

**Testimony by
Tina M. Bjarekull, President
Maryland Independent College and University Association**

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
March 20, 2015**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of \$12 million for the following capital construction and renovation projects:

- Johns Hopkins University - \$4 million to renovate, modernize, and reconfigure four obsolete and functionally inadequate research laboratory suites for the Bloomberg School of Public Health in East Baltimore. The renovated space will accommodate 50 research stations and provide reconfigured research space needed to conduct cutting-edge public health research in three new centers: Center of Microbiomic Research, Center for the Pathway of Toxicity, and the Johns Hopkins Water Institute.
- Notre Dame of Maryland University - \$4 million to renovate the interior and exterior of Gibbons Hall, one of the main academic buildings on campus. The project will make repairs from recent storm damage, protect further deterioration of the historic building, enhance technology for improved instruction, convert some unused space into functional space, reduce energy consumption, and make significant improvements in ADA-accessibility.
- Washington Adventist University - \$4 million to renovate and construct an addition to the Health Sciences Facility to serve nursing, allied health professions, social work, and physical education. The project includes repairing the building façade to provide structural integrity; replacing mechanical systems to improve air circulation and comfort; upgrading technology to provide wireless connectivity; creating classroom and laboratory spaces to accommodate enrollment growth and effectively teach nursing and specialty skills; and improving handicapped accessibility to fully accommodate students, faculty, and visitors.

These are excellent academic projects that are well aligned with the goals identified in the *Maryland State Plan for Postsecondary Education* and support important local initiatives in Baltimore City and Montgomery County. The \$12 million State investment will

leverage nearly \$17 million in private resources and support 206 construction jobs, contributing to Maryland's economic recovery.

The State's investment in the capital infrastructure of Maryland's independent colleges and universities contributes to an efficient and effective system of higher education. With the State's support, MICUA member institutions are better able to accommodate enrollment growth; expand academic programs in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines; address workforce needs; support a vibrant economy; and provide choice and opportunity for Maryland's citizens.

I am pleased to introduce the institutional representatives who will speak briefly about each project:

- Dr. Weymouth Spence, President, Washington Adventist University
- Dr. Candace Caraco, Chief of Staff, Notre Dame of Maryland University
- Mr. James R. Miller, Jr., University Architect, Johns Hopkins University

Thank you for your past support of the MICUA capital grant program. We sincerely appreciate our partnership with the State of Maryland and value your leadership.

**Testimony by
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**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
March 23, 2015**

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