UMD Data Breach

February 19, 2014

Dear students, faculty, and staff of the University of Maryland (at College Park and Shady Grove):

Last evening, I was notified by Brian Voss, Vice President of Information Technology, that the University of Maryland was the victim of a sophisticated computer security attack that exposed records containing personal information.

I am truly sorry. Computer and data security are a very high priority of our University.

A specific database of records maintained by our IT Division was breached yesterday. That database contained 309,079 records of faculty, staff, students and affiliated personnel from the College Park and Shady Grove campuses who have been issued a University ID since 1998. The records included name, Social Security number, date of birth, and University identification number. No other information was compromised -- no financial, academic, health, or contact (phone, address) information.

With the assistance of experts, we are handling this matter with an abundance of caution and diligence. Appropriate state and federal law enforcement authorities are currently investigating this criminal incident. Computer forensic investigators are examining the breached files and logs to determine how our sophisticated, multi-layered, security defenses were bypassed. Further, we are initiating steps to ensure there is no repeat of this breach.

The University is offering one year of free credit monitoring to all affected persons. Additional information will be communicated within the next 24 hours on how to activate this service.

University email communications regarding this incident will not ask you to provide personal information. Please be cautious when sharing personal information.

We have established a website with FAQs at www.umd.edu/datasecurity. Any updates will be posted to this site. If you have any questions or comments, please call our special hotline at 301-405-4440 or email us at datasecurity@umd.edu.

Universities are a focus in today's global assaults on IT systems. We recently doubled the number of our IT security engineers and analysts. We also doubled our investment in top-end security tools. Obviously, we need to do more and better, and we will.

Again, I regret this breach of our computer and data systems. We are doing everything possible to protect any personal information that may be compromised.

Sincerely,

Wallace D. Loh
President, University of Maryland