

**Base Realignment and Closing
Maryland Congressional Delegation Meeting
June 3, 2009**

**Presented by
Dr. Stephen Pannill, President, Cecil College**

Partnerships are the cornerstone of Maryland community colleges' mission. The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) has enabled many of Maryland's community colleges to establish and/or strengthen their partnerships with those involved in planning for BRAC, including the military, DOD contractors, local businesses, employees, and of course our local, state, and congressional representatives.

Our colleges have revamped existing programs and developed new courses to meet the needs identified by our BRAC partners and local community. In fact, our community colleges' ability to respond to the ever-changing needs of our region has allowed us to position ourselves to grow, which will ensure that our counties' economic development prospers, and results in more jobs for our graduates.

Community colleges have seized the opportunities that BRAC has afforded our state. We are confident that we will play a pivotal role with the implementation and ongoing needs of BRAC, offering programs that support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) career tracks. More specifically, Maryland's community colleges have already implemented BRAC-specific training courses and certificate programs including:

- **Homeland Security and Intelligence Analytics**-Anne Arundel Community College, in affiliation with the National Academic Consortium for Homeland Security, developed this degree program to meet a growing workforce need in the state and region. Courses included Terrorism/Counterterrorism, Intelligence Analysis and Security Management, and Developing Catastrophic Incident Responses and Emergency Contingency Plans.
- **Government Contracting/Acquisition and Procurement Certificate** - Cecil College and the Mid-Atlantic Transportation and Logistics Institute (MATLI), in partnership, will deliver a certificate program in Acquisition and Procurement that will play an essential role in providing workforce preparation for a critical shortage area related to BRAC and regional employment demands. This program will prepare individuals to work within a procurement environment after meeting qualification standards for Contract Specialists as outlined in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Operating Manual.

Cecil College received funding in the amount of \$85,000 from the Workforce ONE Maryland project grant for BRAC workforce development efforts.

- **Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF) training-** Frederick Community College leads the consortium created for this initiative, and will offer courses along with Montgomery College, Anne Arundel Community College, Community College of Baltimore County, Harford Community College, Howard Community College, and Prince George's Community College.

This program provides specialized training classes for employees of construction companies that plan to work on sensitive or secure BRAC-related sites. This training will increase the ability of small and medium-sized businesses to participate in the millions of square feet of construction and development expected to result from BRAC projects.

FCC received a \$100,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) to develop the specialized training needed by construction workers in areas impacted by the BRAC initiative. The grant is enabling organizations and community colleges in seven Maryland counties to partner in conducting the training. These funds came from a \$4 million grant awarded to the DLLR by the U.S. Department of Labor to help Maryland address workforce challenges created by the 2005 BRAC process.

In addition to implementing courses to meet the needs of BRAC, Maryland's community colleges have also played an integral role in marketing educational opportunities to those persons transferring to our state as a result of BRAC. One of the most recent initiatives is in response to House Bill 923 – *Higher Education/ Community Colleges/BRAC Exemption from Out-of-State and Out-of-County Fees*. This bill authorized the boards of trustees of community colleges to waive the 90-day in-state or in-county residency fee for BRAC employees and their dependents. Waiving this fee allows those persons transferring to Maryland as a result of BRAC to enroll in a community college as a state or county resident, thereby immediately accommodating our new partners.

Our community colleges understand that to be college and career ready, Maryland's students need to have a strong foundation in STEM-related coursework throughout their K-12 education. In order to ensure this, community colleges have worked with public schools and organizations to begin to integrate STEM academies, clubs, and other initiatives that create awareness, intrigue, and understanding of the principles students will need to meet the high-tech and science-driven careers that BRAC brings to Maryland.

We applaud projects like the science center for elementary and middle school children being built at the Harford County Public Library. The science center will feature visiting scientists, hands-on activities, and take-home science projects – all with the goal of children learning that science is fun, exciting, and part of their daily lives and future careers.

Maryland's community colleges thank you for funding that supports transportation, technology, and infrastructure improvements related to BRAC. We keenly understand that we need to continue to work on any barriers to job access and any impediments for BRAC-related contractors being able to successfully transition to Maryland. Our community colleges value the funds dedicated to BRAC-related workforce development efforts, increased funding for higher education initiatives, and studies that provide outcomes that will assist community colleges in planning for BRAC.

With an eye to the future, we ask for your continued support and flexibility with regard to Pell grants and other financial aid. Increased funding and simplified application processes would be an asset for Maryland's community college students. Additional funding for improved transportation, including local bus and rail service is imperative to career and educational access. Many of Maryland's community colleges are not connected to any type of public transportation. To be successful in our mission, we need to get students to our colleges and our graduates to their place of employment. We also look for continued opportunities to design and implement innovative workforce development opportunities, including partnerships that enhance Maryland's employment outlook.

We ask that you continue to take advantage of Maryland's community colleges as advisors in the area of education, financial aid, workforce readiness, technology, and STEM program integration. Together we can make certain that we continue to set the standard for BRAC success – for the United States, Maryland, and for community college students.