MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

1700 East Cold Spring Lane • Baltimore, Maryland 21251

NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF STATE AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

November 2021

Greetings

We are pleased to present the inaugural issue of the Office of State and Federal Relations' Newsletter. Morgan recognizes the importance of collaborating with federal, state, and local governments, therefore, this office is committed to keeping the University campus and community up-to-date with information that will help us in our mission of "Growing the Future, Leading the World."

Dr. Don-Terry Veal
Vice President
for State and
Federal Relations
and
Chief of Staff

don-terry.veal@morgan.edu
(443) 885-3035

Senator Joan Carter-Conway
Deputy
Special Assistant
to the
President for
Legislative Affairs

joan.carterconway
@morgan.edu
(443) 885-3938

About Us

The Office of State and Federal Relations works directly with the University's administration, faculty, and staff as the liaison to the federal and state government. The Office works with Congress, federal agencies, and Maryland's governments to leverage resources from campus to significantly elevate the University's impact in our nation's capital and in the State of Maryland.

Federal Government

The office provides support by monitoring opportunities for the University's federal interests on public policies related to higher education.

State Government

The office works closely with Morgan's Deputy Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, Senator Joan Carter-Conway to:

- Monitor bills and initiatives in the State Legislature in Annapolis.
- Disseminate information to Morgan's Deans for feedback on bills that would have a negative or benefiting effect on our interests.
- Assist University units in researching issues and connecting them with appropriate state government offices and staff.

NASA Award for Morgan/UMBC Research Partnership

by Morgan State U
OCTOBER 28, 2021

Morgan to Receive $28 Million GESTAR II Award Over the Next Three Years, Continuing Its Decade-Plus Relationship with Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research

BALTIMORE — NASA has announced a major award of $72 million over three years to a consortium of higher education institutions and other organizations for the new Goddard Earth Sciences Technology and Research (GESTAR) II center. The GESTAR II consortium, which is being led by UMBC in partnership with Morgan State University, will support 120 affiliated researchers, creating extensive opportunities for breakthroughs in Earth and atmospheric science research. The workshare for GESTAR II will be handled primarily by UMBC and Morgan, which will receive $38 million and $28 million, respectively. This partnership marks the first major collaboration of the two Maryland-based research universities.

Colorado State University, Arizona State University and Pennsylvania State University will also contribute as partners in the program, along with Northrop Grumman Corporation, Earth Resources Technology, Inc., and the nonprofit Southeastern Universities Research Association. Participants will carry out observational, experimental and theoretical research in support of strategic mission objectives of NASA Earth Science. The large scale of this work will also enable students at all levels to contribute to the research.

GESTAR"The collaboration between Morgan and UMBC serves as a model for how two high-research universities, operating in a highly competitive space, can join in common purpose, pooling intellectual capital, resources and expertise for the greater advancement of science and technology," said David K. Wilson, president of Morgan State University. "We appreciate the opportunity to continue the important work we began with the GESTAR program and partner with an institution that shares our commitment to STEM research. A partnership of this consequence not only benefits both universities but delivers marked return on investment benefiting our state and nation."

"I am deeply grateful to everyone, especially our colleagues at Morgan State, who helped make this new partnership a reality," said Freeman Hrabowski, president of UMBC. "I am looking forward to seeing what breakthroughs in Earth science will come from the collaborative work of the scientists, engineers and students who participate in GESTAR II."

Like UMBC's Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology (JCET) and the original GESTAR, in which Morgan was a major partner, GESTAR II will create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research with and be mentored by NASA scientists and engineers. In addition, GESTAR II will partner with Goddard's Earth Sciences Division to advance Earth science and Goddard's leadership, by providing a competitive environment to hire and retain high-quality scientists who are on track to be leaders at NASA, in academia and in industry.

Bringing together students and researchers from UMBC, Morgan, NASA and other institutions creates the opportunity for innovation in Earth science. It also creates a career pipeline for students from a wide range of backgrounds who are prepared to pursue employment at NASA and elsewhere, using the skills they've gained by learning from and with NASA team members.

