March 5, 2019

Dear Budget Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to respectfully request your support for the $20 million in funding that was included in the Governor's budget for year two of the University System of Maryland's (USM) Workforce Development Initiative (WDI). The Department of Legislative Services recommended that this funding be reduced in half. We, strongly urge you to reject that recommendation and protect those much-needed funds for building our future workforce in the state.

Demand for workers in the STEM disciplines is continuing to grow rapidly and, as such, USM has been keenly focused on delivering graduates with the degrees and certificates needed to excel in these key industries. The Workforce Development Initiative will provide necessary funding for establishing and growing needed academic programs offered by multiple universities in the USM. Fully funding the WDI is expected to generate 3,000 new high-demand credentials per year, including many in the STEM areas. The addition of these graduates into the workforce will greatly help Maryland compete on a wide variety of economic fronts.

Restoring the $20 million is especially important to us, as some of that funding will be used to expand degree opportunities at USM's Universities at Shady Grove (USG), located in the heart of Montgomery County. Slated to open in the coming Fall, USG's Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education (BSE) will provide for the expansion of academic programs in health care, biosciences, engineering, computational sciences, and other core STEMM (STEM + medical sciences) disciplines offered by USM partner institutions (including University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore; and UMBC, among others) in support of the regional and state workforce. WDI funding is required to offer these STEMM opportunities at USG and will foster our ability in Montgomery County to grow the talent pool of locally educated and trained professionals in these critically needed disciplines. Additional information on the new BSE facility is found on the attached fact sheet.

Our chamber represents more than 400 employers of varying sizes and from a wide range of industries. We are keenly focused on developing an educated and skilled workforce for our county and our state, both today and in the future. It is critical that the state make strategic investments in education and workforce development to ensure that our members will continue to thrive and grow, thereby contributing to the state's economic development.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing higher education in the state of Maryland and to initiatives such as these, which are so crucial to the success of our statewide workforce and economic development strategies. Thank you in advance for ensuring that this crucial funding for the WDI is protected. A reduction in this funding could make it prohibitive for the participating universities to bring many of the intended programs to USG, in which the state has so wisely invested.

Sincerely,

Georgette W. Godwin
President and CEO

cc: Robert Caret, Chancellor, University System of Maryland (USM)
    Patrick N. Hogan, Vice Chancellor for Government Relations, USM
    Stewart Edelstein, Executive Director, USG
    Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive
    Nancy Navarro, President, Montgomery County Council
    Melanie Wenger, Director, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Attachment: BSE Fact Sheet   *To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*
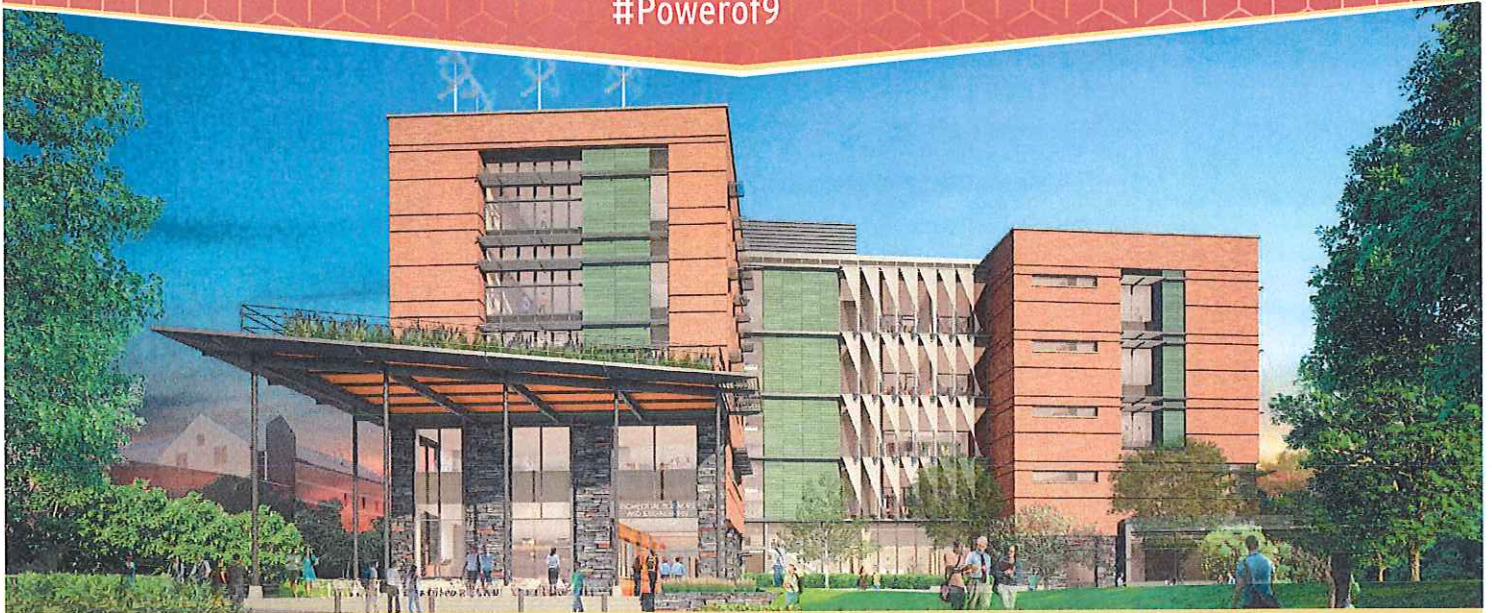
The Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Facility: Built for Breakthroughs

