The Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly started in early January and ended on Sine Die, April 10, 2017. The General Assembly acted on more than 2,800 bills, including 187 pieces of legislation that impact higher education, in general, or the operations of independent colleges and universities. MICUA testified on numerous bills and worked with legislative sponsors and committee leaders on amendments to address concerns raised by the MICUA community.

The operating and capital budget bills passed with bipartisan support in late March. Both pieces of legislation bring good news for MICUA colleges and universities. The Sellinger Program, direct State aid to eligible independent colleges and universities, was funded at $51 million, a 9% increase over the prior fiscal-year appropriation. Despite this increase, the Program has not completely recovered from the cuts during the economic recession. In addition, the budget includes a 5% increase in need-based student financial aid. Students attending MICUA member institutions participate in the State’s student financial aid programs in the same manner as students attending Maryland’s public universities.

Continued on page 2
The State’s capital budget bill includes $9.7 million in grants for capital construction and renovation projects at three MICUA member institutions.

**Goucher College** will receive $4 million to design and construct a new science building to create modern laboratory spaces and interactive learning facilities for undergraduate and graduate teaching and research. **McDaniel College** will receive $3 million to renovate and construct portions of the Gill Physical Education Learning Center to add classrooms and laboratory spaces to accommodate the dramatic growth in the College’s exercise sciences and physical education programs. **St. John’s College** will receive $2.7 million to renovate McDowell Hall, which serves as the academic center of the College. McDowell Hall is a Maryland historical landmark, first constructed in 1744 to serve as the Provisional Governor’s mansion and gifted to the College by the State in 1784. The State’s investment in these MICUA projects will leverage more than $30 million in private resources, expand higher education opportunities in Maryland, and support almost 300 construction jobs.

During the legislative session MICUA hosted Independent Higher Education Day (IHED), a day-long event on February 21, 2017 to celebrate the State’s commitment to independent colleges and universities. The highlight of the day was the presentation of the prestigious and sparingly bestowed 2017 Presidents’ Award to the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, President of the Maryland Senate, in honor of his 45 years of dedication to higher education in Maryland. Students met with and gave thanks to elected officials for their support of Maryland’s independent institutions, which serve 61,000 students and confer 14,600 degrees annually.

“Over the years, President Miller has been a champion for investments in higher education – public and private. He has supported capital grants for academic buildings and operating funds to support students. He has backed legislation to make our system stronger and more effective.

Maryland’s independent colleges and universities are indebted to President Miller for his leadership,” said Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J., President of **Loyola University Maryland**.

Also on this day, students, administrators, and presidents of MICUA member institutions gathered to honor the State’s partnership with its independent colleges and universities and the options, opportunities, and outcomes the partnership brings to Maryland. Students met with and gave thanks to elected officials for their support of Maryland’s independent institutions, which serve 61,000 students and confer 14,600 degrees annually.

Greg FitzGerald, Chief of Staff & Title IX Coordinator for **Notre Dame of Maryland University**, has seen the benefits of IHED including internship offers, mentorship opportunities, and Delegate or Senatorial scholarship applications for students.

“Many students begin the day just taking it all in, but by the end of the day they are inspired by knowing they can make a difference and have a voice,” FitzGerald said.

Students also attended a presentation on the legislative process and a briefing on the Sellinger Program and the MICUA Capital Grant Program.
Kayla York, a junior political science major with a minor in legal studies and psychology at Goucher College, attended Independent Higher Education Day (IHED) to better grasp how the government affects her private education. York is on the College’s Field Hockey team, manages the Men’s Basketball team, and is the secretary of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. After graduation in Spring 2019, she hopes to attend law school or begin a master’s program in political science and/or survey methodology.

— This is Kayla’s story —

As a political science major, standing in the heart of the Maryland General Assembly was a complete honor. Not only was IHED a fabulous experience, it allowed me to put more thought into what I want to do with my career.

