Analysis of the FY 2011 Maryland Executive Budget, 2010

Maryland's four-year institutions received an average of $17,432 per student in education and general (E&G) funding in fiscal 2009. **The institution with the least amount of funding per student, SU, also has the State's third highest graduation rate at 74.9 percent.** As the State's flagship institution, UMCP receives the most funding per full-time equivalent student (FTES), $29,939, but also has the highest six-year graduation rate, 82.1 percent. On the other hand, CSU is close to the State's average in funding per FTES, but has the lowest six-year graduation rate, at 18.3 percent.

Degree production is a different way to view productivity and the State's return on investment. Exhibit 15 shows each public four-year institution's E&G funds per FTES and the corresponding number of degrees awarded per 100 FTES. The data includes all undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded. Exhibit 15 also shows four quadrants on the graph. Institutions in the upper right quadrant (UMBC, SMCM, and UMCP) receive more and award more degrees than the Maryland average, for example.

Exhibit 14: E&G Revenues Per FTES and Six-year Graduation Rates Fiscal 2009

Note: UMB, UMUC, and UB are not included. E&G: education and general. FTES: full-time equivalent student.
Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission; Governor's Budget Books, Fiscal 2011

Doing More with Less

In this year's Higher Education

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This chart illustrates that while Salisbury University receives less funding per student as compared to the USM universities for which we compete for

Meeting Workforce Demands

In addition to providing students with a rock solid liberal arts foundation, we at SU also take very seriously our obligation to create a Maryland workforce ready to compete and succeed in the 21st century economy. In the interest of brevity, I will just point out three of our accomplishments this year in this context.

Nursing

Salisbury University's Nursing Department continues to take strides in meeting the critical need Maryland has in healthcare. SU's Nursing Department has been awarded $635,601 from the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to establish clinical educator partnerships with Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury and Atlantic General Hospital in Berlin. The grant creates three hospital-based clinical faculty positions to ensure nurses are able to keep moving forward in needed career pathways. This partnership benefits hospitals by allowing them to retain experienced staff and offer them opportunities to continue their education. It also lets SU increase its pool of available clinical educators and, in turn, expand its programs, particularly for second-degree students.

The MHEC grant is not the first for the Nursing Department. Earlier this summer, SU received $80,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for scholarships for second-degree nursing students. In addition, the University recently received a $932,175 grant from the Maryland Hospital Association for nurse education. The three-year grant will allow SU to develop a high-fidelity simulation center focused on maternal, newborn, and pediatric care; train student actors to be patients with psychiatric/mental health disorders; and create a best practices course.

GIS/BEACON: Broadband Mapping

We know that many parts of our State do not have reliable broadband access, and this deficiency cripples the ability of these communities to compete in the 21st century economy. What we do not know, surprisingly, is where in Maryland there is good broadband access and where there is not. Such a glaring blind spot makes it impossible to effectively and efficiently address this debilitating problem. Senator Mikulski summed up the importance of this effort when she said: "Forty years ago, interstate highways were crucial for economic growth in our rural areas, now it's the information superhighway. Expanding broadband in Maryland means economic development, job growth, and innovation."

Two Salisbury University organizations, the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) and Business, Economic, and Community Outreach Network (BEACON), have stepped into our State's broadband blind spot with a $540,000 grant to map broadband across Maryland. With this American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, ESRGC and BEACON will build intellectual infrastructure that will allow universal and affordable broadband access to any business to become a reality in Maryland.

"Getting to Yes" on BRAC

The greatest opportunities are often tQ   bus