Towson University is a national leader in inclusive excellence, providing leadership for the public good. That contemporary story of a 155-year-old institution is built upon momentum. And that momentum is only growing stronger.

In 2021, TU dedicated or broke ground on more than 1 million square feet of new spaces to house research, instruction and business engagement—the Science Complex, Chapman Quad, StarUp at the Armory and College of Health Professions Building. The latter will for the first time place under one roof the research and instruction that will enhance TU’s capacity to support workforce demand as the leading provider of undergraduate health professionals in Maryland. In 2022, the final renovations and finishing touches on the expansion of the University Union will complete the student life district in the heart of campus.

But, as I often say, what we’re building at TU is more than just buildings.

TU was recognized again as a top public institution in the nation in 2021. TU was recognized by “U.S. News & World Report” as a top-100 public institution in the nation overall, with even greater recognition given for social mobility, inclusion, value and support for veterans. The focus on student success evidenced by such recognitions is at the heart of TU’s new strategic plan—Leadership for the Public Good—which launched in 2021 and informs and aligns with our updated campus master plan.

These milestones follow the spring 2021 launch of RISE, the Campaign for Towson University. This ambitious campaign enters 2022 having surpassed 75% of a $100 million goal in philanthropic giving to further student achievement and the public good.

There’s much to be proud of at Towson University, and there are truly great things ahead!

Sincerely,
Kim Schatzel, Ph.D.
President
STRATEGIC PLAN

LEADERSHIP FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

With more than 150 years of leadership advancing higher education, Towson University has established a rich history of academic success and dedication to improving lives. Building upon this established excellence, TU strategically looks to the future with purpose and passion. In spring 2021, TU shared its 2020–30 Strategic Plan: Leadership for the Public Good. It outlines a vision, core values and a charge to further TU’s impact and advance its position as a national leader in higher education. It also sets forth an expectation of excellence and a focus on achieving goals.

TU’S STRATEGIC PLAN DEFINES SIX GOALS:

- **EDUCATE**: We will achieve national recognition for our innovative student-centered curriculum emphasizing engaged learning, in-demand academic programs and new approaches to instruction and learning.

- **INNOVATE**: Our faculty members are leaders in scholarship and creative activities and will be fully supported in their efforts to generate new knowledge and creative works.

- **ENGAGE**: We will serve as community leaders and partners, extending the talents of our students, faculty and staff beyond our campus boundaries to create opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, civic engagement and experiential learning.

- **INCLUDE**: We will build an even more inclusive, equitable and collaborative community where people from all backgrounds, identities, abilities and life experiences are welcomed, valued and supported.

- **SUPPORT**: We will recruit, retain and graduate students of the highest caliber and offer outstanding student success services and an engaging campus experience, reflecting TU’s values and preparing graduates to lead.

- **SUSTAIN**: We will act as leaders in advancing sustainability of all resources—environmental, human and financial.
AROUND CAMPUS

In 2021, TU officially dedicated the new Science Complex and cut the ribbon on the StarTUp at the Armory, while progress continued on the University Union expansion and ground was broken on the new College of Health Professions Building. Some administrative offices were moved to the 12-story building that TU purchased across the street from the Armory in downtown Towson, paving the way for more on-campus space to be dedicated to research and instruction. Over seven years, TU is investing more in its physical campus over seven years than at any time in university history, helping fuel $1.7 billion in public and private investment near our campus. And it is mapped out in a new campus master plan that is informed by the university’s strategic plan.

### Master Plan

TU’s master plan is a guiding document that aligns strategies, investments and physical assets in support of our institutional mission and vision. A new master plan, informed by a comprehensive planning process that culminated in fall 2021, will inform future decision-making on capital construction and the physical development of TU’s campus.

For the full campus master plan, visit towson.edu/facilities/masterplan

### Planned Openings

- **College of Health Professions Building**: Summer 2024
- **Smith Hall Renovation**: Summer 2026

### Capital Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Expected Opening</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science Complex</td>
<td>Opened spring 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Hall Renovation</td>
<td>Planned opening: Summer 2026</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Health Professions Building</td>
<td>Summer 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Union</td>
<td>Phase I: Fall 2021 Phase II: Summer 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residences at 10 West Burke Avenue</td>
<td>Planned for 2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Towers</td>
<td>Summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Plaza</td>
<td>Summer 2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burdick Hall</td>
<td>Opened for 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glen Dining</td>
<td>Opened summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Campus Athletic Fields</td>
<td>Opened summer 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESIDENCE TOWER</td>
<td>Planned for 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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INCLUDED & DIVERSITY

TOWSON UNIVERSITY IS A NATIONAL LEADER IN INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

Included in the university’s strategic plan and the diversity strategic plan, Towson University places an institution-wide emphasis on inclusion and positive change.

