

**University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Princess Anne, Maryland**

FY 2012 Capital Budget Testimony to the Maryland General Assembly

Presented to

The Maryland Senate Budget & Taxation: Capital Budget Subcommittee

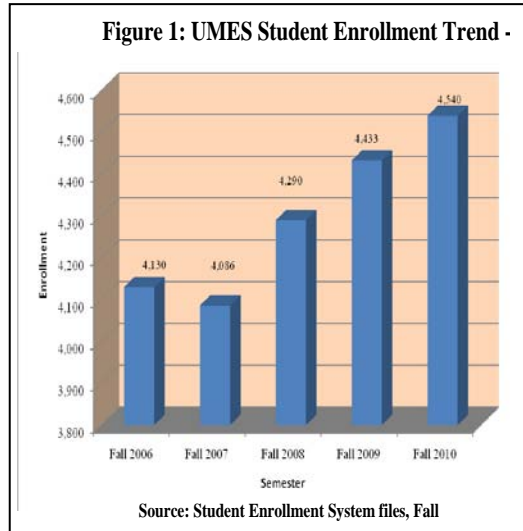
**The Maryland House Appropriations Committee: Capital Budget
Subcommittee**



**THELMA B. THOMPSON, Ph.D.,
President
March 9, 2011**

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee. I am Thelma B. Thompson, President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). I bring you greetings from our students, faculty, staff, and the entire University community. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify before you on the Governor’s FY 2012 Capital budget request for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). On behalf of the students, staff, and faculty of UMES, I would like to thank Governor O’Malley and the Maryland General Assembly for the support that has been given to the University System of Maryland (USM) in general, and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, in particular and for your support of our capital improvement plan.

I am particularly grateful for the support and the investment that the State has made and continues to make at UMES. The investment you have made at UMES during my nine-year tenure at the University is showing excellent returns, and we will continue our efforts to “Make a Good University Better” at UMES. Our mission as a Historically Black Land Grant University challenges us to provide education to those who are historically at a disadvantage and yet, our focus on learning, inquiry, and engagement provides us exceptional opportunities to have impact on organizations and peoples’ lives.



Our mission calls us to serve the educational and research needs of Maryland’s multifaceted businesses, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and communities to meet the needs of the Eastern Shore. It also calls us to meet the workforce development needs of the State of Maryland, and the international development priorities of the nation.

In this legislative session, I have testified about the progress UMES is making in its strategic goals and programs. Our enrollment in fall 2010 stands at 4,540 students, despite the economic challenges that face our citizens, the State, and the Nation (see figure 1). UMES has consistently, in the last three years, been recognized by U.S. News and World Report to be among the top tier Historically Black Colleges and University. The students in academic programs that require national licensure exams are passing in the upper 90s and the Physical Therapy program has consistently achieved a 100% pass rate.

UMES was recently reaccredited with commendations by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education – a status that reaffirms the high quality education that is provided at UMES. Our commitment to prepare the future workforce in the State of Maryland has reinforced our resolve in the unique disciplines that we offer especially in the Aviation Science & Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science, Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant programs. Equally important are the 16 programs in teacher education, Construction Management, Hotel and Restaurant Management, PGA Golf Management, Criminal Justice, and other programs that meet the needs of our State.

Mindful of our mission, we are grateful to the State of Maryland for the construction of our last major capital improvement project – the Richard Hazel Hall that was completed in 2005.

This multi-disciplinary building has gone a long way to provide needed instructional, laboratory, and support spaces for the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and the School of Arts and Professions.

FY 2012 Capital Improvement Plan

It is important that I share with you the UMES FY 2012 Capital improvement plan priorities. Our top priority is the continuation of funding for the new Engineering and Aviation Science Building. We are grateful to you and the Governor for the initial project planning funds of \$3 million funded in FY 2011 and the \$3.6 million planned in FY 2012. Construction funds are planned in FY 2014 and FY 2015. This project will construct an 88,610 net assignable square feet (NASF)/163,350 gross square feet (GSF) building. The new facility will provide appropriate instructional space for the Engineering and Aviation Science program, the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and the Telecommunications program. This project will address issues of poor quality space, functionally inadequate space, a lack of specialized class lab spaces, and insufficient office spaces. The new class lab spaces will support the engineering program with four specializations – electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, and aerospace engineering. The UMES Aviation Science program is the only such program in the University System of Maryland, and the planned facility will provide the needed facilities and enhance accreditation requirements.

Five Year Capital Project Plan

Critical to our mission is the construction of mission supportive facilities that address the needs of students, faculty, and staff, and support the workforce development goals of the State. Over the next five years UMES seeks your support for the (1) Replacement of Early Childhood Center and (2) the Farm Support Buildings project.

The Early Childhood Center project consists of the replacement of the existing pre-engineered 19,386 GSF/12,000 NASF Early Childhood Center constructed in 1974. The replacement facility will be 43,800 GSF/25,165 NASF in size and accommodate the growth of the Early Childhood degree program as well as the growth of the Child and Family Development Center. The spaces to be provided include class labs, half-day pre-k classrooms and classrooms to support after hours programs, observational rooms with micro-phonics sound systems, an Early Childhood resource library, infant toddler classroom, gross motor room, parent conference rooms, office spaces, food preparation areas, supplies/workroom, storage, and support spaces. An enhanced playground facility with developmentally appropriate equipment will be provided in this project.

