

**Fiscal Year 2022 Maryland Higher Education Commission (MICUA)**

Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA)  
Response to Department of Legislative Services Budget Analysis

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Education, Business and Administration Subcommittee  
Senator Craig Zucker, Subcommittee Chair

House Appropriations Committee  
Education and Economic Development Subcommittee  
Delegate Ben Barnes, Subcommittee Chair

February 18, 2021

**Maryland's private nonprofit colleges and universities have been part of the State's system of postsecondary education for almost 240 years.** Today, Maryland's 13 State-aided independent institutions serve more than 65,600 students, 34% of whom are students of color and 24% of whom are Pell Grant recipients. Many of our students are first generation or transfer students. We offer more than 1,600 approved academic programs, more than 900 of which are post-baccalaureate and graduate programs, and we award over 15,000 degrees per year, which is almost 30% of all degrees awarded annually in the State. We are net importers of talent, as our alumni often remain in Maryland to join the workforce and support the economy after graduation. Our retention and graduation rates outperform all other sectors of higher education both in Maryland and nationally. Johns Hopkins University, MICUA's only doctoral research university, spent \$2.9 billion on research and development activities in 2019, leading all research and development spending in the country for the 41st consecutive year. This included the issuance of 150 patents, the fueling of 24 new start-up companies, and the creation of 1,000 new jobs.

**We believe that receiving only 3% of the State's appropriation for higher education through the Sellinger Program, while educating 15% of the State's college students, makes this investment of State resources a wise and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.** Therefore, we were extremely disappointed that the 2021 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) reduces the Sellinger Program appropriation by almost \$30 million (34%). The BRFA also eliminates the link between the Sellinger Program and the other segments of higher education, disregarding the long-standing funding relationship and partnership that we celebrate and champion. Further, the BRFA level-funds our institutions at fiscal 2020 levels and does not allow for the State money to follow the student in accordance with enrollment, as was intended under statute. **We urge you to reject these provisions of the BRFA and to fully fund the Sellinger Program.**

The MICUA institutions traditionally use between 85%-90% of our Sellinger funds for financial aid for Maryland students. In Fiscal 2020, of the \$59 million that we received:

- \$51.3 million (87%) was awarded as financial aid for Maryland students; and
- \$7.7 million (13%) was used to foster student success and nurture innovative strategies in academic research and pedagogy, consistent with the State Plan for Postsecondary Education.

Under this model, **full funding of the Sellinger formula in fiscal 2022 would make \$76-\$80 million available in financial aid for Maryland students** to attend our schools. In addition to financial aid provided under the Sellinger Program, our schools dedicated almost \$300 million in institutional-based financial aid in fiscal 2020. We are also proud of the efforts that we have made to ensure that low-income students are able to access and afford their choice in higher education. In particular, our Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP) matches 100% of the State-awarded Guaranteed Access Grants so that the lowest-income high-achieving students may receive up to \$38,400 in the 2020-2021 academic year towards their pursuit of higher education at our institutions. **We urge the State to increase its investment in need-based financial aid for all of Maryland's students.**

Our institutions and the 33,000 individuals that we employ have been **impacted by COVID** just as have other nonprofit organizations and businesses. During the fall 2020 semester, eight of our institutions offered only virtual instruction, while five of our institutions offered a de-densified socially distant residential experience with a hybrid model of both face-to-face and virtual instruction. In contrast, for the spring 2021 semester, two of our institutions are offering only virtual instruction, while eleven of our institutions are offering a hybrid model of both face-to-face and virtual instruction (one institution will phase in a hybrid model later this semester). Each institution has successfully balanced the best interests of its students.

