

MICUA — MATTERS —

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2024

A Letter from the President

As we conclude another legislative session, we are proud to provide a summary of our accomplishments and the challenges faced during the 90 days of the 2024 legislative session. While budgetary allocations posed difficulties, it was also a period of significant advocacy and legislative success for the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA).

MICUA actively monitored approximately 175 bills, engaging with university presidents, and members of the House and Senate. We participated in weekly strategy sessions with other higher education segments and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. Our team provided joint testimony with public institutions, observed legislative sessions, and delivered both oral and written testimonies. We proposed amendments, attended key committee meetings, and advocated for independent higher education at every given opportunity.

Despite facing a substantial budget cut in the Governor's FY 25 budget proposal, which reduced the Sellinger Program funding by \$60 million, our concerted efforts led to a rebase of the program. Ultimately, the program was funded at approximately \$73 million by the conclusion of the conference committee discussions.

Although our request for \$12 million in capital projects was not fully met, MICUA institutions—Johns Hopkins University, Maryland Institute College of Art, Mount St. Mary's University, and Notre Dame of Maryland University—each secured \$2 million.

Significant Legislation to MICUA Members from the 2024 Legislative Session:

- **U.S. Census Bureau's Post Secondary Employment Outcomes Project [HB 634](#) (Ch. 63) | [SB 444](#) (Ch. 64)** – authorizes the Governing Board of the Maryland Longitudinal System Center (MLDS) to authorize the Center to send student information to the U.S. Census Bureau. This was the first bill MICUA has sponsored in nearly 15 years, and we will now work with the MLDS to attempt to engage them in the Post Secondary Employment Outcomes effort through the U.S. Census Bureau.
- **Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference or Donor Preference [HB 4](#)** – prohibits an institution of higher education that receives State funds from considering a legacy or donor preference as an eligible criterion for admission standards; however, an institution may ask applicants to provide information on familial relationships to alumni for data collection purposes. MICUA provided a letter of information on the bill. The House passed it and the Senate held it. The Senate President's office reached out to MICUA to determine if MICUA would support it passing because the House was holding a bill they wanted. We agreed based on our previous position as well as the other legacy bills sweeping the country that are much more restrictive and prohibit legacy scholarships.
- **Pava LaPere Legacy of Innovation Act of 2024 [HB 582](#) | [SB 473](#)** – establishes the Pava LaPere Innovation Acceleration Grant in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to foster the growth of entrepreneurial innovation founded by students and faculty members of postsecondary institutions located in the Baltimore Metropolitan area. MICUA was able to get the contribution from eligible institutions from a minimum of \$50k, to “up to \$50k”. Eight MICUA institutions are eligible for funding.
- **Higher Education Teacher Development and Retention Program [HB 75](#) | [SB 377](#)** – alters the definition of “institution of initial eligibility” to include community colleges as eligible institutions as part of the criteria for applicants for the Teacher Development and Retention Program. The bill also delays the stipend award periods by one year. The bill requires MHEC to conduct the evaluation itself, rather than hire an independent consultant to do so.
- **Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act [HB 92](#) | [SB 620](#)** requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to (1) set goals for the number of incarcerated individuals in postsecondary education programs; (2) establish tracking systems for the number of incarcerated individuals in postsecondary education programs and their progress; and (3) assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell Grants for higher education. MICUA tracked and assisted this bill more than any other segment of higher education.

