

**Statement by USM Board of Regents Chair Linda Gooden and
Chancellor Robert Caret on the
Search for a New President at Coppin State University
July 19, 2019**

There have been many good ideas put forward over the years regarding how policymakers and the business community could improve both K-12 and higher education in the City of Baltimore—and all of them have included a strong and vibrant Coppin State University.

Coppin State University holds a unique and important place in both the city, the region, and the University System of Maryland (USM)—its historic mission of serving students of color remains as critical today as on the day of its founding in 1900. Its challenges—and many strengths—will require an exceptional leader able to develop a vision and a plan to take the institution, its faculty and staff, to new levels of excellence. Coppin needs this leadership—and the City of Baltimore needs this leadership at Coppin.

For this reason, the USM Board of Regents looks forward to the completion of the presidential search at Coppin State and remains confident it will attract a leader of national stature. It is important for the future of the institution, the USM and the City of Baltimore.