
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Dec. 9, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

I'm delighted to announce that the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents has named Gregory Fowler the next president of the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC). He begins his presidency on January 4.

Dr. Fowler has served as president of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) Global Campus since September 2018, and first joined the institution eight years ago as chief academic officer and vice president for academic affairs. His dynamic leadership at a pioneering institution like SNHU makes him a perfect fit for UMGC, the nation's largest online public university and an international exemplar in serving adult learners, including members of the military.

Dr. Fowler's portfolio has included more than 200 undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, social sciences, nursing and health professions, and STEM programs. He's led expansive teams of academic leadership, including deans, vice presidents, executive directors, and more than 6,500 faculty and subject-matter experts.

Dr. Fowler quite clearly shares the USM's commitment to diversity and inclusion. He's been driven throughout his career to discover ways to help more learners succeed, especially those who never thought they'd have the opportunity for a higher education credential. His focus on academic quality, affordability, and accessibility is inextricably tied to educational equity and inclusion.

Under Dr. Fowler's leadership, SNHU expanded its learning experiences with municipalities, community organizations, and corporations. He forged partnerships to get "near completers" at Historically Black Institutions over the degree finish line. He developed and enlarged SNHU's prior learning and current learning assessments, so that more students—including military, industry-certified, and non-traditional students—could earn academic credit for what they know and can do. He developed partnerships with schools serving students with learning disabilities and anxieties. He expanded learning programs at refugee camps in the Middle East and Africa.

I'm particularly impressed with Dr. Fowler's student-centered leadership—his ability to bring together professionals inside and outside the academic team—faculty, instructional designers, learning resource specialists, staff in admissions, financial aid, and student services—to chart the "learner lifecycle" and provide a continuum of student-specific supports that nurture success.

Dr. Fowler is well versed in the disruption happening within higher education—especially now as we confront a pandemic that’s affected our business model—and he’s committed to innovating how we credential and curate learning experiences to keep pace with that disruption. Dr. Fowler serves as a board member and commissioner for the New England Commission of Higher Education, where he’s worked with a team reviewing the shift to remote learning and forecasting its impact on the future of higher education.

Over a 25-year career in higher education, Dr. Fowler has held senior-level academic and administrative positions at Western Governors University, Penn State University, Hesser College, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is a two-time Fulbright Senior Scholar (Germany and Belgium). He credits all of these opportunities—in the U.S. and abroad—with advancing his understanding of how organizations can crystallize their mission and use that clarity of vision to meet their goals. An announcement regarding Dr. Fowler’s appointment will be released shortly and will be available at the [USM Newsroom](#).

I’m excited to see how Dr. Fowler’s experience and vision will shape the next chapter for UMGC, whose leadership has made the university a central figure in the higher education landscape, nationally and internationally, and a premier institution worldwide in academic innovation.

I thank all the members of the search committee, led by USM Regent Sam Malhotra, for their hard work and long hours in selecting such a worthy candidate in Dr. Fowler. I also thank Javier Miyares for eight years of transformative leadership at UMGC, where he expanded enrollment, academic programs, strategic partnerships, and collaborations with the university’s sister USM institutions. Javier’s focus on access and affordability—as well as his ability to leverage big data and analytics to innovate UMGC’s business model—has made the university the acclaimed institution it is today.

Finally, I thank Dr. Larry Leak, who has served as interim UMGC president since the fall. His deep knowledge of the university and his energetic leadership have provided stability and momentum throughout the search process. I’m delighted that Larry has agreed to stay on at UMGC temporarily as an advisor through the presidential transition.

Sincerely,



Jay A. Perman
Chancellor