



Fall 2009 Video Message
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President
University of Maryland

Hi. I'm Dan Mote, president of the University of Maryland.

September is energized by 9,000 new students entering the University. But this year was among the most exciting ever. On September 17, more than 18,000 people filled our Comcast Center to hear President Obama speak about health care. It was a very exciting day no matter where you stand on the health care issue.

The new class of 2013 has the highest SAT and GPAs in our history. The university is the choice for more and more of the state's best and brightest - and we are ramping up our efforts to recruit them.

Many freshmen are entering our new Honors College bringing our honors programs into a living-learning home. The Honors College will be expanded with programs taking advantage of our location a bike ride from the nation's capital.

Our new students reflect the global diversity of their generation. This year we experienced a 50 percent increase in the number of newly admitted international undergraduate students.

We are preparing our students for global leadership. We've established new semester abroad programs in Rome, Shanghai and Haifa. In addition, we'll launch nine new winter term programs in Australia, Dubai, India, Liberia, Qatar, Senegal, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey and London.

Like much of the country, the state of Maryland and the university are facing tough financial times. We face budget cuts. But the university community is pulling together as we did at our recent Town Hall meeting.

But we remain undaunted in our resolve to continue building a great university that contributes substantial value to the state and its people. For every dollar the state invests in the University, it returns \$8 in economic impact. We are among the most important economic engines of the State.

In spite of economic challenges, we are already reaching some of our strategic plan goals. This past year we raised \$518 million in research awards surpassing the strategic plan goal of \$500 million by 2013.

The \$518 million puts the university among the nation's strongest universities and gives the state of Maryland another great return on its investment. The faculty raises more than \$3 in external research funding for every \$1 paid to them in salary by the State.

Some of the research funding highlights include:

- \$93 million in funding from NOAA for the new Cooperative Institute for Climate and Satellites.
- \$14 million from the Department of Energy establishing an Energy Frontier Research Center to develop super batteries using nanomaterials.
- Grants to our Maryland Pathogen Research Institute fund cutting edge studies of disease and genomics.
- And, last month, we cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Tawes Hall for the English Department that has waited patiently for 18 years for a home, and now has a very fine one.

Fall is always an exciting time, as athletic teams kick off their new seasons. Last year, the Terps brought home two national championships in field hockey and men's soccer. And, for the first time in 44 years, Maryland teams won five ACC championships.

Our young football team and, a slimmer Coach Friedgen, promise plenty of excitement. Come to Homecoming Weekend, October 17, and see for yourself when the Terps play our arch rival Virginia.

The energy that spurs us on, even in difficult times, comes from you. Because of you, our *Great Expectations* campaign to build a great university is on track.

Your gifts to *Keep Me Maryland* are supporting students with critical needs. It has raised \$250,000 for emergency financial aid in six months. Two years ago 300 students requested emergency aid. In the first two months of this year over 1,500 have asked for emergency assistance. A link on this web site explains how you can donate even a small amount to *Keep Me Maryland*.

As always, I hope you will stay connected to us.

Come to Homecoming.

Meet our students.

Cheer for our teams.

And, most importantly, find yourself at the University of Maryland!

Go Terps!