

Report to the USM Board of Regents

Chancellor Jay A. Perman

April 29, 2022

Thank you, Chair Gooden. What a wonderful morning it's been already, with the recognition of our outstanding faculty.

Maryland's media and leadership organizations recognize our people's excellence as well. Six members of the 2022 Leadership Maryland Class—more than 10 percent—have USM connections, including Dr. Peter Goodwin, president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES). About the same share of **o / o** Top 100 Women this year are from the University System, including UMES Pres.

management company, just launched a scholarship program for students enrolled in the UMES PGA Golf Management program.

With a gift from Whiting-Turner—matched by Maryland's E-Innovation Initiative Fund—TU is launching an interdisciplinary cybersecurity center and appointing its first endowed professor of cybersecurity.

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Just last week, BSU became the nation's first HBCU to sign on as a premier sponsor of a national PBS film. The two original public television documentaries will feature two Marylanders, both towering figures in the struggle to end slavery, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

UBalt has officially launched its Center for Criminal Justice Reform. Made possible by a generous donation from School



nearly \$89 million for the College of Health Professions Building at TU, \$8 million to complete the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions Building at UMES, and \$90 million for facilities renewal Systemwide.

All of this underscores how much our leaders in Annapolis value public higher education and how committed they are to investing in it. They recognize that, together, we've built one of the most educated, most innovative, most entrepreneurial, and most successful populations in the country. They understand that Maryland's place in the innovation economy is virtually unsurpassed, and that an exceptional system of public higher education is what sets us apart from our competitors and drives our success. I'm grateful to the Hogan administration and the legislature for their commitment to the System and the work we do.

I'm grateful, as well, to our government relations team, led by Vice Chancellor Patrick Hogan, and his colleagues throughout the USM, for steering us through such a productive session. They had a big assist from Academic and Student Affairs, led by Senior Vice Chancellor Jo Boughman. I also thank Vice Chancellor Ellen Herbst and her staff for their hard work in support of our operating and capital budgets.

Just one more word of thanks to the people elevating the University System: A couple of nights ago in New York City, the USM Foundation's investment office, led by chief investment officer Sam Gallo, was named Endowment of the Year. We bested some stiff competition, and it just goes to show how skillfully we steward the dollars entrusted to us. Thank you to Leonard Raley, Sam Gallo, and the entire investment team.

FROM PANDEMIC TO ENDEMIC DISEASE

One final thought before I close: Things obviously look very different today than they did even a year ago. Federal and state public health authorities have begun transitioning their COVID disease response from a pandemic to an endemic phase of infection. And Systemwide, our vaccination rates are high, and disease positivity rates are low.

And so as we enter this next phase of endemic disease, the USM *o i o* all of our students, faculty, and staff, unless exempted, to be fully vaccinated and up-to-date on all booster shots when eligible, so that we're well positioned to remain safe this coming fall. And, of course, we'll continue to analyze data and policy developments, so that our universities have what they need as they consider campus protocols going forward. I thank all of our institutions for their continued leadership in protecting public health and safety.

Madame Chair, this concludes my report.

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