



THE COMMISSIONERS OF THURMONT

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January 31, 2024

Re: Support for HB348 Funding for the Schaefer Center

I am writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 101 for permanent funding permanent funding to The Schaefer Center at UMBC to continue to provide the great work they are accomplishing. One of those successful programs is the Maryland Certified Public Manager® program for public managers across Maryland, and I fortunately have been a recipient of one of these scholarships. The Schaefer Center also provides paid public service internships University of Baltimore students through the NextGen Leaders for Public Service program, and support to applied public policy research that supports improved decision making in public agencies.

I am currently enrolled in the Maryland Certified Public Manager® (CPM) and have been the benefactor of one of these scholarships for the CPM program at UMBC. The knowledge that I have obtained in this program is priceless. The teachings of the course have enhanced my skills immensely for public leadership. As a small municipality, this program has allowed me not only to learn new skills, but have also afforded me to apply these teachings in my daily job in real time situations. A small municipality does not have the resources to finance this type of program or our staff. These scholarships make it possible for all enrollees to learn pertinent information that is relevant for not only today, but the skill levels for programs the next generation of workers are currently leaning in high school and college.

My experience has been amazing at the Schaefer Center at UMBC in the Maryland Certified Public Manager® program, and the networking with our classmates from all over the state has been invaluable!

Please support Senate Bill 101 to continue these scholarships so that state, county, and municipal workers can participate in this course to better serve our constituents.

Thank you,

Vickie

Vickie Grinder
Town of Thurmont
Economic Development Manager

