

The State has made excellence in the educational systems a priority, and the College of Education has taken a leadership role in these efforts. It has won major grants to study ways to improve the teaching of reading, mathematics, and the sciences; it has entered into partnerships in Prince George's County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, and the City of Baltimore to improve pedagogy and the learning skills of children; and it has increased the number of graduates in key areas of teacher shortage such as science and mathematics. Finally, the College has established and won federal support for the Maryland Institute for Minority Advancement and Urban Education to address the problems that confront the entire country.

Through major new initiatives such as the U.S.-China Science Research Park, the first of its kind outside China, and agreements with international companies that want to work with us and do business with Maryland as we emerge into a global economy, the University is achieving a new level of influence abroad that promises to bring opportunities to Maryland companies and citizens. We engage in projects with governments around the world to provide expertise in areas that will allow them to educate their own citizens and become better partners with world-wide democratic societies. We challenge our students to understand the importance of an international perspective in their work, and we bring a steady stream of outstanding international students, scholars, and major figures to campus to help all of us understand the global society in which we are required to work and in which we will lead in the future.

Executive Summary

TESTIMONY TO THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

*Presented by
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College Park
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T H E T E S T I M O N Y I am pleased to submit today to the General Assembly will document the University's investment of State funds to achieve excellence by recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty, supporting research programs of high impact, and providing educational programs that are viewed as national models. It discusses the importance of strength in the biosciences as essential for the future of the University as a leader of the State. Finally, it reviews the key role that the University plays in meeting the priorities of the State in economic development, security, educational reform, and global engagement. You have dealt with us generously, and your flagship University is well on its way to achieving the greatness you mandated in 1988 and reaffirmed in 1999.

This past year has witnessed highly visible achievements. Two events in which many of you participated are of special note. The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, a jewel among performance venues nationwide, opened and is fulfilling its promise to provide a place that will enhance the arts in Maryland for generations to come. The University is attracting international recognition as we host such world famous dignitaries as Nelson Mandela, who addressed a crowd of 10,000 at the University of Maryland.

The funds you have provided have propelled us into the national spotlight and enabled us to attract the very best students. The number of applications and the academic profile of our entering freshmen continue to rise at truly extraordinary rates. We are most proud that the diversity of our student body continues to expand. We continue to develop new opportunities for enriched curricula, and we have initiated special opportunity programs such as the Baltimore Incentive Awards Program, which enrolled its first class of nine Baltimore City high school students this year. We have taken the lead at the Universities at Shady Grove to ensure that this new undertaking offers the best experience possible for students and provides graduates who meet the workforce needs of Montgomery County and the State.

The University has wisely invested the funds that you have provided over the past several years in our faculty and their research enterprise. Their excellence is reflected in the remarkable growth of our research support, which is now over \$300 million dollars each year after a remarkable 5-year growth of more than 13% per year. So far this year, our research support is up 9% over last. Our young faculty are achieving national prominence, winning 10 National Science Foundation Career Awards during FY01, more than any other university in the East and the fourth highest in the nation overall, and most remarkably two of the prestigious Packard Fellowships. We have attracted internationally renowned scholars through major new initiatives, which include the Democracy Collaborative and the Center for Scientific Computation and Mathematical Modeling.

As the University faculty and programs increase their national visibility, the standings of our programs in the national rankings are moving up: 61 of our programs that cross all of our

colleges are now ranked among the top 25 in the nation by *US News & World Report*. Other ranking organizations increasingly mention our programs among the nation's very best.

As our reputation for academic excellence increases, we have identified several steps that are critical to continue our momentum, and development of the biosciences is at the top of this list. Excellence in the biosciences is a hallmark of all great U.S. universities, it is essential to foster the growth of the biotechnology industry in the State, and it is the first priority for federal research dollars. The University has already laid the foundation for development of the biosciences, and our efforts are paying off. We have incubated new biotech companies, we have developed substantial collaborations in both graduate education and research with NIH, FDA and other members of the University System, and we have hired outstanding faculty. The proposed biosciences research building is absolutely essential to bringing to fruition the substantial investments we have made.

The University is the most important asset the State has in achieving its priorities and developing its future. First among these priorities at the local and national levels is economic development. Because of its reputation and strengths, the University is able to engage in partnerships with federal agencies as NASA, FDA, NSA and NIH that bring funds, researchers, and job opportunities to the State and with major private companies such as Fujitsu Ltd., Battelle, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Fraunhofer. These partnerships allow for expansion of capabilities, increased opportunities and rapid transfer of ideas into technological advancements that fuel the market place and benefit people everywhere. They also bring and keep companies in the State. The University plays a key role as a resource for Maryland businesses with its successful incubator programs, industrial partnership programs, and outreach activities. More than 1,000 Maryland businesses receive direct assistance annually. Finally, the University impacts the economy through: salary and expenditures that account for approximately 1% of the State's workforce, 7,000 graduates per year into the workforce, more than half of the doctoral degrees awarded in the State, and the receipt of research funds whose total approaches the State general fund support.

The second priority for the State and the nation is security. Great sums of federal dollars and a large amount of State dollars are being directed to preventing the types of attack we experienced in September and even more dreaded possibilities of bioterrorism. One-hundred-and-fifty faculty at the University are involved in research and study that apply to security and counter terrorism. Faculty at Maryland are leading national task forces to determine policies that would regulate biological agents that could be used in terrorism, and they are called on by policy makers world-wide to offer advice on causes and long-term solutions for the unrest that promotes terrorism. The University has been asked to participate in forums at the highest level where counter-terrorism measures and the role of the nation's universities are explored.