The stories students shared made me realize the large impact Sellinger Grants have on not just myself, but other students and their experiences at other higher institutions throughout the state. Sellinger Grants provide students with the ability to attend college, but they also help institutions to provide their students with an excellent learning experience.

My group and I met with three different state representatives. My personal favorite, which may be biased because he is the representative of my district, was Senator J.B. Jennings. Meeting someone who represents me was an incredible experience. Senator Jennings was very welcoming and open to discussing the vote to keep Sellinger Grants. I had the pleasure to speak with Senator Jennings and learned more about him as a person. It was eye-opening to be able to relate to someone in charge of the outcome of the state.

When the day finally came to an end, I soon realized that I wanted to be a part of this environment. I wanted to be included in decisions that directly affect people of all kinds. Independent Higher Education Day taught me that when large groups of people come together, anything can be accomplished.

Johns Hopkins University President Ronald J. Daniels and his wife, faculty member Joanne Rosen, have established a $1 million financial aid endowment for undergraduates who are among the first in their families to attend college.

The Daniels-Rosen First Generation Scholars Fund was created with $500,000 directly from the couple and another $500,000 presented to the University as part of a Carnegie Corporation of New York Academic Leadership Award that Daniels received in 2015.

The fund, together with a Johns Hopkins match applied to all new endowed gifts for undergraduate aid, is expected each year to meet the financial need of four undergraduate students in the University’s Krieger School of Arts and Sciences and Whiting School of Engineering.

“A top priority for this University and for our President is ensuring that we are able to bring the best students to Johns Hopkins, no matter their economic circumstances,” said Jeffrey H. Aronson, chair of the University’s board of trustees. “I am deeply grateful to Ron and Joanne for their personal commitment to students who come here without the advantage of generations of college access.”

Daniels has made student support of all kinds a focus. “My own father and his siblings were the first generation of his family able to pursue a university education,” Daniels said. “Access to a transformative education made a profound difference in his life and in his children’s lives. The opportunity to help others achieve their educational, personal, and professional aspirations through a Johns Hopkins education is deeply meaningful for Joanne and me.”

Daniels has also emphasized Hopkins’ role as a key anchor institution in Baltimore, launching the Homewood Community Partners Initiative and the HopkinsLocal economic development program, restructuring the Baltimore Scholars program, and helping to establish the Henderson-Hopkins School in East Baltimore, among other initiatives.
NDMU Joins Small World Initiative

Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDMU) recently had the distinction of being honored as the first University in the State of Maryland to join the Small World Initiative (SWI). SWI gathers some of the world’s top universities that support and source the discovery of new antibiotics.

As a member of the SWI, NDMU acts as an advocate for long-term involvement in the sciences, allowing upper-level biology students to continue working on antibiotic-producing bacteria identified by undergraduates in the 200-level introductory microbiology classes. By joining the SWI, the University is addressing a worldwide health threat – the rise of antibiotic resistant infections – and is providing NDMU students with hands-on research needed for future professional careers in healthcare.

Assistant Professor of Biology, Dr. Jennifer Kerr is heading up NDMU’s SWI program. She is one of 22 new educators qualified to lead their university’s program around the globe.

“There is a growing need to increase and prolong the involvement of women in science,” says Dr. Kerr. “We have a unique opportunity to influence the future NDMU student population to continue to work in science research either directly or indirectly.”

NDMU students have isolated microorganisms capable of producing antibiotics. Research will now shift to identifying and characterizing the antibiotic producing bacteria.

WAU Nursing Professors Win Awards

Washington Adventist University (WAU) nursing professors, Bonnie Franckowiak, DNP, and Basava Jitta, MSN, will be recognized for their work in the coming weeks and months.

Franckowiak has been invited to present a poster at the American Association of Collegiate Nursing (AACN) Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Franckowiak’s poster, “Integrating Substance Abuse Content into the Nursing Curriculum,” will be presented at the AACN Conference, “Master’s Education Perspectives: Preparing Nurse Educators and Leaders to Embrace Change and Improve Practice.”