"Morgan brings more than a decade of experience working with NASA, and we look forward to partnering with UMBC and other collaborators in GESTAR II to produce cutting-edge, world-class Earth science in support of our national space program," said Willie E. May, Ph.D., vice president for Research and Economic Development at Morgan State University. "We are also very excited about what this partnership will mean for our students — more exposure, new educational pursuits and access to long-term employment opportunities."

Morgan is also creating a new minor in Earth and space science, and some of Morgan's GESTAR II researchers will have the opportunity to teach in the program.

Morgan has been a major partner in the original GESTAR center at Goddard since 2011 and will bring that experience to GESTAR II. Nearly 40 Morgan researchers, with expertise in various Earth and space sciences, will be part of the GESTAR II center when it launches. Morgan's GESTAR researchers have used NASA data to study the sea surface, snow cover on land, and the atmosphere, by modeling these complex systems and by other means.

"Morgan's 10 years of research and management experience with the original GESTAR program affords us a unique opportunity to contribute immediately to NASA's GESTAR II program, while also addressing the need for inclusiveness," said Daniel Laughlin, Ph.D., associate director for the GESTAR program at Morgan State University. "We look forward to our scientists' carrying out critical research to support NASA's strategic Earth Science mission objectives to improve NASA's ability to model and predict Earth system events and to benefit society."

Shown in header photo L-R: Willie E. May (Morgan), Daniel Laughlin (Morgan), David Wilson (Morgan), Margo Young (UMBC), Freeman Hrabowski (UMBC), Belay Demoz (UMBC) and Karl Steiner (UMBC)

Photo 2: President David K. Wilson of Morgan State and President Freeman A. Hrabowski of UMBC. Photo by Marlayna Demond for UMBC

Build Back Better Act: HBCU Funding Summary

Source: https://adams.house.gov/sites/adams.house.gov/files/BBBHBCU.pdf

Congresswoman Alma Adams (NC)
Co-Chair of the Congressional Bipartisan Historically Black Colleges and Universities Caucus

"I'm especially proud to have secured a transformative $10 billion investment in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) in the package— the largest such investment in American history. This includes an unprecedented infrastructure grant program that will allow HBCUs and MSIs to make substantial investments in their research infrastructure as they prepare the next generation of STEM graduates."

Please note that negotiations are ongoing. Until language is enacted, understand that the following figures are subject to change.

$6 billion for Higher Education Act Title III programs
a. Page 86
b. Education and Labor Title- Sec. 20025
c. Split on the mandatory formulae- HBCUs receive roughly ~$2 billion in total

$3 billion for Research and Development Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program
a. Page 92
b. Education & Labor Title- Sec. 20026
c. HBCUs could receive any amount, likely between 33% and 50% (~$1 to $1.5 billion)

$200 million for capacity building at MSIs
a. Page 882
b. Science, Space, and Technology Title- Sec. 90015
c. FY22 only

$100 million for MSIs via NSF Research Infrastructure
a. Page 883
b. Science, Space, and Technology Title- Sec. 90016
c. For academic research facility modernizations and research instruments in FY22 only

Access to Uplift Incubators
a. Page 887
b. Small Business Title- Sec. 100201
c. HBCUs and other MSIs can apply to be an 'uplift incubator,' which will allow them access to competitive grant funds to help eligible small businesses support minority communities. Total funding for the program: $1 billion

Access to Scholarships via 'Establishing Rural and Underserved Pathway to Practice Training Programs for Post-Baccalaureate Students and Medical Students'
a. Page 1471
b. Ways and Means Title- Sec. 137402
c. HBCU graduates would be eligible for scholarships to attend medical schools

Infrastructure Bill

PRESIDENT BIDEN SIGNED A $1 TRILLION INFRASTRUCTURE BILL INTO LAW ON OCTOBER 28, 2021

HTTPS://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/MARYLAND_Infrastructure-Investment-and-Jobs-Act-State-Fact-Sheet.pdf