- **Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act** [HB 569](#) | [SB 395](#) – originally allowed credits for English as a Second Language or English language learner courses taken at a public community college to be transferable to any institution of higher education. The advocacy around the bill was extensive. Despite this, MICUA was able to get the bill amended so that MICUA members must review the credits for eligibility and then determine if they are transferable. A public institution of higher education may not deny the transfer of such credits for any reason. Private nonprofit institutions and the independent institutions shall review and consider the transfer of credits.
- **Modified Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program** [HB 571](#) | [SB 485](#) – delays the Program by nine months to July 1, 2025, and required contributions for benefit payments are required to commence on July 1, 2026. MICUA worked through the Chamber of Commerce to support the delay in implementation.
- **Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024**, [HB 567](#) | [SB 541](#), establishes numerous consumer protections and regulatory requirements related to online data activities after April 1, 2026.
- **Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund** [SB 418](#) – expands the purpose and eligible use of the fund to include grants and loans to anchor institutions for community projects in sustainable communities in the State. The bill also repeals the requirement that matching funds come from a private source. MICUA supported this bill and the changes and it will have a positive impact on a number of MICUA institutions that utilize this State program.
- **Initial Teacher Certification** [HB 945](#) | [SB 771](#) – repeals a provision of law that requires a teacher preparation program to require a student to pass a nationally recognized portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability as a graduation requirement; alters the requirements for initial teacher certification; and alters the qualification requirements for a teacher who holds a professional license or certificate from another state. The bill also establishes requirements for comprehensive and rigorous teacher induction programs established independently by a local school system or in collaboration with other local school systems. MICUA spent a tremendous amount of time tracking the numerous iterations of this bill and working with the Education Deans and Directors to get the bill in the best posture possible.
- **Academic Program Approval Procedural Changes** [HB 1244](#) – encompasses many of the Program Approval Workgroup recommendations. It establishes a new process for academic program approval and institutional mission statements, based on identifying State and regional workforce needs. The two chambers continue to sort through the clerical error that resulted in the wrong conference committee report being adopted.
- **Prohibition on Discrimination of Military Status** – [HB 598](#) | [SB 413](#) – prohibits discrimination based on an individual’s “military status” in regard to housing and employment.
- **Families Serve Act of 2024** [SB 478](#) (Ch. 6) | [HB 604](#) – authorizes employers to grant a hiring and promotion preference to the spouse of an eligible service member.
- **Maryland Protecting Opportunities and Regional Trade (PORT) Act (related to the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse)** [SB 1188](#) (Ch.3) – establishes the Fallen Transportation Workers Scholarship Program to provide tuition assistance to the dependents or surviving spouse of a fallen transportation worker.

For a comprehensive review of all the bills MICUA engaged with this session, please [click here](#).

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to advancing independent higher education in Maryland.

Warm regards,



Matthew Power
President

Signal-9 Places in Cyber Competitions

Signal-9, Capitol Tech's cyber battle team, has been on the road and making waves, participating in several exciting competitions in 2024.

In January, the team participated in the virtual qualifiers for the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition (MACCDC), which featured competition themes and scenarios that imitate the real-world through fun and educational cyber battles, highlighting cybersecurity in relation to free and secure elections, natural disasters, global pandemics, and more.

In February, Signal-9 competed in Cyber Forge 2024 at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach, VA and successfully placed 7th and 8th out of 21! The event featured several activities, such as a Metasploit workshop to explore the inner workings of one of the most powerful penetration testing tools in the cybersecurity toolkit. In addition to the workshop, Signal-9 engaged in intensive practice sessions of Capture The Flag (CTF) with MetaCTF, which served as crucial training rounds, allowing the team to fine-tune their strategies and tactics in a simulated cybersecurity environment. They also participated in networking sessions with prominent companies, colleges, and organizations in the area, including Cybersecurity & Vulnerability Assessment.

In March, the Signal-9 team showcased their expertise and resilience at the 3-day Information Security Talent Search (ISTS) cyber attack-and-defend competition hosted at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York. Despite the stiff competition from 16 other teams, Signal-9 secured 6th place! The event marked a significant milestone for the team, as they not only gained valuable experience, but also the chance to further network with organizers, teams, and coaches, gathering insight to enhance their performance in future competitions and information to hold similar events at Capitol.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Signal-9 at Cyber Forge 2024

Goucher Launches New Public Health Major with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

Goucher College has announced a new undergraduate major in public health that will explore the multidisciplinary field and the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities.