Jitta will receive a Sigma Theta Tau International award from the Kappa Chapter at Catholic University for her doctoral dissertation abstract, “Perceived Barriers to Diabetes Self-Management among Asian-Indian Population Residing in the U.S.A.”

WAU offers a bachelor’s degree in nursing through the traditional program, along with three master’s programs in nursing in an accelerated evening format – all accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

The graduate programs are offered through WAU’s School of Graduate and Professional Studies to accommodate working adults. Included is an RN-MSN program that takes nurses with an associate’s degree directly to a master’s degree, a master’s degree in nursing education, and a master’s in nursing and business leadership.

EnerNOC is a leading provider of software-enabled energy procurement and advisory services. Through its online procurement platform, EnerNOC helps organizations navigate complex, competitive energy supply markets to buy energy at the best available prices and secure contracts that match the organization’s risk tolerance. EnerNOC’s advisory services design a holistic procurement and supply management strategy and actively track and evaluate the performance of that strategy over time.

EnerNOC is a MICUA Business Affiliate.
**Hood Works on Virtual Senior Center**

The Department of Nursing and the social work program of the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Hood College will work with the Frederick County Department of Aging (DOA) on a “Virtual Senior Center for Homebound Seniors.”

To launch the process, Caroline Kinna, a social work major and President of the Student Social Work Organization, attended a community meeting planned by the DOA and participated in the planning committee for this joint initiative. Students will attend orientation sessions at the DOA before pairing off in teams of social work and nursing students. The pairs will then bring iPads, purchased by the DOA, to the residences of homebound seniors and teach them how to use the technology and access Zoom, a virtual conference software, to extend their world beyond their home.

This project will connect homebound seniors with programs, services, and peers to reduce isolation and improve physical and mental health.

“We are committed to preparing students with practical experience, particularly in community service,” said Dr. Lynda Sowbel, Professor of Social Work, Director of Field Instruction, and Director of the Social Work Program. “With help from our students, participating seniors will be able to access the plethora of information located online and even take online courses offered by the DOA.” In addition to providing technology education, the social work students will complete biopsychosocial assessments, while the nursing students will perform health assessments.

The collaboration between the DOA and Hood College will enable Hood to carry out dynamic programming that improves the lives of older adults in the county and provides students with the opportunity to learn and interact with community members. The program will launch in fall 2017.

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**Loyola Joins the ACE Lab**

Loyola University Maryland is one of 11 colleges and universities invited to join the American Council on Education’s (ACE) Internationalization Laboratory Cohort for 2016-18. Higher education institutions committed to building on existing strengths and poised to take the next step toward institutional comprehensive internationalization and global engagement were invited to apply to be part of the ACE Lab. More than 110 schools have participated in the program since its inception in 2002; Loyola is only the second Jesuit institution to participate.

Guidance and insight gained from participating in the program, in coordination with community feedback and discernment, will help Loyola generate and execute a plan that supports global awareness, engagement, and learning, and connects the local community to the world.

Through comprehensive internationalization, Loyola will inspire students, faculty, staff, and alumni to become committed citizens with an active awareness of and appreciation for their role in leading positive change across neighborhoods, borders, and cultures.

“This important next step toward greater global awareness in our shared world is faithful to Loyola University Maryland’s Jesuit vision and values,” said Rev. Brian F. Linnane, S.J., President of Loyola. “The ACE Lab offers experiential goals that strongly align with our new strategic plan, *The Ignatian Compass: Guiding Loyola University Maryland to Ever Greater Excellence*, which calls on us to look for ways to extend our interactions and connections globally and to develop globally-minded citizens committed to creating a more just world."

An ACE Lab advisor will work with a task force at Loyola to develop strategies and goals for campus internationalization, form leadership teams to work on strategic planning and student outcomes, and develop an action plan based on an analysis of current campus activities.
**St. John's Student Interns with NASA**

When **St. John’s College** junior Catherine Baldwin was in second grade she learned about the Apollo 11 crew and was fascinated. “I remember thinking that was the most amazing and terrifying thing I ever heard,” Baldwin said.

