

Senate Bill 0136
Dianne McWilliams, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Dr. Delores Datcher, CSM Board of Trustee Emeritus
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

We oppose Senate Bill 0136 – College of Southern Maryland – Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College.

We are proud to have served on the Charles County Community College Board of Trustees when it was transformed into the College of Southern Maryland. The process was complex, with lengthy research and planning, explaining and advocating for the concept to our community, other institutions and elected officials, both locally and statewide. Eventually, the measure was approved and the College of Southern Maryland became a new, unified, strong reality.

Two of the many reasons our Board of Trustees advocated the creation of the College of Southern Maryland are as follows:

1. The Students in our tri-county region would benefit.
 - Currently, the College of Southern Maryland offers over 200 Transfer Partnership Agreements with 60 colleges and universities nationwide. This means a student could earn a two-year degree at CSM and all his/her credits would transfer to a participating four-year institution. This student would then be able to acquire his/her Bachelor's degree from the four-year college or institute.
 - A student saves an average of \$11,000 in tuition by earning his/her Associate's degree at CSM and transferring to a four-year college, rather than attending the four-year institution for all four years.
 - These partnership agreements were made between the four-year institutions, other institutions (such as the U.S. Navy) and CSM. If CSM were dismantled under SB0136, and Charles County had its own community college, those agreements and the programs they represent would no longer exist.
 - These partnerships could not exist at a Community College of Charles County for 2-4 years, because it would take this long to become accredited through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and such accreditation would be a requirement for a partnership to be created.
 - If we are not accredited, students will not qualify to receive Federal financial assistance, such as Pell grants.
 - Under SB0136, it would be questionable as to whether some credits earned by our students could transfer to four-year institutions.

- With the implementation of SB0136, the course and program offerings at a Charles County Community College would come into question. Courses are authorized by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and they have an agreement with the College of Southern Maryland, not with Charles County Community College.
 - Under SB0136, a Charles County student in need of a class that is not available on the LaPlata campus, but the class offered by the campuses serving the College of Southern Maryland, would have to pay more tuition to take the class. Tuition for out-of-county students is higher than tuition for students residing in those counties.
2. A regional college unifies and strengthens our institution, as well as the entire Southern Maryland community.
- The College of Southern Maryland replaced a contractual relationship, that originally existed between the Charles County Community College and both Calvert County and St. Mary's County, with a partnership. This created an atmosphere of trust, a sense of equality, and a focus on our common goals.
 - A regional college strives to provide its students from all three counties with equal educations and opportunities.
 - A regional college saves money because there is not a duplication of efforts in administrative areas or instructional, student, facility and student services.
 - Our three counties have much in common both historically and currently. As a result, our educational needs are similar.
 - CSM prepares its students for the specific needs of the region's workforce. Approximately 90% of our graduates remain in the Southern Maryland area.

We do not believe that dismantling the College of Southern Maryland and creating a Charles County Community College would serve the educational needs of our students. In addition, it would increase the financial burden on our students and our taxpayers. Please vote AGAINST SB0136.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne McWilliams, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1990-2000; Chair 1996-1999

Dr. Delores Datcher, Trustee, Charles County Community College 1993-1999, Trustee, College of Southern Maryland 2000-2003; Chair 2001-2003

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