



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

VIA: Julian Willis, County Administrator

FROM: Danita Boonchaisri, Acting Director

DATE: November 18, 2021

SUBJECT: Update from University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland (USMSM)

Background:

USMSM's new Southern Maryland Autonomous Research and Technology (SMART) building is an \$86 million, 84,000-square foot academic and research facility which has become transformative for USMSM and Southern Maryland. This new facility is expected to become a catalyst for economic activity and job growth in the region.

In state-of-the-art classrooms, students from across Southern Maryland now have enhanced access to in-demand educational programs, including those needed for completion of bachelor's degrees, giving these students the opportunity to live, work and study close to home. The SMART building features an autonomous technologies research facility, which includes underwater, air and land testing capabilities that will be used by start-ups, engineers and researchers.

Discussion:

On Tuesday, November 30, 2021, you will receive a brief overview and watch a short video that details USMSM's programs and services, along with an introduction of the SMART building and the technology it houses. Presenters will be:

- Joe Anderson, Chair of USMSM Board of Advisors
- Eileen Abel, USMSM Executive Director
- Matt Scassero, Director for Research, Innovation and Outreach, A. James Clark School of Engineering, University of Maryland, USMSM

Kathy Maney, a member of the USMSM Board of Advisors, will also be in attendance but not presenting.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

None.