

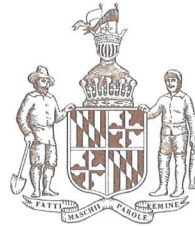
NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair

Education, Business and
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Senate Bill 864 – Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center –
Designation as Community of Innovation**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

For over twenty years, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) has been providing students with innovative pathways to degree completion. USG offers nearly 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs in partnership with University System of Maryland universities and provides a path for affordable, high-quality higher education.

In 2022 USG unveiled USG 2.0, a strategic plan which includes accountability for ensuring students secure meaningful employment, building career pathways, sharpening focus on career readiness, and building a financial model that supports growth, innovation and collaboration. Innovation at USG means offering classes and programs that are linked directly to meaningful job opportunities; providing students with the support they need to simultaneously balance personal and family responsibilities while completing their academic journeys; and connecting students directly with local and regional employers to ensure they move seamlessly from classrooms to careers.

Senate Bill 864 will designate the Universities at Shady Grove as a Community of Innovation. This designation will provide USG with the recognition and resources it needs to implement and sustain this transformational work for all current and future students and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 864.