

Written Support**House Appropriations and House Ways and Means Committees**
House Bill 255 (Rosenberg) Maryland Internship Opportunities Program –
Creation and Income Tax Credit**Sara C. Fidler, President****sfidler@micua.org****February 1, 2022**

On behalf of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and the 58,000 students we serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony to support ***House Bill 255 (Rosenberg) Maryland Internship Opportunities Program – Creation and Income Tax Credit***. The bill establishes the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program which will provide students enrolled at public and private nonprofit institutions of higher education with internship opportunities with humanities-based businesses. The bill authorizes participating businesses to claim a credit against the State income tax for the taxable year during which the intern is employed. The Maryland Department of Labor must adopt regulations specifying criteria and procedures for the application for and approval of tax credit certificates.

Programs such as the Maryland Internship Opportunities incentivize Maryland businesses and related organizations to invest in the education and preparation of the humanities workforce and potentially build a pipeline for future employees. HB 255 opens doors to a diverse range of internship site placements, providing students with exposure to humanities and creative opportunities in small organizations across the State. Further, internships are formative experiences for college students and recent graduates in their career exploration, professional development, and knowledge and skills development. Many students must work while attending college and would be unable to take an unpaid internship. Maryland Internship Opportunities Program internships will be attractive options for students and can be important vehicles for financial support and persistence to graduation.

MICUA institutions offer programs in foreign languages, English language and literature, liberal arts and sciences, humanities, social sciences, and history, including bachelor's degrees, post-baccalaureate certificates, master's degrees, and doctoral degrees. Collectively, in the last two years, MICUA institutions awarded over 2500 baccalaureate degrees and almost the same number of graduate degrees and certificates in these disciplines. Our institutions have an 82% undergraduate retention rate, and 87% of first-time full-time freshman who first enroll at a MICUA institution graduate from that same MICUA institution, or a transfer institution within six years.

We appreciate Delegate Rosenberg's vision for the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program, the General Assembly's support for the program, and the statewide coordination for the initiative provided by the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. MICUA students have benefited and will continue to benefit from these investments, as they graduate from our institutions and join the State's talent pipeline in humanities fields.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Angela Sherman, Vice President for Academic Affairs, asherma@micua.org.

For these reasons, MICUA urges a favorable Committee report for House Bill 255.