...The historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will make life better for millions of Maryland residents, create a generation of good-paying union jobs and economic growth, and position the United States to win the 21st century. Specifically, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will:

Repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. In Maryland there are 273 bridges and over 2,201 miles of highway in poor condition. Since 2011, commute times have increased by 5.1% in Maryland and on average, each driver pays $637 per year in costs due to driving on roads in need of repair. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. **Based on formula funding alone, Maryland would expect to receive $4.1 billion for federal-aid highway apportioned programs and $409 million for bridge replacement and repairs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act over five years1.** Maryland can also compete for the $12.5 billion Bridge Investment Program for economically significant bridges and nearly $16 billion of national funding in the bill dedicated for major projects that will deliver substantial economic benefits to communities.

Improve healthy, sustainable transportation options for millions of Americans. Marylanders who take public transportation spend an extra 66.3% of their time commuting and non-White households are 2.7 times more likely to commute via public transportation. 23% of transit vehicles in the state are past useful life. **Based on formula funding alone, Maryland would expect to receive $1.7 billion over five years under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to improve public transportation options across the state2.**

Build a network of EV chargers to facilitate long-distance travel and provide convenient charging options. The U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) sales is only one-third the size of the Chinese EV market. The President believes that must change. The bill invests $7.5 billion to build out the first-ever national network of EV chargers in the United States and is a critical element in the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to accelerate the adoption of EVs to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Maryland would expect to receive $63 million over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the state3. Maryland will also have the opportunity to apply for the $2.5 billion in grant funding dedicated to EV charging in the bill.**

Help connect every American to reliable high-speed internet. Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health care, and to stay connected. Yet 11% of Maryland households do not have an internet subscription, and 2% of Marylanders live in areas where, under the FCC's benchmark, there is no broadband infrastructure. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Maryland will receive a minimum allocation of $100 million to help provide broadband coverage across the state, including providing access to the at least 148,000 Marylanders who currently lack it. And, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, 1,042,000 or 17% of people in Maryland will be eligible for the Affordability Connectivity Benefit, which will help low-income families afford internet access.**

Prepare more of our infrastructure for the impacts of climate change, cyber attacks, and extreme weather events. From 2010 to 2020, Maryland has experienced 31 extreme weather events, costing the state up to $10 billion in damages. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on historical formula funding levels, Maryland will expect to receive $7.9 million over five years to protect against wildfires and $15.9 million to protect against cyberattacks. Marylanders will also benefit from the bill's historic $3.5 billion national investment in weatherization which will reduce energy costs for families.**

Deliver clean drinking water to every American and eliminate the nation's lead service lines and pipes. Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, based on the traditional state revolving fund formula, Maryland will expect to receive $844 million over five years to improve water infrastructure across the state and ensure that clean, safe drinking water is a right in all communities.**

Improve our nation's airports. The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. **Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, airports in Maryland would receive approximately $158 million for infrastructure development for airports over five years .**

Over the coming days and weeks, we will expect to receive additional data on the impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in Maryland.

[1] These values are estimates and may change based on updated factor data each fiscal year.

[2] Transit formula funding amounts are subject to changes resulting from the 2020 census or from annual transit service data reported to FTA's National Transit Data base.

[3] These values are estimates and may change based on updated factor data each fiscal year.

Morgan Visits With Committees of the Legislature

Throughout the year, Morgan plays an active role by engaging with State legislature. Recently, Morgan met with the below legislative committees to discuss the University's strategic vision and capital needs that would also impact the City of Baltimore.

On September 24, 2021, Dr. Wilson led a virtual discussion with US Senator Ben Cardin and Maryland HBCU Presidents on the Infrastructure Bill and its potential impact on the State of Maryland.

Maryland Appropriations Committee
September 14, 2021

Baltimore City Legislative Delegation
October 12, 2021

House Speaker Adrienne Jones
October 13, 2021

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
November 10, 2021

UPCOMING MEETINGS / HEARINGS

2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
444th session
of General Assembly
will convene in
Annapolis, Maryland
January 12 - April 11, 2022

Meeting Dates Forthcoming