



DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

DSA News For You

Event Highlights, Grants that Foster Student Success

Monday, February 19, 2024

Dear DSA Colleague,

The spring semester is in full swing, and you have created so many opportunities for students to learn, grow, and find belonging—thank you! Given all that is happening, I want to highlight a few ongoing and upcoming programs.

The Stamp's [Multicultural Involvement Community Advocacy](#) team continues hosting a Black History Month event series, "[Reconnecting Afrofutures: The Future is Now.](#)" These events honor the incredible legacy of Black history, and invite us to explore the limitless possibilities of tomorrow while celebrating the resilience, creativity, and vision of the Black community.

The University Career Center will host its largest [career and internship fair](#) for our students this week. This is an incredible opportunity for students to connect directly with employers hiring for internships and full-time opportunities. The Career Center is here for our students the moment they step on campus—it is never too early or too late to visit.

And, we invite you to gather with your colleagues at our annual [DSA Spring Renewal](#) on Thursday, March 7. During our time together, we will offer divisional and institutional updates and share our final DSA Strategic Plan. So many of you have been involved in our strategic planning process. I am grateful for everyone's participation, and I am excited for you to see the commitments and goals that will guide our future. Together, let's strengthen our community and advance our vision!

I know that many more events are happening in your departments—thank you for all you do. YOU help our students thrive.

Grants that Foster Student Success, Civic Engagement

- We received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to foster student success. Named "Maryland's ABCs for Student Success: Advising, Belonging and Coaching," the award will fund training for a cohort of peer mentors at institutions within USM. The Incentive Awards Program and University Career Center will lead this initiative on our campus! Mentors will help newly enrolled students navigate university life by connecting them with campus support resources. And, the relationship that new students experience with their mentors will help build a sense of belonging. This program will truly help students thrive.

- The Stamp's Leadership and Community Service Learning (LCSL) and TerpsVote programs, in partnership with the School of Public Policy, received a "Help America Vote College Program" grant from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. This grant will support USM campuses as they encourage students to work as poll workers for elections over the next two years. As educators, it's our responsibility to prepare students to be civically engaged citizens. Thank you to our colleagues in LCSL and TerpsVote for leading the way.

You are awesome and you are doing awesome work!

Warmest Wishes,

Patricia A. Perillo, Ph.D.

Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Maryland

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Save the Dates

- [Black History Month: Reconnecting AfroFutures](#) -- February 1 - 29
- [Indaba: Supporting Students and Free Speech](#) - Thursday, February 29, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- [Giving Day](#) -- Wednesday, March 6
- [DSA Spring Renewal](#) -- Thursday, March 7, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.