

**Friday, June 19, 2020**  
**Report to the USM Board of Regents**  
**Chancellor Jay A. Perman**  
**(AS DRAFTED)**

Thank you, Chair Gooden. Once again, let me open my comments with words of thanks. I continue to be impressed by, and grateful to, the members of this board, our institutional leaders, and professionals throughout the USM. All of you have stepped forward and demonstrated tremendous leadership under the most difficult of circumstances.

As Linda noted, the June Board of Regents meeting traditionally serves as the Chancellor's "Annual Report"—a year-in-review for the USM and its institutions. As I considered my comments for this review, I couldn't help but recall the opening of Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The second half of that quote—the worst of times—is obvious. For the USM, COVID-19 cleared our campuses, short-circuited ongoing research, sent our students off in multiple directions, and





Let me also note that, this fall, in response to the financial toll that COVID-19 has had on our students—pending a vote from the Board today—undergraduate and graduate tuition, room and board, and all other fees will remain at the 2019–20 level across the USM.

When I consider the **totality** of what the USM is doing to step up and meet the immense challenges before us, and when I look at the momentum we’re building for real solutions and real change, I **truly do** see these as the best of times.

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And as vital as our efforts on these fronts are, this past year has seen USM institutions succeed in

addition, Towson launched “StarTUp”—an effort connecting campus



Earlier this year, UMGC received a record \$16 million gift—nearly doubling the school’s endowment—and has already begun using the money to help students struggling financially during the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, UMGC has received an \$825,000 grant from the Ascendium Education Group to develop an innovative curriculum for its doctoral program in Community College Policy and Administration—one that responds to the evolving set of leadership skills needed in higher education.

A three-year, \$3 million gift to the A. James Clark School of Engineering at UMCP from Lockheed Martin will fund aerospace research, while increasing opportunities for women and underrepresented minorities in STEM fields.





Finally, as we look back over the year, it was also a **year of transition**.

We were joined by new regents Kelly Schulz, secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce; Geoff Gonella, president of Cornerstone Government Affairs; Sam Malhotra, CEO of Subsystem Technologies; Meredith Mears, chief development officer of Gillis Gilkerson Construction and Development Company; and student regent Drew Needham, JD candidate at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.

We introduced UMB Provost Bruce Jarrell as interim president of that university earlier this year, welcomed Anthony Jenkins as Coppin's new president just last month, and announced Darryll Pines—dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering—as the next president of the University of Maryland, College Park, effective July 1. On that last item, let me once again thank College Park President Wallace Loh. UMCP has grown physically, programmatically, and reputationally over the last 10 years, and is truly one of the nation's very best flagship universities. Dr. Loh's vision and leadership have been at the heart of that progress.

And, last but not least, the USM welcomed a new chancellor earlier this year. Let me end my report by once again saying what an honor and privilege it is for me to serve in this capacity. The future of *Maryland* is directly tied to the success of the USM. I thank you for affording me this opportunity to work for the students and citizens of Maryland.

Madame Chair . . . this concludes my report. I would be happy to respond to any questions the Regents may have.

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