Distinctive features of Goucher's new program are the emphasis on global health and the strong focus on social justice and environmental sustainability, as well as applied hands-on learning activities and study abroad.

In addition, Goucher students will also have access to an accelerated path to a master's degree with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Students work toward their undergraduate degree at Goucher and take classes toward a Master of Health Science from the Department of Health, Behavior and Society or a Master of Bioethics from the Berman Institute of Bioethics at the Bloomberg School.

The new public health major at Goucher will build on traditional liberal arts disciplines and students will explore research in health trends, identify disparities in health, understand the direct and indirect causes of health problems, develop strategies to improve health, and advance the equity and quality of systems and structures. Through public health study abroad programs, students will have opportunities to develop cultural competency, improve their fluency in non-English languages, and learn about health challenges and health systems in other countries.

[Read the full story here.](#)



A Goucher College student amidst an experiment in the laboratory

Hood Students Attend Osgood Professional Development Program

A group of nine Hood College students joined participants from around the world for “Preparing to Lead,” a leadership program hosted by the Osgood Center for International Studies in Washington, D.C.

“Preparing to Lead” builds on the partnership between the Osgood Center and Hood’s Department of Political Science and Global Studies, providing students with an inside look at domestic and international policymaking and advocacy in the nation’s capital.

Sessions included a wide range of renowned guest speakers from organizations such as Google, Rotary Club of Washington, the United States Institute of Peace, Boys Town, the Library of Congress and more, giving Hood students first-hand insight about what it means to be a leader in today’s complex and competitive world.

“The program educated us on the nuances of the professional world, such as networking, public speaking, internships, the entrepreneurial spirit, the value of higher education, leadership skills and much more,” said Ace Williams ’24. “The leadership program brought an incredible diversity of speakers. These exceptional people not only shared their knowledge and experience, but also proved to be networking opportunities for us.”

[Read the full story here.](#)



Osgood Leadership Program participants outside the U.S. Capitol

JHU Exhibit Celebrates Beloved Jazz Vocalist, Daughter of Baltimore

Ethel Ennis, the Baltimore-based international jazz musician, said she was proud to have bloomed where she was planted, in her hometown of Baltimore.

Now memorabilia from her long career lives on in the Sheridan Libraries archives at Johns Hopkins and was on display at the George Peabody Library through April 14.

The collection contains sheet music, recordings, and memorabilia, including film and video recordings of some of her live and television appearances preserved by Arnett, said Gabrielle Dean, curator of rare books and manuscripts at the Libraries. It also contains materials from her family and everyday life, including photographs, ephemera, and newspaper clippings.

"Some of these relate to her life growing up, but also politics, baseball, cooking—all the things she was interested in," Dean said. "It also documents Earl's career and interests—manuscripts from his days as a journalist for *The Baltimore Sun*, for example. And it includes business records from the various enterprises Ethel and Earl founded and ran together here in Baltimore, because they were committed to artistic livelihoods in the city."

The exhibit aims to highlight Ennis as a daughter of Baltimore, and to reflect Ennis's voice.

"Throughout her travels, Ethel was outspoken about her roots and experiences growing up in Baltimore. Her connection to and pride in her hometown is apparent through so many of the materials in the collection," curator Raynetta Wiggins-Jackson said. "It was clear that life in Baltimore was a significant part of the story—and I thought it was important for the exhibition to honor that."

[Read the full story here.](#)



Ethel Ennis' exhibit at the George Peabody Library

Loyola Launches New Strategic Plan, Together We Rise

Loyola University Maryland announced the launch of its new strategic plan, *Together We Rise: Loyola University Maryland's Strategic Plan for 2030*. The plan was unanimously approved by the University's Board of Trustees at its February 14th meeting.