For the second year in a row, Towson University was recognized by “Insight into Diversity” magazine with a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award. TU is one of only two universities in Maryland to be recognized and one of 90 institutions across the country. It is the only national award recognizing U.S. colleges and universities for demonstrating “an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion across their campuses,” according to the magazine.

The HEED Award is open to all colleges and universities across the U.S. and Canada and measures an institution’s level of achievement and intensity of commitment in regard to broadening diversity and inclusion on campus through initiatives, programs and outreach, student recruitment, retention and completion and hiring practices.

Among national public universities, TU climbed to No. 70 in social mobility, according to “U.S. News and World Report.” The social mobility measure considers the number of Pell Grant recipients and compares their graduation rates to those of non-Pell Grant recipients at the university. TU’s minority and Pell-eligible student populations far exceed the national average for academic success.

“Washington Monthly” also graded TU highly on social mobility: TU is 33rd overall and the only Maryland institution in the top 50. The university also ranked 4th among national universities in graduation rate performance, which includes the percentage of students who graduate in eight years.

A national leader in inclusive excellence, Towson University has received a five-star rating from CampusPrideIndex.org, a national assessment tool assisting campuses in improving safety and campus climate for people who identify as LGBTQ+.

TU is one of just 47 of the nation’s colleges and universities to receive the highest ranking possible and is joined by University of Maryland, College Park as the only five-star-rated institutions in the state. In individual analysis, TU’s LGBTQ+ policy on inclusion, support and institutional commitment, campus safety, and counseling and health received five stars.

TU enrolls and graduates the 2ND-LARGEST POPULATION OF MINORITY STUDENTS of any university in the state.

SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>African American</th>
<th>Latinx</th>
<th>Pell Recipients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland Public Institutions*</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Primary State Control Only            IPEDS - 2013 cohort data

2021 ANNUAL REPORT TOWSON UNIVERSITY
TU is a national leader in student-centered education, where students will develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to become ethical leaders in a global society.

More than one-quarter of the students who transfer to four-year institutions in Maryland matriculate to Towson University. And each year, about half of TU’s incoming students are transferring from another institution, making up a large and important part of the university community.

Forged from an idea sparked by the President’s Inclusive Leadership Institute, the Transfer Mentor Program helps the new students adjust to campus life through one-on-one mentorship with a TU faculty or staff member. TU offers resources for prospective students looking to transfer and enrolled students who are adjusting following a transfer. The university’s partnerships with local community colleges only help future Tigers get the most out of their experience with credits that transfer along with them upon enrolling at TU.

When it comes to choosing a college, Towson University is in the top 1% among universities nationwide for veterans. TU’s Military & Veterans Center (MVC) promotes a safe and like-minded community, personal growth and career development opportunities, and comprehensive academic support. In fact, TU was one of the first institutions in the region to establish a military and veteran’s center. As a result of this intentional support, Towson University has introduced programs such as Students Achieve Goals through Education (SAGE), which provides peer-to-peer mentorship that fosters academic achievement, personal development and campus-wide involvement.

Towson University strives for inclusive excellence by providing high quality learning environments for students from all backgrounds. This includes its community of first-generation students, who are typically identified as students whose parents have not received a college- or university-level education. TU is home to 2,843 undergraduate students who identify as first generation — which represents 14% of the undergraduate student population.

TU is home to 2,843 undergraduate students who identify as first generation. To help first-generation students adjust to college life, Towson University has introduced programs such as Students Achieve Goals through Education (SAGE), which provides peer-to-peer mentorship that fosters academic achievement, personal development and campus-wide involvement.

Many faculty and staff were also first-generation students, including Towson University President Kim Schatzel.
Basic and applied research programs cross all disciplines at Towson University and provide the foundation for innovative solutions to some of the nation’s most pressing challenges. With state-of-the-art facilities and resources, TU is primed to harness its growing momentum to foster ground-breaking research by its faculty.

In early October 2021, an independent group of cold-case investigators claimed to have found the identity of the Zodiac Killer, one of America’s most notorious serial killers and a case that has gone unsolved for more than 50 years.