Baldwin’s interest in space travel led her to an internship last summer at the NASA History Program Office in Washington, D.C. funded by the Hodson Trust Internship program.

During the internship Baldwin wrote articles for and helped reorganize the NASA website, assisted with events, and posted historical facts about NASA and other space agencies on social media. Baldwin also wrote about the Commercial Orbital Transportation Services program and the making of the Apollo 11 patch. The internship coincided with the coming film release of “Hidden Figures,” a story on African-American women who were influential in the early days of space exploration. Baldwin’s supervisor, Dr. Bill Barry, worked with the film’s director to ensure the movie’s accuracy.

The work reinforced Baldwin’s love for space and the history of the space race of the 1960s between the U.S. and USSR.

**Elliot Hirshman Appointed New President of Stevenson University**

The **Stevenson University** Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Elliot Hirshman, Ph.D. as the University’s sixth president effective July 1, 2017. Hirshman joins the University after serving as president of San Diego State University (SDSU) since 2011.

Under President Hirshman’s leadership, SDSU implemented an integrated budget and financial strategy; raised more than $755 million in private philanthropy for scholarships and new initiatives and programs; and established and endowed its Honors College. SDSU is recognized nationally for increasing student retention and graduation rates – rates that are equal across ethnic and racial groups.

“I am honored to join Stevenson University’s dynamic community,” said Hirshman. “Stevenson’s unique integration of career preparation and the traditional liberal arts reflects the best traditions of American higher education while envisioning a future that serves our students and our communities. The University’s core values of community, learning, integrity, and excellence were evident in every aspect of the recruitment process. I am excited to work collaboratively with our diverse community to support these values.”

Prior to Hirshman’s appointment at SDSU, he served as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC).

“Elliot is one of the nation’s most impressive thought leaders in education,” said Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, President of UMBC. “He has broad experience in all types of institutions, and he commands the respect of leaders throughout the United States. Most important, he cares deeply about students and understands the important role that institutions play in developing their skills and preparing them for productive careers.”

Hirshman also has been chief research officer at the George Washington University and chaired the Department of Psychology there and at the University of Colorado at Denver. He began his academic career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Hirshman earned his bachelor’s degree *summa cum laude* in economics and mathematics from Yale and his master’s degree and Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from UCLA.
MSMU Students Awarded Clare Boothe Luce Scholarships

Three Mount St. Mary’s University (MSMU) students, Ann Kayser, Alaina Owen, and Molly Ousborne, were recently awarded scholarships through the Clare Boothe Luce program for the 2017-18 academic year. Funded through the Henry Luce Foundation, the Clare Boothe Luce scholarship is a highly-competitive award that goes to women enrolled in a science, engineering, or math program who have demonstrated high academic achievement, leadership potential, and a commitment to their field.

“We are extremely proud of our three Clare Boothe Luce scholarship recipients,” said MSMU Interim President Timothy Trainor, Ph.D. “Clare Boothe Luce was a true visionary in her support of women in science, engineering and mathematics, and the Mount echoes her vision. Through this scholarship, Ann, Alaina, and Molly can now make an even greater impact in the classroom and in our community.”

This year’s recipients will follow in the footsteps of the 2016-17 academic year winners, Danielle Beauchamp, Sarah Bonson, and Angela Marinelli. While some individuals may rest after much hard work in achieving a major accomplishment, these three students have done the opposite. The scholarship has allowed Bonson to persist in her coursework, diving deeper into the material. “This scholarship has enabled me to continue exploring the scientific field,” said the soon-to-be graduate.

The scholarship enabled Beauchamp to examine her career path and look more carefully at what could lie ahead. “This award has been a wonderful opportunity to explore future career opportunities, receive mentorship, and focus on my academic studies,” said the junior. “Through this program, I have been encouraged to find what I am passionate about and find the connection of it to mathematics.”