"This is our moment to set Loyola on a trajectory that will ensure its success for generations," says Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., president. "This plan comes at a pivotal time. The world of higher education is in flux. Technology is changing rapidly. Issues of justice—including environmental justice—are front and center. Loyola cannot stand still. While staying true to our traditions and values, we must continue to move forward, taking strategic steps to graduate individuals who not only achieve success, but also lead a life of significance."

With *Together We Rise*, Loyola will aspire to become a preeminent university for student success. Loyola will advance student and faculty formation; grow Loyola's footprint, influence, and enrollment; care for our common home; and thrive by investing in and supporting its employees.

The plan also calls for greater support for faculty and students, fueling school spirit, investments in graduate education, and growth in health and STEM fields, including nursing. Loyola intends to become a leader in integral ecology and sustainability—and to cultivate a community of belonging. By 2030, the University aspires to be recognized as a destination employer—and a place where operational and digital transformation enhances current systems.

[Read about the plan at Loyola.edu/strategicplan.](https://loyola.edu/strategicplan)



Loyola's new strategic plan, Together We Rise



MICA Part of Collaborative Project Creating Novel Biomanufacturing Process to Capture Carbon and Bolster Human Health

Precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC) is used in many applications—from construction materials to cosmetics, pharmaceuticals to plastics. However, the manufacturing process for this cheap, versatile product is a contributor to carbon dioxide emissions that plague Earth’s atmosphere.



Ryan Hoover, MICA Faculty and Co-Principal Investigator

In an effort to reduce environmental impacts and bolster human health, a multi-institutional research group, which includes Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), has been awarded \$650K by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Convergence Accelerator to develop and prototype a new biomanufacturing process for making PCC and plant-based compounds that support human health.

Led by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), the project’s research team will be directed by UMCES Professor Elizabeth North, with Ryan Hoover, faculty in the Interdisciplinary Sculpture BFA program at MICA, acting as co-principal investigator. Other collaborators include Purdue University, Salisbury University, and Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Phase One includes the \$650K planning grant, with \$58K of those funds going to MICA.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



A "whiting event", which is a naturally occurring phenomenon that inspired this research.

McDaniel College Offers New Early Childhood Education Major in Support of *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*

McDaniel College has received approval to offer a new undergraduate major in early childhood education from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

This new major, beginning fall 2024, expands McDaniel's education offerings to prepare undergraduate students to teach infants, toddlers, and young children, which is a focus of the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*.

"Our education programs are well-known, highly respected, and regarded, and we are excited to be able to build upon our current offerings while focusing on the need for high quality teachers in support of the *Blueprint for Maryland's Future*..." said Tracey Lucas, assistant dean of Education.

McDaniel has provided programs to train teachers and administrators for over 110 years and currently offers an elementary education major, as well as secondary education and pre-K-12 minors in specialized areas, such as art, physical education, and Spanish, along with almost 20 graduate degrees and certificates. The new major provides a pathway for students looking to obtain a bachelor's degree and seek teacher certification for pre-K through third grade.

Grounded in the liberal arts, the program pulls from existing coursework and expertise within McDaniel's Education department with new courses directly related to early childhood development and topics focused on young learners.

In developing the program, McDaniel's Education department consulted with the College's existing partners, including Carroll County Public Schools and Carroll Community College, and considered the impact on private childcare centers and independent providers, plus programs like Head Start.

"We know that this new program will play an important role in addressing the growing teacher shortage across the State, including right here in Carroll County, as well as the surrounding region, by helping to fulfill the anticipated demand for teachers certified in early childhood education," added Lucas.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Tracey Lucas, Assistant Dean of Education

Mount-Trained Behavior Analysts Begin to Fill Demand for Board-Certified Practitioners

Over the past several months, four of the first graduates of Mount St. Mary's graduate-level applied behavior analysis (ABA) program took and passed their Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) exams.

Lynn Schumacher, Julie Crochet, Anna Svetlikova and Katelyn Hoffman have passed the exam after completing their MSABA courses and 2,000 hours of supervised field work. Board certification enables these graduates to begin effecting change as official behavior analysts.