The volunteer team, called the Case Breakers, consists of more than 40 former FBI officials, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and forensic scientists. And Kelly Elkins, an associate professor in TU’s Department of Chemistry. Elkins, who specializes in DNA recovery, and her undergraduate students aren’t just piecing together clues, they’re helping solve decades-old crimes.

“I publish the research I’m doing with my students,” Elkins says. “We’ve had several projects involving DNA recovery, and the Case Breakers were interested in adding DNA expertise.”

Find more stories like this at towson.edu/academics/research
Towson University faculty represented five of the 16 recipients of the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents’ Faculty Awards in 2021. TU had the most recipients of the USM’s highest faculty honor of all the member schools.

TU’s honorees—clinical associate professors Karen Day and Elizabeth Crusse and associate professors Katherine Holman, Joel Moore and Natalie Scala—were honored in all four categories of the prestigious awards and represent the College of Health Professions, College of Education, College of Business & Economics and the Fisher College of Science & Mathematics.

Day and Holman were honored for Excellence in Teaching, Scala for Excellence in Public Service, Crusse for Excellence in Mentoring and Moore for Excellence in Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity.

“These honorees are but a representation of our fantastic academy, and I’m proud that these five faculty members have been recognized for how they and their colleagues have fueled exceptional teaching, research, service and innovation at TU,” says Melanie Perreault, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs.

TU secured more than $14 million in grants in fiscal year 2021. This investment in TU’s work is further evidence of the excellence within faculty, research and programming.

The National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity located within the National Security Agency has awarded TU a $2.2 million, two-year grant (with an option to increase to $3.2 million) to lead a task force dedicated to cataloging and improving U.S. cybersecurity curricula.

In fall 2021, faculty in TU’s College of Education and College of Health Professions were awarded grants totaling $3.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education to prepare pre-service and in-service teachers of special education students.
TU serves Baltimore, extending beyond our campus boundaries to create opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, civic engagement and experiential learning.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP

TU is a state-wide hub for entrepreneurship and business engagement, where innovative ideas, people and businesses are sparked, developed and nurtured. The campus-wide focus on entrepreneurship is led by executive director Patrick McQuown (left) and housed in downtown Towson. The StarTUp at the Armory is a one-of-a-kind, 26,000-square-foot business engagement center in the heart of Towson and Baltimore County, open to the public and featuring free co-working space, 15 offices and seven conference rooms to support partners and fellows of the StarTUp Accelerator.

 TU is an anchor institution providing leadership for the public good. Launched in fall 2021 and developed by leaders for leaders, the Dr. Nancy Grasmick Leadership Institute challenges the status quo of leadership development. Led by executive director Erin Moran (left), the Institute offers a values-driven and robust portfolio of offerings for individuals and organizations that create transformational outcomes for leaders at any level in their careers and across all industries. The Institute aspires to positively impact the region and beyond through results-producing and ethical leadership development.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

INSIDE AT THE ARMORY:

- 6,000 square feet of dedicated co-working space
- Free and open to the public
- 26,000 square feet of engagement space for workforce development
- $4.5 million annual income of StarTUp cohort ventures
Partnerships are central to TU’s identity as a community-engaged institution, enhancing the student experience and creating positive impacts in our community.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Towson University’s work with nearly 300 partners across the region through BTU-Partnerships for Greater Baltimore didn’t stop. Instead, the partnerships pivoted, endured challenges and, in some cases, formed because of the pandemic. Towson University President Kim Schatzer established BTU in 2016 to enhance and strengthen TU’s community partnerships throughout greater Baltimore. The efforts of the 2021 BTU Awards honorees indicate that the mission of BTU has taken hold.

The honorees included:
- The College of Health Professions for addressing myriad needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- New Song Academy and Towson University Art Education Partnership, a 27-year-long affiliation providing opportunities for youth to explore the arts alongside TU students
- COE TUTors, born out of the pandemic as a result of P-12 students needing additional support with remote learning
- Grantwriting in Valued Environments (G.I.V.E.), a BTU signature partnership that advances students’ professional writing goals by connecting coursework to nonprofits

For the third consecutive term, TU graduated nursing students early to go to the frontlines to assist with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As the largest provider of undergraduate health care professionals to the state, TU is truly providing leadership for the public good.