Each recipient has also grown personally. “The Clare Boothe Luce scholarship has taught me the importance of allowing my faith to inspire my future career plans,” said Marinelli. “I am grateful for the opportunity to be surrounded by the Mount community of professors and students encouraging me in my education and also in my faith.”

McDaniel Alumnae are Finalists in 2017 Maryland School Librarian of the Year

Two McDaniel College graduates, Kimberly Johnson and Maria O’Toole, are among the five finalists recently announced for Maryland Association of School Librarians (MASL) 2017 Maryland School Librarian of the Year. The winner will be announced May 5 during MASL’s Leadership Lunch at its Common Ground Conference.

Professor of Library Science Mona Kerby couldn’t be prouder — 10 of the 25 nominees for Maryland School Librarian of the Year announced February 6 are graduates of McDaniel’s School Librarianship master’s program.

“The fact that 40 percent of the nominees come from McDaniel College indicates that our graduates are making a powerful difference in the lives of Maryland school children,” says Kerby, who is the L. Stanley Bowlesbey Chair in Education and Graduate and Professional Studies and coordinator of the graduate School Library Media program.

The program has been carefully crafted to meet and to exceed American Association of School Librarians standards.

“Our assignments are authentic, relevant, and practical,” Kerby says. “We believe in the power of reading, access to information, and developing life-long learners. We believe that school librarians have the power to change young students’ lives for the better.”

The 2017 Maryland School Librarian of the Year award honors a school librarian for exemplary service and outstanding achievements in the field of school library media. Nominees must exemplify the five roles of a library media specialist: administrator, leader, information specialist, teacher, and instructional partner.
Aaron Bush and Carl Hansen, alums of Capitol Technology University, and current student, Ben Serano, are working on a major development that is expected to dramatically enhance our understanding of the cosmos. The three are on-site at the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI), which will handle flight ops of NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

“The capabilities of this telescope are incredible. They’re much greater than what Hubble has been able to bring – and Hubble has brought us so many wonders,” said Bush.

Bush and Hansen went to work full-time for the project after graduation, while Serano has landed an internship at the STScI and plans to continue there as a flight operations controller after he wraps up his degree in May. The mission is currently engaged in testing and preparation.

Serano is thrilled at having the chance to be part of the JWST — his third internship since coming to Capitol. “I look forward to going to work every single day because the entire team believes in and understands the importance of the JWST’s success,” Serano said.

The University has significant representation on this mission. Capitol professor Rishabh Maharaja says this is because of the astronautical engineering program’s specialized focus. Maharaja created the Hermes project, a satellite communications project, and now serves as mentor to the student-led Hermes project. Several project participants, including Bush, Hansen and Serano, have gone on to the JWST – and they say the practical experience they gained as part of Hermes was essential.

“In order to make the move from school to work, you need to be involved in projects, and Capitol is great about supporting these,” Hansen said. “Being [involved] in Hermes was very much responsible for getting me into a place where I could be accepted for my current position.”

The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) announced it would construct a new, state-of-the-art technology and design center known as the Dolphin Design Center. The Center houses the College’s brand new BFA programs in Product Design and Game Design, as well as Architectural Design and Interactive Arts.

With State funding totaling $4 million, the new building will include cutting-edge makerspaces, research and prototype labs, and 3D printing and fabrication workshops. The Center will also be home to MICA’s Game Lab, a dedicated hub for the game community at MICA and greater Baltimore, which will support sponsored projects with outside partners, hold public events, and host an annual Game Designer-in-Residence beginning in fall 2017.

Progress is taking shape, as the building began rising from the site in early March. The building is designed with an exposed steel exterior structure that will also feature brightly painted and highly visible mechanical systems, wiring and plumbing. The building is on track for a fall 2017 opening.

“Students will be working in a space that invites them to see how the building functions and was constructed,” said Mike Molla, MICA’s Vice President of Strategic Initiatives. “This visual transparency befits a maker and design oriented facility.”
**Two MICUA Member Presidents Elected to NAICU Board of Directors**

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) announced in February that Roger Casey, President of McDaniel College, and Chris Nelson, President of St. John’s College, were elected to serve on the NAICU Board of Directors.

