

Anasastiya Golikova

UMBC Student at the Universities at Shady Grove Campus

Testimony in favor of SB 864

February 14, 2024

Good afternoon. **My name is Anastasiya Golikova.**

I am a UMBC student in the Translational Life Science Technology program – or what we call T-L-S-T, for short – which is offered exclusively on the Universities at Shady Grove campus.

My goal is to apply my scientific experience at one of the many cutting-edge biotech companies or research labs that are found all around our campus. I'm excited to say that *that* reality is just around the corner.

I will be graduating this May with my bachelor's degree... and I feel so fortunate to have been able to complete my UMBC studies at USG.

I first found out about USG as a high school student who attended nearby Thomas S. Wootton High School. I then began studying Biochemistry at the UMBC home campus, before transferring to UMBC at Shady Grove upon hearing about the new TLST degree.

I'm here today to urge you to pass SB 864 – to make clear what I already know: **The Universities at Shady Grove is truly a “Regional Higher Education Community of Innovation.”**

Officially designating our campus that way will help to pave the way for even more innovative partnerships – more of the same kind that helped to bring the TLST program about.

In creating the TLST program just a few years ago, UMBC collaborated with USG, Montgomery College and even the NIH, to help shape the curriculum and create internship and career placement opportunities

USG's unique position in Montgomery County has allowed me to attend international conferences and connect with top biotechnology professionals.

I am a member of the USG Student Council and the University System of Maryland Student Council – a leadership role that gives me the chance to not only serve my fellow students from UMBC, but also those who attend USG from *any* of the nine partner universities.

There really is no other place quite like USG – everything about it *is* truly innovative and incomparable.

Thank you for your support of the Universities at Shady Grove... and of this bill, SB 864.

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