These four alumni are part of a group of 20 Mount graduates who formed the first ABA class at the Mount. The cohort, which consisted of 12 students earning their master's degree and eight who received a post-master's ABA certificate, began classes in 2021 and graduated in 2023. Crochet, Svetlikova and Hoffman are working as behavior analysts for local clinics that specialize in autism in children and teenagers. Schumacher is currently applying to doctoral ABA programs, while also working in a clinic for children with autism.

The BCBA exam, which is offered periodically throughout the year, is notoriously difficult, with only between 56 and 66% of takers passing on their first try. However, thus far Mount students have a 100% pass rate in their first attempt. The classmates of these four graduates will also sit for the exam as they complete their practicum hours.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Pictured at commencement, from left to right, are MSABA graduates Lynn Schumacher, Michelle Buhman, Anna Svetlikova and Kaitlyn Sweeney.

NDMU to Add Healthcare Education Offerings with Impending Merger of Graduate Integrative Health Programs

Notre Dame of Maryland University is moving closer to a planned integration of graduate-level programs from the Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) into a new School of Integrative Health at NDMU, adding to NDMU’s already robust health sciences offerings.

The two institutions announced completion of the acquisition transaction in February 2024, which precedes the final regulatory approvals ultimately leading to a merger of MUIH’s programs into NDMU.

Following the anticipated merger in 2025, NDMU would become the nation’s first comprehensive university to have a school dedicated to integrative health. The School of Integrative Health at NDMU will support the interprofessional understanding needed for effective collaboration between integrative health and conventional healthcare fields to support the health and well-being of individuals and communities.

“As a leader in healthcare education, NDMU is expanding its distinctive brand of educating the next generation of healthcare leaders and caregivers,” said Dr. Marylou Yam, president of NDMU. “Healthcare professionals play a vital role in supporting the overall health of our communities, and this impending merger positions NDMU to continue to be at the forefront of addressing community needs with its educational offerings.”

[Read more here.](#)



Notre Dame of Maryland University’s campus



St. John's College Launches Online Bookshelf

St. John's College has launched [BooksbyJohnnies.com](https://booksbyjohnnies.com), an online bookshelf featuring more than 1,000 works from faculty and alumni.

The collection includes Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalists, Academy Award and Emmy Award winners, Guggenheim fellows and *New York Times* best-sellers.

Books by Johnnies showcases the exceptional diversity of perspectives that comprises the St. John's College community. The books display a curiosity for the most important human questions and explore them with a remarkable depth of independent thinking. Many books are also playful and light, from children's books and romance novels to thrillers and more. The database includes a 2023 Audible Pick of the Year for History, a *New Yorker* Best Book of 2023, a Booklist Best of the Year, a book that has sold more than a million copies, a Cannes Best Screenplay Award Winner, and other critically acclaimed and award-winning works.

"It's hard to think of a better preparation for a person who hopes to write books than to read the great, enduring, often very difficult books that have made the world of ideas that the writer hopes to expand, or even to revolutionize. And to do it in a community where reading is the central act of every day," says National Book Award finalist Salvatore Scibona, an alum whose work is featured on the site.

Visitors to the site will find curated collections of books on topics such as philosophy, arts and culture, science/technology/math, translations, education, the social sciences, sustainability, and more, along with a searchable database. The innovative database crowdsources works from within the alumni and faculty community; each author submits and owns their own page, which includes a book image, description and link to view or purchase.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Johnnies reading books by fellow Johnnies

Stevenson University Opens Kahlert Foundation Makerspace

Stevenson University recently opened the Kahlert Foundation Makerspace. Located in the Manning Academic Center, the new facility features a dedicated Biomedical Engineering Lab and Innovation Lab.

“Our new Biomedical Engineering Lab and Makerspace are custom-designed spaces that provide a place for students from across Stevenson to come together and collaborate,” said Neil Rothman, Biomedical Engineering Professor and Program Coordinator.