While we are appreciative of the federal stimulus funds that we have received, CARES Act money covered less than 12% of our spring term losses. **Losses from summer 2020 totaled over \$50 million and losses from fall 2020 totaled over \$150 million.** These losses came from decreased enrollment, tuition and fees, room and board, and auxiliary service revenues. Additionally, our institutions **spent over \$40 million during fall 2020 on COVID-related expenses** such as: PPE; testing; HVAC modifications; dedensifying classrooms, dining facilities, and residence halls; quarantine space; technology enhancements; and increased mental health services. We have also spent a significant amount of money on financial aid for our students beyond what has been provided by the federal government; **we are seeing greater financial need among our students during this pandemic than we have ever seen before.** Spring 2021 losses are estimated at over \$110 million. When compared to our operating budgets, these losses represent as little as 1% of one budget, and as much as 11% of another budget.

The Sellinger funds that are used for purposes other than financial aid are the true beauty of the Sellinger Program. It is not enough to get the student through the front door of the institution. Students also need, and our favorable retention and graduation rates support, programs and services throughout the student's academic career. **Some of the programs and services that have been made possible through the use of Sellinger funds include:** improving online content

delivery and expanding articulation agreements with Maryland community colleges at Capitol Technology University; summer bridge, global education/study abroad, career advising, social justice opportunities, and health counseling services at Goucher College; expanding various programmatic opportunities at Johns Hopkins University including STEM initiatives, professional development for minorities in engineering and science programs, early childhood special education, and public safety leadership; investing in new career planning technologies and creating a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship at Loyola University Maryland; offering multicultural and diversity training as it relates to the arts, as well as utilizing digital technologies to enhance creative learning opportunities at Maryland Institute College of Art; program development for college readiness and career readiness at McDaniel College; career advising and expanded support services and tutoring at Mount St. Mary's University; specialized programming for non-traditional students at Notre Dame of Maryland University; expanded programming for educators at St. John's College; and improving financial literacy at Washington Adventist University. Copies of reports describing the use of Sellinger funds at each of the MICUA campuses are available on our website: [www.micua.org](http://www.micua.org).

In the 1970's, the Pear Committee avowed that the State should provide modest public financial support to preserve and strengthen a dual system of higher education. The panel wrote that "the savings to the State in tax dollars due to the existence of these institutions has contributed substantially to the welfare and well-being of all of the citizens in Maryland." Further the panel noted that "continued and increased participation of the private institutions of higher education in Maryland is essential for the optimum use of public funds for the support of higher education..." We believe that this holds true today as much as it did back then.

In closing, we vow to continue to use our Sellinger funding for financial aid and for programs and services that ensure that we provide the stellar return on investment to Maryland's workforce, economy, and communities that has come to be expected of us. We rise to this challenge and we look forward to better outcomes for years to come. Hold us accountable, and we promise to overperform. **We respectfully ask that you fully fund the Sellinger Program this year as the Legislature intended, restoring the \$30 million that was cut by the BRFA, so that we will be in the best position to serve our students, our employees, our communities, and the great state of Maryland.**



Kent Devereaux  
President

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16 February 2021

**TO:** Maryland State Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, Education, Business & Administration Subcommittee; Maryland House Appropriations Committee, Education & Economic Development Subcommittee

**RE:** Sellinger Program

On behalf of Goucher College I would like to thank you for your past support of the Sellinger Program. As I know you are aware, the Sellinger Program provides valuable funding for Goucher College students and the more than 65,600 students enrolled in Maryland's independent colleges and universities. As the president of a small liberal arts college, I can tell you first-hand what a difference these funds make for the students on my campus. **Therefore, I was quite disappointed that the Governor's Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act reduced the Sellinger appropriation by almost \$30 million.**

At Goucher, 36% of our incoming class this past fall was comprised of first-generation students — individuals who are the first in their family to ever attend college — compared to a national average across all colleges of 24%. Over 95% of our students receive financial aid and almost 40% are eligible for Pell grants.

In fiscal 2020, we used \$2.3 million (92%) of our Sellinger funding for financial aid for Maryland students. Additionally, we awarded 548 Maryland students institutional-based financial aid totaling almost \$16 million — an almost 7 to 1 multiplier of the state's investment. With the remainder of our Sellinger funds, we provided immersive career advising and planning through our Career Education Office. These career preparation services are significant, in that Goucher is a net importer of talent to the State. Although 61% of our students come from out-of-state and only 39% come from Maryland, our studies show that 54% of our students elect to remain in Maryland five years after graduation.

