



# College of Business

*Mission: CSU College of Business provides quality business education, inspires learners, and launches business careers as a path to lifelong success.*

## **Testimony Presented to the Senate Finance Committee SB577 – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program February 23, 2021**

The Coppin State University (CSU) has a 121-year legacy as a community-centric institution of higher education in Baltimore City. The CSU College of Business is a vital contributor to the institution's leadership in value-add education.

Coppin's commitment to community engagement led to the establishment of a formal collaboration with Open Works in 2016. Our success is evidenced by the widely read and cited 2019 maker industry report, "Turning Makerspaces into Greater Places: Organizational Assessment and Economic Impact Study." The social and economic impact of Open Works was further demonstrated when the global pandemic revealed deficits in the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers. Coppin State's 2020 case study entitled "A Makerspace's Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic," told the story of their application of Agile manufacturing techniques, resulting in the production of 28,000 face shields in 56 days. The study also revealed the ability of Open Works to generate a wide network of community volunteerism and support.

The Open Works story and best practices constitute a narrative that will be valuable to others. The non-lapsing fund administered by TEDCO will facilitate the sharing of best practices with other makerspaces and municipalities in the State of Maryland. The operational support provided by successful passage of this bill will help ensure the sustainability of makerspaces throughout the State.

For these reasons, the Coppin State University College of Business encourages a favorable vote on SB SB577.