



October 15, 2012

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Governor of the State of Maryland  
Executive Offices  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

David H. Nevins '76  
Chair  
Board of Visitors  
Towson University

8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252-0001

Dear Governor O'Malley,

At the close of my first year as chair of the Towson University Board of Visitors, I am pleased to report that FY12 was a year of substantial accomplishments for our institution. My colleagues and I are particularly proud of the fact that the university moved forward in several areas despite key leadership transitions and continuing fiscal challenges.

The year's most significant development was the September 2011 announcement that Dr. Maravene Loeschke, president of Mansfield University, would become Towson University's 13th president. Her appointment followed a national search for a successor to Dr. Robert L. Caret, who now serves as president of the University of Massachusetts System.

A Baltimore native and Towson alumna, Dr. Loeschke spent more than three decades on campus, earning two degrees and climbing the faculty ranks to become dean of the university's College of Fine Arts and Communication. In 2002 she accepted an appointment as provost of Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. She resigned that post in 2006 to assume the presidency of Mansfield University, one of 14 public universities comprising the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

Throughout her career, Dr. Loeschke has focused her leadership on the development of students, faculty, and staff. She has earned a reputation for advancing excellence on campuses as well as developing mutually beneficial partnerships between universities and their greater communities.



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The breadth and depth of her knowledge, acquired in different roles and honed by decades of experience, makes her uniquely qualified to lead Towson University as it approaches its 150th anniversary of service to the citizens of Maryland in 2016.

The past fiscal year also saw the departure of Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Marcia Welsh, who in April 2012 accepted an appointment as president of East Stroudsburg University. Dr. Welsh served Towson University with distinction as provost and as interim president during the national search for Dr. Caret's successor. She did a great deal to advance the excellence of the Academic Division in her three years with the university.

Last spring, President Loeschke appointed Dr. Nancy Grasmick, a Towson alumna and former Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, as Presidential Scholar for Innovation in Teacher and Leader Preparation. Nearly \$3 million has been raised to support this work, including a \$2 million grant from the National Math and Science Initiative and through the Maryland State Department of Education to create a Towson UTeach program to prepare students to become science, technology and mathematics teachers.

Now in its third year, the university's strategic plan, *Towson University 2016: Building Within – Reaching Out*, continues to make headway with its goal of strengthening the Towson experience and fulfilling the university's mission to serve and meet the needs of the state of Maryland and region.

Philanthropic support continues to play a vital role in achieving the objectives outlined in *Towson University 2016*. These include:

**Student Philanthropy (Building Within)**

Towson University students raised \$10,000 through a Tigerthon fundraiser to benefit a Wellness Center program serving young adults in cancer recovery.

**Alumni Participation (Building Within)**

Towson University marked an increase of 12 percent in the number of alumni donors over FY11. The university also introduced Founders Gold, which targets participation in the annual campaign by recent graduates.



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Enhanced Facilities for Student Learning (Building Within)

Building on successful fundraising efforts in the previous year to establish the College of Business and Economics' T. Rowe Price Finance Lab, with a \$250,000 gift from T. Rowe Price, individuals and corporations contributed an additional \$153,000 for this project. This amount was further augmented by the proceeds of a Towsonopoly Tournament and Gala held in November 2011.

Enhanced Opportunities for Student Learning Abroad (Reaching Out)

Grants totaling \$45,000 from the Ben & Esther Rosenbloom Foundation and the Charles Crane Family Foundation assisted in underwriting the cost of the inaugural Study Abroad to Israel trip led by a member of the faculty of the Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University.

Teacher Transformation (Reaching Out), \$600,000 was committed by St. John Properties, Whiting-Turner Contracting, and alumnus Vince Talbert '90 in support of teacher transformation efforts led by Dr. Nancy Grasmick.

This past year Mike Waddell, Director of Athletics, continued his efforts to establish Tiger athletics at the core of a vision for Towson's future. The high point of the 2011 season was the success of the university's football program, which accomplished one of the most dramatic turnarounds in college football history under the guidance of Coach Rob Ambrose.

Only one season removed from a 1-10 record, the "Turnaround Tigers" posted a 9-2 regular season record and won the CAA championship outright. The team made its first-ever appearance in the NCAA FCS playoffs, becoming the first program to earn playoff berths at the Division II, Division III and Division I level.

Towson's newest—and most impressive—athletics facility, Tiger Arena, took shape as the fiscal year progressed. The 90,000 square foot building is slated to open in 2013.

Welcome additions to our physical plant also include the West Village Commons, as well as a 1,500 space parking garage in the West Village Residential Complex. Many thanks for the College of Liberal Arts Building as it continues to be one of the most-visited academic buildings on campus, seeing more than 22,000 students per semester.



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Also nearing completion are a new Public Safety Building and the much-needed renovation of the historic Newell and Richmond residence halls.

Thank you for funding two major capital projects this year: a much-needed pedestrian walkway over Osler Drive and the renovation and addition to Smith Hall, which houses the university's science classrooms and laboratories crucial to supporting our focus on STEM education.

In addition, Towson University embarked on an \$8 million project to increase the energy efficiency of lighting systems across campus. In coordination with an Energy Services Contractor (ESCO), the university will install more than 34,000 new and retrofitted light fixtures and 9,300 occupancy sensors in campus buildings over the next year.