Although COVID has been a challenge for all of us, at Goucher we are proud to report a successful virtual fall semester with no reported cases of COVID-19 on our campus among the small population of international students and students without a stable home environment who we permitted to live on campus. We were an early proponent of using wastewater testing as a cost-effective approach to monitor and control the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and partnered with a Maryland-based company to implement this on our campus. We also implemented frequent PCR-based asymptomatic testing with the assistance of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's Institute for Genome Sciences.

For the spring semester, to be prudent we elected to defer the start of our spring semester by several weeks. Now that positivity rates are at much safer levels, we are proceeding with plans to bring back select populations of students (e.g., seniors, students requiring science lab coursework, etc.) in single-room residency and with hybrid online/in-person instruction for the second half of the semester starting in late March.

However, this success has not come without a price. Although we are appreciative of federal stimulus relief to both our students and our school, these funds have covered only a fraction of our losses. Goucher estimates losses directly attributable to the pandemic at close to \$14 million and climbing, while federal institutional relief received by Goucher to date totals \$2.5 million.

We made the decision early on to not lay off either faculty or staff. This left our college with the almost insurmountable task of closing the gap through cost-cutting and short-term salary reductions, combined with increased fundraising efforts. It has also forced us to confront the extreme difficulty of being able to meet the financial need of our students, while at the same time, we are seeing even greater financial need from our students than ever before.

This year, we have pledged to use 100% of our Sellinger funds for financial aid for Maryland's students. We know that the Sellinger Program is designed not only to get the student in the door, but just as importantly to retain and graduate those students into promising careers. We are committed to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to attend the institution of their choice.

**In conclusion, we urge you to reject the reduction of the BRFA and to fund fully the Sellinger Program** appropriation as described under statute. We also urge you to increase the State investment in need-based financial aid for all Maryland students. We hope that we can count on your leadership and support to deliver the amazing return on investment that the Sellinger funds represent and that you have come to expect from us.

Respectfully,



Kent Devereaux  
President



## **Fiscal Year 2022 Maryland Higher Education Commission/MICUA Budget Hearing**

On behalf of Hood College I would like to thank you for your past support of the Sellinger Program. As I know you are aware, the Sellinger Program provides valuable funding for Hood College students and for the more than 65,600 students enrolled in Maryland's independent colleges and universities. As the president of a small liberal arts college, I can tell you first-hand what a difference these funds make for the students on my campus. **Therefore, I was quite disappointed that the Governor's Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act reduced the Sellinger appropriation by almost \$30 million.**

At Hood, 73% of our undergraduate students are from the State of Maryland. Many of those students are direct beneficiaries of Sellinger funds. Thirty-four percent of our undergraduates receive Pell Grants, and 94% receive some type of institutional-based aid. Last year, 771 of our approximately 1100 undergraduates received financial support utilizing Hood's Sellinger funds. This support is critical to not only supporting our students, but ensuring the continued economic vitality of Hood College, which serves as a major employer and significant contributor to the financial, civic, and social well-being of the Frederick community.

Hood students who have received Sellinger grants serve as interns at Fort Detrick, the National Cancer Institute, the Maryland General Assembly, the Historical Society of Frederick County, Frederick Memorial Hospital, the United Way, and multiple organizations and businesses throughout the region. They also volunteer thousands of hours each year, improving the lives of Frederick residents and strengthening the Frederick community through their service. Moreover, after graduation, the majority of our alumni live and work in Maryland. Currently, over 10,000 Hood alumni, employees, and students live, work, and study in Maryland, and serve their communities through civic activities and leadership. The investment that the State of Maryland makes in Hood students through the Sellinger Program continues to yield exceptional results and enhances the quality of life throughout the State.