NAICU serves as the unified national voice of independent higher education. The Association represents more than 900 private colleges and universities on policy issues with the federal government, including matters impacting student financial aid, campus-based aid, tax policy, and regulations.

Nelson was selected as Chairman of the Board. “Chris’ experience and leadership, in combination with the other new board members, will be critical over the next 12 months as NAICU and our members navigate the political leadership transition in Washington,” said NAICU President David L. Warren. “Over the next year, as new opportunities and challenges arise, the Association will be well positioned for success with our new leadership team.”

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**Early Goucher Professor Inducted into the Maryland Women’s Hall of Fame**

After graduating from Goucher College, Hannah Spiegelman, a history and art history major, was tapped by history professor Tina Sheller, along with fellow history major Clara Hartman, to work in the College’s Special Collections and Archives, researching Goucher’s role in the women’s suffrage movement.

Spiegelman says she learned a lot about Goucher’s history and now others will too. In addition to an exhibit which opened in the College’s library in February, the State of Maryland will honor early Goucher professor Lilian Welsh by inducting her into the State’s Women’s Hall of Fame.

“Lilian Welsh seemed to do everything,” Spiegelman explains. “Originally she was hired to do physical examinations, but she became a professor in multiple different areas. She built our physical education department. She was really beloved by everyone here and inspired her students to seek out their dreams and seek out all opportunities, even ones she didn’t have the chance to get herself. And within the Baltimore community she was a real proponent for public health, she worked on a plan to eradicate TB and STDs.”

In addition to her health work, Welsh was an ardent suffragist, which is where Spiegelman encountered her in the Goucher library’s archives. Welsh was one of 100 students and faculty members who took part in a Washington, D.C., suffrage parade on March 3, 1913, the day before Woodrow Wilson’s inauguration.

Research into Goucher’s support of suffrage was inspired by a crowdsourcing project run by the journal *Women and Social Movements in the United States* to create a biographical database of suffrage protestors. One of the SUNY Binghamton professors in charge of the database reached out to Goucher, knowing that a large number of students had taken part.

“This project shines a light on one of Goucher’s jewels that frequently goes unnoticed: Special Collections and Archives in the Goucher library,” says Sheller. “Through the efforts of College Librarian Nancy Magnuson and Special Collections Curator Tara Olivero, Special Collections and Archives has developed an outstanding collection of books, manuscripts, and artifacts. This collection has greatly enriched the educational opportunities of Goucher students, faculty, and alumnae/i.”

Pro-suffrage opinion was strong on campus, but not unanimous, and the College administration went back and forth in its support of the cause. Former President William M. Guth, while he seemed to support suffrage in the abstract, balked at connecting the College to protests.

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Two MICUA Member Presidents Elected to NAICU Board of Directors

Hannah Spiegelman accepting the induction on behalf of Lilian Welsh.
Students who first enroll at a Maryland independent college or university “top the nation” in college completion rates! A recent report released by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center ranks Maryland’s independent segment of higher education as the top performing segment in the nation. Based on the Clearinghouse report, 93 percent of students who enroll first-time, full-time at a Maryland private nonprofit college or university complete their first degree within six years.

The most effective way to reduce college costs and cut student debt is to shorten the time-to-degree. Students who graduate early pay less tuition and start earning sooner. Furthermore, numerous studies report that college graduates earn higher starting salaries; achieve more lifetime earnings; and are more likely to engage in civic, community, and philanthropic activities.

The remarkable performance of Maryland’s independent segment of higher education is not due to the selectivity of the institutions, but to the success of all students enrolled. Contrary to prevalent myths, the demographics of students attending Maryland’s independent colleges and universities are similar to the demographics of students attending Maryland’s public universities. One in three students is a student-of-color; one in four is a low-income student; and many are first-generation college students and adult learners.

