



# 2020 Executive Summary Legislative Agenda



*The following legislative agenda outlines the initiatives of Harford Community College (HCC) and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) for 2020:*

## **OPERATING BUDGET**

We request your assistance in satisfying full funding under the Cade funding formula as the minimum support for community college operating budgets, which translates to:

- 25% of the funds granted per FTE (full-time equivalent) enrollment for four-year USM schools for fiscal year 2021
- A 2% increase over FY20

We also ask that you take into account the \$40 million COLA increase for USM schools that was not included in last year's Cade calculation, for an overall state allocation of **\$279.5 million for FY21**.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST**

MACC seeks \$124.6 million to fully fund the FY 2020 community college capital prioritization list, of which:

- \$60.3 million will fund the six pre-authorized projects carried over from the previous capital budget
- \$68.7 million will meet the needs of the 17 new projects requested
  - Assumption is that several of the larger projects requested for FY21 will be funded over multiple years

HCC's request for FY 2021 is for **\$14.7 million for design and construction of the Chesapeake Welcome Center**.

## **FACILITIES RENEWAL GRANT**

We are appreciative of the General Assembly for enacting a Facilities Renewal grant program for community colleges, which alleviates stress on institutional operating budgets. Approximately \$500,000 per community college has been allocated and split between FY20 and FY21. HCC will receive its grant in FY21, and is grateful for these additional funds, which will go toward roof replacement for two academic buildings, Aberdeen Hall and Maryland Hall.

## **PARTNERSHIP FOR WORKFORCE READINESS**

We are pleased that the General Assembly passed SB 515 to create a Workforce Readiness matching grant program; however, the legislation does not guarantee funding. We are seeking funding for the grant to match donations made by the private sector for the technology needs of community colleges up to **\$250,000 per MACC campus**.

## **CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)**

MACC institutions are the leading provider of CTE programs, which figure heavily in the recent Kirwan legislation. Accordingly, we request input on the following areas related to implementing Kirwan:

- Dual-enrollment funding models;
- Proper regulatory authority for instruction offered to high school students enrolled in postsecondary education;
- Program certification responsibility;
- The degree of technical oversight by any newly-created oversight agencies; and
- Recommended evaluation systems.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

HCC and MACC are seeking supplemental funds to provide the necessary services and equipment to support community college students with disabilities. Annually, HCC serves **approximately 400** students with disabilities at a cost of **\$469,715**.

## **TRANSFERABILITY**

The National Governor's Accountability Office reports that **22% of community college credits are lost in transfer to a four-year institution**. We ask that you consider a series of initiatives to address this barrier to entry for our students:

- Collect institutional data on how credits transfer;
- Require two- and four-year institutions to develop a common course numbering system for general education courses;
- Require further documentation from four-year institutions that fail to accept credit courses taken at a community college; and
- Require Maryland's four-year colleges and universities to grant priority enrollment and residential housing status to students transferring in with an associate's degree.

## **MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP**

HCC and MACC acknowledge that inaugural awards of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship do not truly reflect student need, primarily because delays in regulation of these awards have hampered student participation.

To date, 2,943 qualified applicants were identified, but only 1,278 awards (43%) could initially be made due to delays in institutional reporting and/or missing documentation from students. **67 students** qualified for the College Promise Scholarship at HCC; ultimately, **42 awards** were administered.

MACC is initiating a publicity campaign to encourage greater participation, and is working with state and local education agencies to enhance eligibility and streamline the award process.

## **FAFSA FILING**

HCC and MACC recognize that completing the FAFSA form is a leading indicator of college enrollment. Accordingly, we support legislation requiring all high school seniors to complete a FAFSA form.

## **OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES**

The cost of textbooks has increased by 65% over the last decade, creating a financial barrier for college students. We support supplemental funding to assist our departments and faculty in replacing textbooks and course materials with open educational resources (OERs).

## **TUITION WAIVERS**

We oppose any increase in state-mandated **unfunded** tuition waivers for select segments of the population. These waivers cost MACC institutions approximately \$10 million in lost revenue dollars each year. Unfunded waivers drive up costs for all students and thus undermine the key community college mission of affordability. In FY 2019, HCC incurred **over \$500,000** in state-mandated waiver expenses.