



BALTIMORE

COLLEGETOWN

NETWORK

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BaltimoreCollegetown.org

January 28, 2022
Maggie McIntosh, Chair
Mark S. Chang, Vice-Chair
House Office Building, Room 121
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 255
Stance: Support

COLLEGE MEMBERS

Community College
of Baltimore County

Coppin State University

Goucher College

Johns Hopkins University

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Institute
College of Art

Morgan State University

Notre Dame of Maryland
University

Stevenson University

Towson University

University of Baltimore

University of Maryland,
Baltimore

UMBC

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Baltimore City

Baltimore County

Baltimore Development

Corporation

Maryland Transit Administration

Visit Baltimore

Madam Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the members of the Baltimore Collegetown Network, thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 255, which creates the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program (MIOP). We need **direct pathways for humanities-based businesses** to recruit student interns with strong skills in our innovation-focused world.

The MIOP is modeled after the very successful Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP), which connects talented college students with leading tech sector and start-up companies in Maryland by creating a direct pathway from college to internship to future career. MTIP, which launched in the fall of 2018, has placed high-achieving students in internships and thus has increased the number of quality internship positions in the region, engaged students in the start-up community, and supported the growth of Maryland's next generation of innovators. Under UMBC's leadership, this new program for humanities-based businesses will link students to employers through internships. By creating the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program, Maryland will be able to offer more competitive internship options to students who want to launch their life in Maryland after graduation

The Baltimore Collegetown Network includes 120,000 students. Every three years we conduct a survey of those college students, which includes the question, "*How likely are you to stay in Baltimore after you graduate?*" In the 2018 results, only 36% of students responded they were "definitely likely" to stay after graduation. Access to a job after graduation as the number one factor that will determine whether or not they stay. **The link between internships and future full-time employment is undeniable.** In the last five years, Baltimore Collegetown institutions have conferred over 10,000 business and humanities degrees. Maryland has the local talent from colleges and universities, and MIOP is the vehicle to retain talent through internships.

HB255 expands access to experiential learning opportunities for students across the state of Maryland attracts career-focused Generation Z college students. It provides a true pathway to hire and retain the next generation of talent for the state of Maryland. Please support HB255.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirsten Brinlee".

Kirsten Brinlee, Executive Director
kab@BaltimoreCollegetown.org