At an awards ceremony last month, the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge honored individuals and institutions whose work drove historic voter turnout during the 2020 presidential election. Well over half of our universities were recognized at that event.

Gold Seals went to institutions with a voter participation rate between 70 and 80 percent: the University of Baltimore (UBalt), Towson University (TU), the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), and the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Sliver Seals went to institutions with a voter participation rate of 60 to 70 percent: Frostburg State University (FSU), Salisbury University (SU), and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

Among universities nationwide, Towson was recognized with a Champion Campus Award for the Best Democratic Engagement Action Plan.

And College Park Alexandra Marquez was honored as Standout Undergraduate Student.

Another national ranking recently shone a spotlight on our universities. Two USM institutions received five stars—the highest possible rating—from Campus Pride, whose work creates safer, more welcoming college campuses for LGBTQ students. Towson and College Park were among just 47 colleges and universities nationwide to earn the recognition.

APLU honored UMBC with its 2021 Gold Award in Leadership and Pervasiveness for Internationalization. UMBC is the only North American university to receive the Gold Award, affirming its intentional work in creating a culture of global engagement. And, of course, in last edition of magazine, President Freeman Hrabowski was celebrated as the 2021 recipient of the John Hope Franklin Award, joining luminaries like the late Maya Angelou and Rep. John Lewis.

The University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) was ranked #1 among universities in the latest survey of the best employers for veterans. the most comprehensive annual ranking of military-connected employment, benefits, and support efforts.

Next week, ssociate vice chancellor for education and outreach, will receive the Civic Leadership Award from Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic, a much-deserved acknowledgement of shaping of a national civic education and community engagement agenda.

the USM is so active in the organization, as it demonstrates our commitment to these twin goals. Frostburg President Ron Nowaczyk is chair of Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic, and Heidi Anderson, president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), is secretary. Most of our presidents serve on every university is a member.

thanks to an MHEC grant of close to \$1 million, the School of Nursing will increase its enrollment and offer an accelerated option, bringing more nurses into the Maryland workforce sooner.

That same commitment to shoring up the nursing workforce animates efforts at UMB. The School of Nursing once again

greatest pursuit is truth; where the foundational mission is to be of service to others. You make this world