More than 40 undergrads finished their coursework early and began working in health care settings in December 2021. That follows a similar number in prior terms.

“We are very proud of our nursing graduates who are answering the call to assist our fellow Marylanders in this critical effort,” says Melanie Perreault, provost and executive vice president for academic and student affairs. “Our students and faculty have done a tremendous job in preparing for an early graduation without compromising any standards of excellence.”
Towson University is on the RISE. And the evidence and promise of that momentum is seen through RISE, the Campaign for Towson University. This ambitious vision for TU’s future is also the collective force through which TU’s culture of philanthropy is driven.

RISE, the Campaign for Towson University launched publicly in April 2021. By the end of the calendar year 2021, TU was already more than 75% of the way to the ambitious $100 million goal that this historic campaign hopes to reach. While seven-figure gifts have played a significant role, the campaign is built upon thousands of donors who contribute each year. The RISE campaign will further fuel TU’s continued growth and provide the resources necessary to achieve a bold and ambitious institutional vision, detailed in the university’s 2020-30 strategic plan.

TU has surpassed $10 million in total philanthropic gifts for four consecutive years, and fiscal year 2021 marked the largest year of philanthropy in the university’s history. In support of the public launch of RISE, TU raised nearly $18 million during FY21, an astounding 124% of the university’s goal, and $3.9 million more than the previous record-setting year. About 3,800 True Tiger Society members made contributions throughout the year, and TU’s 2021 Big Give resulted in a one-day record of 1,619 donors and more than $144,000.

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR
The Association of Fundraising Professionals Maryland Chapter, a leading advocate for fundraising and philanthropic issues in the state, recognized FRAN SOISTMAN JR. ’79, ’15 (HON.) as the 2021 Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year. Soistman, who serves as a co-chair for the RISE campaign, gifted $5.4 million to TU in FY21—the largest gift from an alum in university history. He has supported many TU projects and initiatives with more than $6.1 million since making his first gift in the late 1980s.
The Towson University women’s volleyball team (left) won its third consecutive Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) championship in November 2021, on their home court at SECU Arena. The Tigers are the first team to three-peat since George Mason in the mid-1990s and are the first CAA volleyball team to win two championship tournaments in the same calendar year after winning the 2020 title in April 2021 during the pandemic-delayed and shortened season.

The Towson University men’s swimming & diving team captured its first CAA championship in April 2021. Tigers’ head coach Jake Shrum was named CAA Men’s Coach of the Year, while record-setting freshman Brian Benzing was named Most Outstanding Performer for the championship. The win was the first conference title for the Tiger men since the 1981–82 season.

In fall 2021, as the football team returned to the field at Unitas Stadium, alumni and community members gathered on the concourse to dedicate a bust to long-time coach and educator Phil Albert (right). He died in December 2020 after dedicating more than 30 years to TU’s football program—20 as head coach. The bust was donated by alumni, family and friends as a token of appreciation for his service and leadership to TU.

Also in fall 2021, TU began upgrades to the fieldhouse at Unitas Stadium. Part of a record $5.4 million gift from alum and philanthropist Fran Soistman, the Athletic Academic Achievement Center will accommodate more than 520 student-athletes and support on-site technology for project work, tutoring and academic advising. The renovations will further reinforce TU’s commitment to student success and continue the standard of TU consistently leading the University System of Maryland’s Division I institutions in graduation success rate.
WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT TOWSON UNIVERSITY

NO. 99 among national public universities

TU IS THE FASTEST-GROWING UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

NO. 35 among national public universities

TOP 70 nationally for social mobility

TOP 9% nationally for social mobility

NO. 103 “Best Colleges for Your Money”

U.S. News & World Report

Washington Monthly

U.S. News & World Report

Center for World University Rankings

NO. 99 among national universities

NO. 35 among national universities

TOP 70 internationally

TOP 9% internationally

NO. 103 “Best Colleges for Your Money”

U.S. News & World Report

Washington Monthly

U.S. News & World Report

Center for World University Rankings

TU’S DIVERSITY REFLECTS THE STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND POPULATION

TU STUDENTS

White

Other / Multiracial

Latino

Asian

African American

2019 Maryland Census Data

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

TU IS THE FASTEST-GROWING UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

26,000 Students

25% ENROLLMENT INCREASE SINCE 2000

FALL 2021: 20,856 STUDENTS

20,000

15,000

10,000

5,000

2000...2005...2010...2015...2020
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

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Regina Carlow
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