Stocked with hand tools, power tools, and high-tech equipment—including 3D printers, a laser cutter, and a computer numerical control (CNC) mill—the Innovation Lab lets Stevenson students design and create nearly anything they can imagine. The Biomedical Engineering Lab features a variety of specialized tools and equipment to provide Biomedical Engineering students with hands-on, experiential learning and collaborative problem-solving opportunities.

The Makerspace was made possible through a gift from The Kahlert Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life and well-being of communities by providing grants to non-profit healthcare, education, youth programs, veterans, and human services organizations, with a geographical focus on the states of Maryland and Utah. The Foundation is particularly committed to supporting higher education and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs.

“In the Makerspace, students learn how to design and build things and get experience with different kinds of fabrication tools,” Professor Rothman said. “When they graduate they will have the well-rounded skills employers are looking for: collaboration skills, design skills, fabrication skills, and creative thinking.”

[Read the full story here.](#)



Students collaborate on a project in the Innovation Lab within Stevenson University's new Kahlert Foundation Makerspace.

The Partnership Between Washington Adventist University and the Center for Social Change, Harmonizing Communities

In September 2023, a transformative partnership formed between Washington Adventist University (WAU) and the Center for Social Change (CSC), igniting a collaboration that aims to make an impact on individuals with special needs.

This collaboration, rooted in shared values and commitment to service, has already yielded results and promises a future filled with music, joy, and community engagement.

This partnership started when COO Jesse Singh and CEO Sajid Tarar of the Center for Social Change accepted an invitation from mutual friend Elisha Pulivarti to meet with WAU President Dr. Weymouth Spence. Dr. Cheryl Kisunzu, Provost at Washington Adventist University, recalls the moment vividly and said, "During this meeting, the synergy between the two organizations was immediately evident - especially as it pertains to our shared Christocentric commitment to service through which 'minds are engaged' and lives are transformed."

Collaboration between WAU and CSC is not a mere coincidence but rather an alignment of values and missions. WAU's dedication to being a "Gateway to Service" resonates perfectly with CSC's mission of supporting individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities, advocating for personal choices, and fostering independence.

[Read the full story here.](#)



From left to right (Remy Ceraulo, Simrat Singh, Assistant Director of Programs at the Center for Social Change, Dr. Weymouth Spence, President of Washington Adventist University, Dana Dimas, Director of Programs at the Center for Social Change, and Mona Singh, Director of Rising Sun Assisted Living.

Studying Native American Cultural Heritage on Maryland's Eastern Shore

Julie Markin, associate professor of anthropology and archaeology and director of archaeology at Washington College, was recently awarded a \$40,000 grant through the Maryland Historical Trust to study the indigenous cultural heritage of Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore and its inhabitants' social landscapes prior to contact with European settlers and explorers.

The grant will provide for an archaeological survey and excavation of the watershed, conducted by the Washington College Archaeology Lab, as well as paid internships for students, public programming and presentations, and open lab opportunities which will be available to volunteers from the public at large.

Markin's project unites archaeological data with geographic information, environmental reconstruction, and historical accounts on the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore, an area that has historically received less study and attention than its counterpart chiefdoms across the Bay. "In terms of historical records, we don't know much of what the social and economic landscape looked like before John Smith made his way to the Chesapeake and modern-day Maryland," noted Markin. "Extensive archaeological investigation can help construct a better social geography of the Late Woodland/Contact period in the Upper Choptank."

Six paid internships will be made available to employ students as field crew members, lab assistants, and research assistants, allowing them to gain valuable professional experience, something near and dear to Markin's heart.

[Read the full story here.](#)



Julie Markin, associate professor of anthropology and archaeology and director of archaeology at Washington College

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Affiliate Members



MICUA's 2024 Business Affiliates

The MICUA Business Affiliate Program is an initiative designed to create additional connections between the business community and Maryland's thirteen independent colleges and universities.