The Farm Support Buildings project will consist of the following four (4) academic and instructional support buildings totaling 85,000 GSF/70,700 NASF:

(1) The **Agricultural Mechanic/Science Field Research Center**. This building will be approximately 17,500 GSF/10,900 NASF in size. It will accommodate an agricultural mechanics instructional lab, specimen drying areas, field research labs, staff offices, and support spaces.

(2) The **Farm Maintenance Center Building** will be approximately 23,000 GSF/19,100 NASF in size. It will accommodate a large farm equipment maintenance bay, standard

equipment maintenance bay, farm equipment wash bay, farm equipment storage area, chemical storage and vehicle storage areas, pesticide wash bay, staff offices, and staff support spaces. This facility will be located in the crop cultivating area of the farm.

(3) **The Ruminant Support Building** which is approximately 9,500 GSF/8,200 NASF in size will accommodate a field research/teaching lab, feed storage area, feed mill plant, housing for cattle, goat and sheep, sheds and shelters, hay storage area, animal holding area, staff offices, and staff support spaces. This facility will be located in close proximity to the Animal Pasture area of the farm.

(4) **The Poultry Technology Management Houses** - The Poultry Technology buildings will consist of two poultry growing houses and two buildings and will be approximately 35,000 GSF/32,500 NASF in size. The existing one will be demolished during the planned projects. This project will support our agricultural sciences programs needs and support our Land Grant function.

Climate Change and Sustainability Initiatives

I testified that UMES climate change initiative with the academic components focuses on: (1) Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the Mid-Atlantic Region, and (2) Carbon Capture Research. UMES established the Center for the Integrated Study of Coastal Ecosystem Processes and Dynamics in the Mid-Atlantic Region in fall 2010 funded by the National Science Foundation's CREST (Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology) program for \$5 million over a five-year period. As a component of the UMES Climate Change project, the Center recruits, mentors, and educates undergraduate and graduate students, particularly those who are members of the underrepresented minorities, while conducting research on impacts of climate change on biodiversity in the mid-Atlantic Region.

The Carbon Capture Research is cognizant that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is one of the major greenhouse gases affecting the change in the global climate. To reduce the rate of global warming, it is important to develop the technology that will decrease carbon dioxide emissions from point sources. As part of an initiative to establish a Carbon Capture and Sequestration Research Center, UMES secured \$245,000 in external funds in January 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education to establish a laboratory of carbon management in which the carbon capture research will be conducted. The goal of the UMES carbon capture research is to develop a novel method for capturing carbon. Carbon sequestration is generally considered the most effective means of reducing emissions of the greenhouse gas, CO₂ from large point sources and the first step to sequestration is the capture of CO₂. The UMES project will involve the synthesis and characterization of novel biodegradable amine grafted high-surface area solids which are cost effective for use in capturing carbon. Results from the project will earn a patent for UMES on novel biodegradable solvents for CO₂.

UMES has successful energy conservation programs campus-wide. A signatory to the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), UMES has completed its Greenhouse Gas Inventory and will soon complete its campus wide Climate Action Plan (CAP). I am proud to report to you that in February 2011 Somerset Hall, a 70 year old building that was renovated in August 2010 and that houses the new Doctor of Pharmacy program, received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold rating from

the U.S Green Building Council – thus this building now belongs among a few of such high performance buildings in the State of Maryland. This project cost \$7 million and was funded by UMES and the University System of Maryland.

The UMES – SunEdison Solar Production facility is completed and will be commissioned on March 28, 2011. This 2.2 megawatt photovoltaic’s facility located on a 17 acre farm on UMES’ campus is already producing green energy that is consumed by UMES. It is estimated that it will produce 3 million kilowatt hours annually and will account for about 10% of UMES annual electricity usage.



Somerset Hall Building – LEED Gold Cert.

Additionally, Wicomico Hall, a residential dormitory renovated in August 2010, utilized geothermal energy system in heating and cooling of the building. The recycling program is making a lot of difference.



UMES 17 Acre – 2.2 MW Solar Farm

Making A Good University Better

UMES is committed to its mission of making a “Good University Better.” UMES continues to maintain a rapid time-to-degree schedule as demonstrated by the average number of semesters it takes students to graduate. For the entering classes of 1996 to 2002 the time-to-degree for UMES students has ranged from 9.3 course units in 1996 to 8.7 course units in 2002, reflecting positively on faculty and student productivity and strong performance among the USM institutions. UMES’ 2002 measure of 8.7 course units is second only to University of Maryland College Park’s measure of 8.4 course units.

UMES faculty recently received awards from the University System of Maryland Regents’ 2010 Awards for Public Service and for Mentoring underscoring achievements in outreach to our community and to the academic development of our citizens. The National

Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) has recognized UMES faculty for their contributions to course redesign. As course redesign scholars, UMES faculty assist other USM institutions through advice, consultation, and development of workshops to support the course redesign effort. Twenty-four UMES academic programs are accredited and newer programs are seeking accreditation. In April the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB) will recommend the UMES Department of Business, Management and Accounting receive full accreditation.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore continues to be successful in securing external grants and contracts. In the academic year 2009-2010, a total of \$19,234,000 was received by UMES in grants and contracts. This was the second highest total grant amount among all Comprehensive Institutions in the USM, and the highest average grant award per Full-Time Equivalent Faculty (FTEF) among the USM comprehensive institutions. UMES is one of the few USM schools to meet and exceed its Capital Campaign goal. This data confirms that UMES is making a Good University Better. We thank the Governor and the citizens of Maryland for their support of UMES.