Moreover, Maryland’s independent institutions are no more selective than the University System of Maryland (USM) institutions. Forty-six percent of applicants to a USM institution are admitted for enrollment compared to 45 percent of applicants to a MICUA member institution. Additionally, the average ACT and SAT scores of admitted students are almost identical.

The Clearinghouse report substantiates the important role Maryland’s independent colleges and universities serve in supporting the economic success of the State, which boasts a highly-educated workforce capable of supporting a vibrant knowledge-based economy.

**Head of the Class**

Students who first enroll at a Maryland independent college or university "top the nation" in college completion rates!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Type</th>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maryland 4-Year Private Non-Profit Institutions</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 4-Year Private Non-Profit Institutions</td>
<td>86%</td>
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<tr>
<td>US 4-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<tr>
<td>US 2-Year Public Institutions</td>
<td>55%</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: Reflects six-year completion rates for exclusively full-time students at starting institutions. Completion rates reflect first degree earned at any institution, including transfer institutions. *Source: National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, 2017.*

**93% of students who enroll first-time, full-time at a Maryland private nonprofit college or university complete their first degree within six years.**
Brynne Brouse was recruited by Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, to play basketball, but the professors she met on Science Day clinched the deal.

Now, three years later, the biology major with a concentration in biochemistry plans to finish her pre-med requirements and enroll in medical school right after earning her undergraduate degree, rather than take the customary gap year.

“I’ve heard from friends at other schools who have to choose between academics and sports,” Brouse says. “My coach insists we put academics before anything else. One teammate had the opportunity to go to Omaha to meet Warren Buffett, and she missed one game. When I had a job shadowing experience, I had to miss a practice.”

The professors she met that first day — particularly pre-med advisor Kate Verville and biochemistry professor Mindy Reynolds — have not disappointed. “Biochemistry is definitely challenging, but what I really liked about that course is you learn the mechanisms of a protein that can signal pathways, but you also learn how it’s relevant. For example, we looked at the mechanism of how hemoglobin releases and picks up oxygen for us to breathe and how this can be related to athletes training at higher altitudes or the reason behind why premature babies have difficulty breathing. I love to see the biochemistry behind the medical problem and understand that these premature babies have difficulty breathing because they have a different type of tissue that can’t bind with hemoglobin.”

Time management becomes key when you are juggling early-morning strength training, afternoon labs, practices, and games. “During basketball season, I think I get more accomplished because I’m on such a strict schedule,” she says. Still, she has found the time to serve as a peer mentor, volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, and complete advanced EMT training.

“That was a lot of fun because I hadn’t had the opportunity to do hands-on medicine before,” Brouse says. Not only did she get to use the Jaws of Life — “the coolest thing ever” — she learned how to recognize the signs and symptoms of various life-threatening ailments.

“When I think about having a job, I want to have an impact. I want to fix problems. I want to help people. Medicine will allow me to do that.”
Capitol Technology University Names New President

Capitol Technology University’s Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Bradford L. Sims as the University’s eighth president, effective June 1, 2017. He succeeds Dr. Michael T. Wood, who is retiring after thirteen years at the helm of Capitol Technology University.

Formerly Chief Academic Officer and Professor at Embry-Riddle University - Worldwide, Dr. Sims has significant experience in higher education. Prior to joining Embry-Riddle in 2013, Dr. Sims held faculty and administrative positions at the College of Technology at Indiana State University, Western Carolina University, and the University of Florida. He has served on the International Council for Research and Innovation, and has worked with engineering and technology companies.

During May, he will serve as president-elect, working together with Dr. Wood, the Executive Council, and the Board of Trustees to ensure a smooth transition.

“Dr. Sims has an extraordinary spectrum of experience that includes both private industry and academia,” noted Harvey Weiss, chairman of Capitol’s board. “He understands that educational institutions best serve their students when they are able to build bridges between the classroom and the broader arenas of work and business. His personal background as a graduate of STEM degree programs has given him a strong sense of commitment to the kind of practical education that Capitol offers.”