Montgomery County and the state of Maryland have a long history of investing in education. With the addition of the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Facility (BSE), the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) will be able to take that investment to a new level—setting a new standard in quality higher education that directly meets the region's workforce development needs in the fields of science, technology, engineering, math and medical sciences (STEMM).

The state-of-the-art facility will be one of the most sustainably sourced and built laboratory buildings in the country, with **cutting edge teaching laboratories, collaborative learning spaces, clinical training facilities, academic offices and expanded student services** necessary to support program and enrollment growth.

When this facility opens, it will serve thousands of additional students in STEMM programs, and will allow USG to provide even more businesses with qualified STEMM graduates to help fuel our region's economy. The students who learn in the facility's labs and advance their education in the BSE will be the same men and women who staff the professional labs, research centers, and medical facilities of this region for years to come.

"Our state has always placed emphasis on education and workforce development. That emphasis has served our students, residents, and companies based here quite well—but data shows us the emphasis must continue—especially in science, technology, engineering, and math."

— ANTONIO MOREIRA, PHD
VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, UMBC

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY 1865 | Salisbury UNIVERSITY | TOWSON UNIVERSITY | UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE | UMBC | UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND | UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE | UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND BALTIMORE | UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND University College

BSE Academic Programs

Maryland's premier research and teaching universities, University of Maryland, College Park; University of Maryland, Baltimore; University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and Salisbury University, will be the first to offer new undergraduate and graduate degrees in healthcare, biosciences, engineering, and computational science—all of which are critical and rapidly growing industries in our region. The following programs are planned for the BSE beginning Fall 2019 through Fall 2020.

UMBC

- BS Translational Life Science Technology*
- BS Translational Life Science Technology–Bioinformatics
- BS Computer Science–Data Science
- BS Computer Science–Cybersecurity
- MPS Technical Management*
- MPS Data Science*
- BS General Engineering

University of Maryland, Baltimore

- Dental Community Clinic and Advanced Education Program in General Dentistry
- MS Dental Hygiene
- Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Oral Health Science

University of Maryland, College Park

- BS Information Science*
- BS Embedded Systems and the Internet of Things
- BS Mechatronics
- BS Bioengineering
- BS Agricultural Science and Technology

Salisbury University

- MS Applied Health Physiology

Currently Enrolling Students

ADDITIONAL STEMM PROGRAMS COMING SOON

Key Features of the BSE

Academic Learning Spaces

BSE includes 12 active learning classrooms, 2 lecture halls (120 and 160 seats), computer classroom and computer lab, collaborative learning spaces for small groups of student and faculty and 20 state-of-the-art laboratories (wet and dry). More than half of the BSE space is dedicated to laboratories, some of which are dedicated to specific academic programs in the engineering and life sciences arenas but many are shared spaces for use by multiple programs. The laboratories are supported by lab preparation areas as well as an electrical shop and a fabrication shop.

Community Dental Clinic

The dental clinic includes 24 advanced operatories to provide comprehensive dental care to community patients provided by faculty supervised advanced general education dental students and dental hygiene students.

Interprofessional Clinical Training Facility

Students, faculty and staff from healthcare, social work and social sciences programs will engage in interprofessional teams to provide collaborative standardized clinical care and foster improved patient outcomes. The interprofessional clinical training facility is co-located with the community dental clinic and shares a patient waiting areas. It includes three patient examination rooms, patient briefing room and student/faculty team workstations.

Product Design Laboratory

The product design laboratory (wet and dry lab space) and maker space was designed specifically for student research (independent study and guided research) that incorporates team-based and project- based learning. Local and regional businesses and organizations will be invited to identify real-world problems that students can solve and enhance their career-readiness skills. Students will have opportunities to take advantage of the fabrication and electrical shops as well as 3D printing, project storage spaces and makerspace materials and supplies.

Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE)

The center will provide opportunities for students to learn design thinking, innovation strategies and entrepreneurship skills necessary for today's graduates to be career-ready and play their part in nurturing the economic growth of the region. The center will provide state-of-the -art workspaces for student teams and their mentors, from all academic programs, to work collaboratively with businesses to develop new ideas and technologies.

For more information about the BSE, or to get involved, visit **shadygrove.umd.edu/BSE** or email **rsmith25@umd.edu**.

The Universities
AT SHADY GROVE
#Powerof9

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