Institutional Achievements

Delivering the Promise of Excellence through Outstanding Faculty and Programs with High Impact

At universities, investing in quality means building and supporting a faculty of the highest caliber, and the competition for these leaders is as intense as any competition for corporate or athletic talent in top firms and teams. From outstanding faculty flow the energy, ideas and leadership that make a university great. Through their accomplishments, our faculty bring widespread recognition to the State. They pursue their research and scholarship at the top levels of excellence, which sets the bar high across the University and raises the intellectual ambiance. The following descriptions of some of last year's top award winners indicate how they enrich the University by their service as well as their stellar research. Such faculty repay our investment in them many times over.

Research Leadership
The investment we make in our faculty and programs of high impact is leveraged into significant external funding and national/international recognition.

Leveraging Strength through Partnerships
Outstanding faculty win competitive grants. They are also the lever for creating partnerships, the key to innovation in today’s knowledge economy. Most of the recent advances in the key areas-information dissemination, instantaneous communications, biotechnology and nanotechnology—that are transforming how we live and even the length of our lives, have all been accelerated by partnerships. Complex problems of the environment, energy, peace and conflict management are also solved through partnerships. Because of our special location in the Baltimore- Washington corridor, the University has an unfair advantage to form productive partnerships with the State and federal government agencies; these greatly leverage our strengths.
Research Initiatives

Areas of job growth are concentrated in emerging fields. Accordingly, discovery and creation of new knowledge, and engagement of students in the process of knowledge creation are key responsibilities of universities. Among our major initiatives over the past year are centers for research in the creation of knowledge.

Delivering the Promise of Excellence for Talented Students in Outstanding Programs with Affordable Access

Highly Talented Students. The University's self-imposed mandate is to provide access to a top-quality education for Maryland residents. We are fulfilling this mandate. More students apply to the University than ever before, and they are better prepared academically. In 2005, the number of University Honors students increased to 900, a couple of hundred over the target because of a higher than expected acceptance rate. The qualifications of our entering freshmen indicate that we are retaining more of Maryland's most highly qualified students and stemming the exodus of talent from the State.

Diversity. Our incoming class continues to be strong in ethnic diversity, reflecting the total undergraduate population, which is 57% Caucasian, 13% African American, 14% Asian American, 6% Hispanic American, less than 1% Native American, 9% Other American, and 2% international. The majority population is the smallest fraction in the State's history. The fastest growing ethnic group is Other. In FY04, 674 African Americans earned bachelor's degrees from us. This is both higher in number and in a higher percentage of total degrees than any other university in the American Association of Universities (AAU). According to Diversity: Issues in Higher Education, for the period 2000-2004, the University ranked 4th nationally among doctorate-granting institutions in the number of African American doctorate recipients.

Access

In a time of limited resources, our primary challenge is to provide access to highest quality education for all applicants who qualify for admission.

Providing access to top-quality education is the challenge and, for the University of Maryland, an unwavering commitment. We are determined to ensure that talented students of low and moderate financial means are able to attend the University without incurring backbreaking debt burdens.
If we measure University progress in achieving the State's goal of national eminence, we find that we have taken long strides toward closing the gap between the University and its designated peers.

You have dealt with us generously, and the flagship of the University System is well on its way to achieving the greatness you mandated. Over recent years the University has outpaced all other major universities in its growth in stature and has a trajectory of success that is closing the gap between our peers and us. Essentially every measure of performance reveals a remarkable progress. We attract students with qualifications competitive with those of our peers; our most recently admitted class has average GPAs of 3.9 and SATs of 1259. The faculty bring an average $226,000 per year in research funds. The University leads the area in entrepreneurship, science, and technology, and is out front in service to business development through its support programs for State enterprises and industry. A new research park is attracting major partnerships with federal agencies. From performing arts at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, which has become a major venue for the arts, to nationally competitive athletics, the University has received the highest recognition for its advancement. National visibility and rankings have followed: We are ranked 17th among publics by U.S. News & World Report—up from 30th five years ago. The number of donors to the campus has nearly doubled since 1998, and over the last five years, faculty and staff have donated private gifts totaling more than $14 million to the campus through 6,100 individual contributions.

The University is a Magnet for Partnerships with Industry and Government that Enrich the State

The University's reputation for excellence and entrepreneurship attracts new partners, bringing major players into the State. A major drawing card will be the University of Maryland Research Park. Located near the College Park Metro site in College Park and Riverdale Park, the research park will occupy 128 acres owned or under option to the University of Maryland. The area has approximately two and one-half million square feet of buildable research and
development space—potentially the largest university-related research park in the state of Maryland and the Greater Washington Region. (By comparison, the JHU East campus biotech park build out is estimated at 2 million square feet; UMBC’s park is capped at 300,000 square feet.)

GROWING EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

Your investment in support for graduate students has also paid off. The last year has seen remarkable progress in the number and quality of students attracted to the university’s graduate programs. We have the largest graduate program in the state. Applications to our various graduate programs reached an all-time high of almost 14,000, the most significant increase in a decade.