dr. Davis plans to expand the Center for Research and Mentoring of Black Male Students and Teachers, which works to recruit Black males into teacher education programs and the teaching profession.
- *Dr. Don DeVoe, University of Maryland, College Park.* Dr DeVoe plans to involve graduate, undergraduate, and high school students in research to advance a unique platform for developing personalized cancer immunotherapies through the automated manipulation of individual cancer and immune cells.
- *Professor Mortimer Sellers, University of Baltimore* (receives the second installment of a two-year award). Dr. Sellers will provide continued support to the Law and Justice Program, which coordinates UB students working with partner NGOs on specific law and justice projects, attracts experts for a public lecture series, and pursues research in law and justice.

Read more about the Elkins Professorship and awardees on the [USM website](#).

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



Dr. Gregory Fowler Appointed Next President of University of Maryland Global Campus. During the Board meeting, the regents congratulated Dr. Gregory Fowler on his appointment as the next president of UMGC. Dr. Fowler has served as president of Southern New Hampshire University's Global Campus since September 2018. He first joined the institution eight years ago in a dual role as chief academic officer and vice president for academic affairs. Fowler is a two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar (Germany and Belgium) with 25 years of experience in higher education management. He will begin his tenure as UMGC president on January 4. [Read more.](#)

Bowie State University and University of Maryland Eastern Shore Receive Transformative Gifts from Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. The USM is deeply grateful to philanthropist MacKenzie Scott for her extremely generous gifts to Bowie State University (BSU) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), two of Maryland's preeminent Historically Black Institutions. The gifts—\$25 million to BSU and \$20 million to UMES—are among the largest unrestricted gifts ever awarded to an institution within the USM. These gifts are particularly meaningful now, in the midst of a pandemic that disproportionately harms students of color, students in poverty, and first-generation students. In all, Ms. Scott donated nearly \$4.16 billion to 384 organizations, selecting those with strong leadership teams and results. The gifts to BSU and UMES are a powerful endorsement of the universities, the high-quality education they provide, and the outcomes they make possible. [Read more.](#)

USM COVID Research & Innovation Task Force Launches Public Health Challenge. As a way to encourage all Marylanders to stay safe and healthy while waiting to receive the COVID vaccine, the USM COVID Research & Innovation Task Force is inviting USM community members to share creative public health messages in a multimedia [Public Health Challenge](#). This competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni from all USM institutions. Individuals and teams may submit entries in two categories: live-action/animated video and a social messaging campaign. The top three entries in each category will receive \$3,000, thanks to support from several sponsors: Baltimore Metropolitan Council, BioHealth Innovation, Connected DMV, Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, Maryland Marketing Partnership, and the Maryland Technology Council. [Read more.](#)

Maryland Momentum Fund Invests in VisiSonics. In late November, the Maryland Momentum Fund announced a \$500,000 investment in College Park-based VisiSonics Corporation, an early stage company that develops spatial audio technology and personalization software for audio playback, as well as hardware and software for audio capture and analytics. VisiSonics' technology was initially developed at the University of Maryland through \$6 million in funding from the National Science Foundation and Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. The company has exclusive licenses to six university patents related to its technologies. In 2020, the Maryland Momentum Fund invested \$2.35 million in eight companies affiliated with USM universities. [Read more.](#)

News from USM Institutions

Bowie State University. Two Bowie State undergraduate students captured first place at the International Business Agility Labs: Accounting Competition, hosted—virtually—by the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business Center for Global Business. [Read more.](#)

Coppin State University. Coppin was among six partnering universities that received a five-year, \$6,750,000 NASA award to nurture students into the STEM fields. [Read more.](#)

Frostburg State University. Two buildings on the Frostburg State campus will be named to honor the history and legacy of the university's African American community. [Read more.](#)

Salisbury University. SU senior Jessica Pierce was named a finalist for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship. If selected, she would be the first SU student to earn the honor, allowing her to travel to the University of Edinburgh in Scotland to pursue a Ph.D. in neuroscience with a focus on epilepsy research. [Read more.](#)

Towson University. The university celebrated the largest single donation from an alum in the institution's 154 years—a \$5.3 million gift from Dr. Fran Soistman Jr., a 1979 TU graduate. The gift will be used to support the College of Health Professions, the College of Business & Economics, athletics, and programming to advance equity, diversity and inclusion. [Read more.](#)

University of Baltimore. Seven finalists have been announced for the 2020 Attman Business Pitch Competition. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore. For the second time this year, the university's School of Nursing has approved an early exit for nursing students to bolster the nursing workforce and help the state of Maryland respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County. UMBC student Sam Patterson was one of only 32 American students awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship this year. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. UMCES launched its first edX professional certificate course—Science for Environmental Management. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland, College Park. Phillip and Elizabeth Gross, who run a family foundation bearing their names, are making a \$6.8 million gift to the university's Incentive Awards Program, which provides scholarships and academic support to underserved populations from the state of Maryland and D.C. [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Eastern Shore. UMES alumnus James Akinola '15, a combat medic assigned to Fort Jackson in South Carolina, was recently named the 2020 U.S. Army Soldier of the Year! [Read more.](#)

University of Maryland Global Campus. UMGC alumna Bonnie Broh-Kahn and her husband recently established endowment funds through a \$1 million bequest to the university. [Read more.](#)

News from USM Regional Centers

Universities at Shady Grove. Last month the Universities at Shady Grove held its 11th Annual Scholarship and Donor Recognition Celebration. The event—moved to a virtual format—honored more than 650 scholarship recipients and donors. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Hagerstown (USMH). The annual Feaste at Yuletide scholarship fundraiser raised nearly \$45,000 to support students enrolled in programs offered at USMH. [Read more.](#)

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM). TechPort—a UMCP-managed business incubator that also supports USMSM—is providing critical assistance to frontline health care workers. [Read more.](#)

Dates to Remember

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

JANUARY 12, 2021
Committee on Education Policy and Student Life
9:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Useful Resources and Contacts

Regents Meeting Video Archive [View](#)

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Web: www.usmd.edu/regents

Chancellor's Office
Phone: 301.445.1901
Email: chancellor@usmd.edu
Web: www.usmd.edu/usm/chancellor/

Committee on Governance and Compensation

8:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Committee on Finance

10:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Committee on Economic Development and Technology Commercialization

12:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

Board of Regents Meeting

8:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Committee on Advancement

11:00 a.m.

MARCH 26, 2021

Committee on Audit

10:00 a.m.



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University System of Maryland

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