Although COVID has been a challenge for all of us, at Hood we did have a successful fall semester. We invested significantly in instructional technology and expanded student support services to provide an optimal learning experience for all students, whether on campus or remote. We conducted weekly surveillance testing, administering more than 2,500 tests, and never saw a cumulative positivity rate over 1.2%. We provided masks, hand sanitizers, and digital thermometers to faculty, staff, and students, and instituted a mask mandate. Social distancing signage and protective barriers were installed in classrooms, labs, the dining hall, offices, and all public areas. Tents were erected to increase outdoor areas for instruction and eating. We are following the same protocols for the spring and are optimistic for another success story.

However, this success has not come without a price. Although we are appreciative of federal stimulus relief to both our students and our school, these funds have covered only a fraction of our losses. During spring and summer of 2020 we lost over \$1.0 million and in 2020-2021 thus far we have lost over \$3.4 million in decreased tuition and fees, room and board, and auxiliary services revenues, with additional losses anticipated for this spring and summer. COVID-related expenses to date have totaled over \$500,000 for testing, socially distancing classrooms and other facilities, quarantine space, and technology enhancements. It has also been extremely challenging to support our students whose families have lost jobs or seen their salaries reduced, thus jeopardizing their education. We are seeing greater financial need from our students than ever before.

**In conclusion, we urge you to reject the reduction of the BRFA and to fund fully the Sellinger Program** appropriation as described under statute. We also urge you to increase the State investment in need-based financial aid for all of Maryland's students. We hope that we can count on your leadership and support to deliver the amazing return on investment in Sellinger funds that you have come to expect.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea E. Chapdelaine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Andrea E. Chapdelaine, Ph.D.  
President



NOTRE DAME  
OF MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**FY2022 Budget Hearing  
Maryland Higher Education Commission**

On behalf of Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU), I want to express my gratitude for your continued support of independent higher education in the State of Maryland. The General Assembly's past funding of the Sellinger program has significantly contributed to NDMU's and the other independent colleges and universities' mission to increase access and affordability for Maryland students. We were disappointed that the Governor's FY2022 Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act cut the Sellinger appropriation by nearly \$30 million and severed the link between the Sellinger program and the other segments of higher education. **We urge that this link be restored, and that the Sellinger program be fully funded as intended under current law.**

NDMU is a private, Catholic university established in 1895 in Baltimore City with the mission to build inclusive communities and educate leaders to transform the world. NDMU is home to Maryland's only women's college, and offers a wide variety of full- and part-time undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and certificate programs for women and men. The University enrolls approximately 2,200 students and has Schools of Arts, Sciences, and Business; Education; Nursing; and Pharmacy. NDMU's School of Education is the largest private provider and third overall of new teacher certifications in the State.

The Sellinger program provides NDMU essential funding to support Maryland students with scholarships and need-based grants, as well as increased access to disability support services and anchor/place-based community engagement activities, which drive student retention and, most importantly, completion. Each year Notre Dame finds our student population requiring a growing amount of financial aid, and we have stepped up to the plate increasing our allotment of institutional aid to allow more students to pursue and ultimately complete their education at Notre Dame. **During COVID-19, NDMU has seen the need of our students grow significantly as personal and family incomes have been significantly stressed.**

As a result of your generosity and support, in FY2020, NDMU provided Sellinger grants to 500 Maryland students. Notre Dame serves a unique and diverse population of students. In the traditional undergraduate Women's College, 90% of our students are Maryland residents and 58% are individuals of color, including a growing 15% Hispanic population. Many of these students are first generation (35%) and participate in our recognized Trailblazer Scholar Program. Further, 55% of Women's College students are Pell Grant eligible and rely on a combination of federal, state, and institutional financial aid to support their educational pursuits.

NDMU and the other MICUA institutions have seen a return on investment for Sellinger funding that is noteworthy not only in the State of Maryland, but also nationally. Restoring the \$30 million proposed reduction will position us to best serve our students, employees, and local communities.

If you have any questions, please feel free to follow up with me, or Greg FitzGerald, Chief of Staff, at (410) 532-5109 or [gfitzgerald@ndm.edu](mailto:gfitzgerald@ndm.edu). Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Marylou Yam, Ph.D.

President