



Report to the USM Board of Regents Chancellor Jay A. Perman Bowie State University | April 19, 2024

Thank you, Chair Gooden. What a terrific morning it's been already with our celebration of USM faculty. It's an honor to recognize their excellence.

I thank our host, Bowie State University (BSU). As you could tell from President Breaux's presentation, BSU isn't letting up and neither are its students. Last month, Biology major Daliyah Brown won first place at the Emerging Researchers National Conference in Washington, DC, for her work on medicinal plants. Daliyah is part of a multi-university research team that works with one of the 2024 Faculty Award winners just honored this morning, Dr. Anne Osano. What a great full-circle moment.

Meanwhile, a team of four BSU Business students all of them, Center for Financial Advancva And so it's

the third U.S. HBCU to offer a PhD in
ment Breaux.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Let me broaden my scope to the University System writ large. Earlier this month, U.S. News & World Report released its 2024 Graduate School rankings, and the USM shone.

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) and the School of Public Health (d) ranked 7.293 0 [(T) (t6) the top 25 overall.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), well-represented among the top 25 programs. The School of Nursing again ranked in the top 10 overall among public schools, and the school moved up in all six categories in which it was ranked.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) was recognized for statistics, fine arts, physics, public affairs, engineering, and more.

And, in fact, every eligible USM university was recognized. Education at Frostburg State University (FSU), Social Work at Salisbury University (SU), Computer Science at BSU and Towson University (TU), Rehabilitation Counseling at Coppin State University (CSU) and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). The Clinical Law program at the University of Baltimore (UBalt) School of Law ranked #5 nationwide.

Of course, the System's excellence shows in ways independent of rankings. Last week, we formalized a historic partnership with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, establishing a framework to facilitate prison education programs at all USM universities and all Maryland correctional facilities.

We're the first higher education system in the nation to enter into such an agreement. The point, of course, is not only to grow certificate and degree opportunities for incarcerated students, but ultimately, to strengthen the families and communities they return to. I thank the University of Baltimore and Bowie State for showing us the way, and I thank Regent Wood, Regent Hur and Senior Vice Chancellor Wryn for their leadership in getting this done.

Another piece of Systemwide news I'm proud to share: The USM has joined the Maryland Tough Baltimore Strong Alliance in response to the devastating Key Bridge collapse. We've committed our university expertise in several areas of critical need, including economic modeling, supply chain management, civil engineering, transportation, and water and environmental impact. And should the work stoppage at the port be extended, we're prepared to offer education, skills development, and career services to port employees. We're grateful we can contribute in these times of challenge for our city and state.

Here's another Systemwide effort: We prepare for the upcoming election, where meeting the foundational obligation of the American academy—namely, to educate for democracy. The USM is one of 14 applicants nationwide to receive poll worker funding as part of the federal Help America Vote College Program.

With money from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, each of our universities will pay students to be trained as election judges. College Park will take the lead in developing the training modules in partnership with the Maryland State Election Commission. And we'll work to place students in election precincts without easy access to poll workers. The objective isn't only to support transparency and confidence in the 2024 election, but to start students on a path of engaged citizenship over their lifetime. I thank Associate Vice Chancellor Nancy Shapiro for her leadership in this vitally important work.



And while I'm on civic engagement, it was gratifying to see UBalt's NextGen Leaders program get attention for its work to develop and replenish our public service workforce. In less than two years, UBalt has placed

Provost Mueller, I congratulate you, as well, recruiting LaVonda Reed dean of the School of Law at Georgia State University, as UBalt's new law dean's the first woman in the role, a historic appointment, and I look forward to working with her.

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) also welcomed leadership this summer. Dr. Fernando Miralles Wilhelm, dean of the College of Science at George Mason University, takes the reins on July 1, and I know he's excited to build on UMCES's established strength for even greater impact.

That strength is demonstrated in an UMCES research group just awarded a National Science Foundation grant to address salt contamination of water supplies in tidal river contamination that threatens drinking water for billions of people globally.

the agency's presence on campus and develop the state's aerospace workforce with new coursework and professional development opportunities

Salisbury celebrated another landmark with the launch of the Graduate School at SU. With 14 master's and two doctoral programs as well as postbaccalaureate, postmasters, and postdoctoral certificates—the school will grow graduate enrollment, expand opportunities for graduate students, and elevate SU's profile and standing in national rankings. Congratulations, President Lepre.

The National Security Agency has validated the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) as a National Center of Academic Excellence for its cybersecurity programming. The validation of UMGC's Master of Science in Cybersecurity Technology runs through the 2029 academic year. Also at UMGC, an exciting partnership with the Major League Soccer Players Association will open access and discount tuition for hundreds of professional soccer players and their families.

And next week, Chair Gooden and I will celebrate UMGC Europe's Class of 2024 at the Ramstein Airbase in Germany. It's the university's largest commencement ceremony in Europe. While there, we'll commemorate another deeply meaningful milestone: 75 years of teaching American service members on the European continent. UMGC was the first U.S. university to send faculty overseas to teach active military personnel. And it's an honor to celebrate UMGC's commitment to serving those who serve this nation.

with regional community colleges and its dedication to building accessible pathways into

Programs are growing at the USM at Southern Maryland. This fall, Bowie State begins offering a master's in special education at the center. This is a huge deal, given that the Kennedy Krieger Institute is located on the campus. BSU students will be able to work with the institute's teachers, staff, and students to advance special education practice and serve Southern Maryland families. Plus, UMD's Clark School of Engineering is developing a master's program in System and Evaluation of Autonomy, advancing the region's leadership in autonomous systems. Great things are happening, Dr. Abel.

And the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) got a campaign worth of exposure with its feature in an AmazonTV show called 'The College Tour' Ten USG students tell their stories in the 30-minute profile, and talk about the intimacy of the USG community, its diversity, engaged faculty, financial aid opportunities, and USG's laser focus on career readiness and job placement. If you haven't watched, it you absolutely should. Congratulations, Dr. Khademian.



Let me take a moment to recap the just-ended legislative session. Every year I say that it was a busy one. And, every year, that's true. But this year 3,480 bills filed; with more than 280 affecting the System directly; with our people testifying on nearly 500 were in overdrive.

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But I, too, want to address the Title IX misconduct at UMBC. Can't everyone here, and everyone listening in, to know how seriously the System and the Board take the findings of the Department of Justice, and how deeply sorry we are for the pain suffered by too many students for too long. I want you to know that we will be accountable for strengthening our policies and processes going forward. And we will work every day to prevent the misconduct that happened at UMBC from ever happening again at any university within the System.

What happened at UMBC hurt students deeply. It caused harm we can't undo. What we