

recognized among the nation's best in two programs, including a #3 ranking in nursing administration. And the University of Maryland, College Park (UMD) was listed among the best in 10 business and engineering programs, including several top 10 rankings.

Earlier this week, the Fulbright Program announced the nation's top producers of Fulbright Scholars and Students. UMB was recognized for the number of Fulbright Scholars it produces, and UMBC and Towson University, for the number of Fulbright Students. Recognized in both categories—scholars *and* students—is UMD, one of only 12 U.S. universities to make both lists. Well done to you all.

Elsewhere across the USM, Bowie State University (BSU) launched its Esports Center last week, a state-of-the-art gaming hub where gamers—on and off BSU's competitive team—can connect with one another and polish their skills. Also last week, President Breaux and her team welcomed U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona to campus, celebrating BSU's work in opening pathways that diversify the school counseling and mental health professions—efforts that ultimately make it easier for underserved people to get the care they need. Sec. Cardona also learned how Bowie State is bringing more Black men into teaching and supporting them to success.

UMB also hosted a member of President Biden's cabinet. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra discussed the state of women's health care and reproductive rights with President Jarrell, Gov. Moore, and the UMB community. It was a timely discussion, given that Gov. Moore announced this week that UMB will get \$10.6 million to shore up abortion access in Maryland with its Abortion Care Clinical Training Program. This grant joins some huge awards over the last several weeks: \$30 million to prevent rehospitalization among IV drug users, \$9 million to improve vaccine efficacy, \$7 million to innovate trauma triage technology for mass casualty events. The list goes on, but, unfortunately, I cannot.

UMB also celebrated the opening of the Embrace Resource Center's new space in West Baltimore. A partnership among UMB, local nonprofits, city agencies, and private businesses, the center will establish the Eutaw Street Corridor as a safe, thriving community for those living and working there.

Coppin State University is showing that same commitment to community. The CSU nursing program—along with programs at Johns Hopkins and Morgan State—is partnering with the Baltimore City School System to address nurse shortages in its schools. The five-year, \$14 million program is aimed at tackling nursing shortages in the short term and

Salisbury University has announced that its Museum of Eastern Shore Culture will open this summer next to SU Downtown. The museum will feature exhibits on local and indigenous cultures and include items from the carving collection formerly displayed at the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art. And, of course, I know Sea Gull Nation was very proud to see SU Athletics Hall of Famer Dan Quinn named head coach of the Washington Commanders. I can tell some of you are thinking about jumping out of the line queuing up for Kurt and heading over to the one for Lyn.

UMBC is deep in the work of advancing diversity and inclusion in STEM—from its Meyerhoff Scholars Program to its Center for Women in Technology. Now you can add another program to this effort. UMBC has joined the National Academies' Action Collaborative on Transforming Trajectories for Women of Color in Tech to build new pathways in tech education and careers for underrepresented women. Also at UMBC, the Center for Research in Emergent Manufacturing is launching a \$3 million project to work with the U.S. Army on digitizing itsion

Point a couple of years ago, and she's the embodiment of UMCES's incredible impact, locally and globally.

Pharmacy graduates from UMES have achieved the highest first-time licensure pass rate of any HBCU pharmacy school for the third-straight year—a remarkable accomplishment. Meanwhile, anticipation grows around UMES's historic School of Veterinary Medicine. When it enrolls its first class in 2026, it'll be the only veterinary program in Maryland and just the second at a U.S. HBCU. And last week, UMES hosted the 4th annual Man the Shore Summit to recruit men of color into teaching and to better serve the boys and young men in our classrooms.

A joyous tradition at the University of Maryland, College Park was featured in *The Washington Post*. Every year, a few lucky UMD hopefuls are greeted at their homes by Testudo and the UMD marching band, whose brass section literally “trumpets” the fact that these Early Action candidates

That brings me to my concluding remarks on the legislative session and the governor's proposed FY25 budget. His proposal includes \$2.2 billion in state support for the USM. It's a cut of \$45.3 million—or 2.2 percent—from last year's budget. Despite the cut, the budget