These renovations will allow the university to reduce annual campus carbon emissions by 15 percent and achieve more than \$1 million in annual cost savings from reduced energy usage.

I am delighted to report that Towson University continued to receive honors, awards and recognition from many quarters during FY12, including the following:

The *U.S. News & World Report 2012 America's Best Colleges* guide ranks Towson University 11th in the public Regional Universities (North) category, placing it among the best of the 46 institutions surveyed.

Towson University is among *Forbes'* 2012 America's Top Colleges, which includes more than 650 public and private undergraduate institutions.

Towson University is included in the third annual edition of *The Princeton Review's Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition*. Published in partnership with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), it is the only guide that focuses solely on colleges that have demonstrated a notable commitment to sustainability.

Towson University's WTMD-FM has once again been voted "Best Radio Station" in Baltimore magazine's readers' poll. The 2011 survey was conducted as part of the magazine's annual "Best of Baltimore" contest.



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The university was been named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities that achieve meaningful, measureable outcomes in the communities they serve.

*GI Jobs* magazine, the premier publication for military transitioners, included Towson University on its 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools.

Campus Pride's LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index awarded Towson University four out of five stars for its ongoing efforts to produce a safer, more inclusive campus.

In addition to expanding opportunities for research and learning, grants and contract funding continues to allow faculty to pursue scholarly achievement and provide research opportunities for students. The following represent only a sample of the Towson University initiatives that received external funding during FY12:

Under the President's Race to the Top initiative, the Maryland State Department of Education awarded Towson University's College of Education, whose dean is Raymond Lorion, \$1,474,922, to evaluate the Race to the Top projects in the state of Maryland through the Center for Application and Innovation Research in Education.

The National Science Foundation has awarded a Research Experiences for Undergraduates grant to Towson University for the project, "Anthropology by the Wire: Community Ethnography Through Multimedia Research." The \$277,515 project, under the direction of Drs. Samuel Collins and Matthew Durlington, will recruit a diverse group of students drawn primarily from area community colleges for anthropological research projects on a Baltimore neighborhood.

The Department of Chemistry's Ryan Casey and David Ownby, and Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences' Steven Lev, were collaboratively awarded \$234,657 from the International Copper Association/Copper Development Association. The project will examine "Attenuation of the Potential Impacts of Copper Roof Runoff by Stormwater Best Management Practices."



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Dr. Matthew Hemm, Department of Biological Sciences, became the latest faculty member at Towson University to receive a prestigious CAREER award from the National Science Foundation. The five year award is expected to total \$668,568, as Dr. Hemm investigates small proteins in Escherichia Coli.

In addition, faculty members Dr. Jane Wolfson, Department of Environmental Science and Studies, and Dr. Michael O'Leary, Department of Mathematics, were welcomed into the University's Million Dollar Club. The club honors highly successful faculty who have received a million dollars in cumulative sponsored funding over their careers at Towson.

Towson University was also named a "Top Producer" of U.S. Fulbright Scholars by the Institute for International Education. The Fulbright Program provides funding for students, scholars, teachers and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

Although space constraints do not permit me to enumerate every positive outcome of the past fiscal year, I should like to include some of the FY12 accomplishments, initiatives and outcomes that attest to Towson University's far reaching impact and contribution to the State.

Towson provided quality education to 21,960 students—80 percent of whom are Marylanders—both on this campus and at sites throughout the state. We proudly graduated 4,963 students at the winter and spring commencement ceremonies.

A U.S. Department of Agriculture grant enabled Towson University to create community and school gardens in Baltimore's Cherry Hill neighborhood through the People's Garden, an initiative which provides access to fresh, healthy food and education about urban agriculture and best dietary needs.

In a unique collaboration with Maryland Public Television's sixth annual Chesapeake Bay Week, Towson University's WTMD-FM simulcast a live Concert for the Chesapeake Bay.

The Towson University Student Government Association and TU's Veterans Services joined forces to host the university's first Military Appreciation Day.



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Maryland Higher Education Commission approved Towson University's building in Harford County, which will help the university serve Harford County in its 2+2 programs. Towson University has established the School of Emerging Technology, which is focused on developing and supporting innovative, integrative and interdisciplinary programs at the undergraduate through doctoral levels.

In closing, I strongly support Towson University's ongoing commitment to serving as a work force engine for Maryland, working with local and state governments and other community partners to ensure the success of our students and our graduates.

During the past fiscal year the university advanced its mission, met critical work force needs, and provided expertise to address social, economic and community issues.

And, as it has in years past, Towson University continued to leverage scarce resources in innovative and collaborative ways to attain our most important goal: providing and affordable, accessible, quality education for the citizens of our state.

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, I extend my thanks for your continuing support for Towson University.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David H. Nevins".

David H. Nevins  
Chair  
Board of Visitors

c: Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, President of the Senate  
Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House  
Norman H. Conway, Chair, House Appropriations Committee  
Edward Kasemeyer, Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
Danette G. Howard, Interim Secretary of Higher Education, MHEC  
William E. Kirwan, Chancellor, University System of Maryland  
James L. Shea, Chair, USM Board of Regents  
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Warren G. Deschenaux, Director, Office of Policy Analysis