



# News from the Chamber

March 11, 2010

## JHU President Daniels Engages MCCC Board by Presenting Vision For University's Future and Expansion Plans in Montgomery County



**Johns Hopkins University President Ronald J. Daniels (center), along with, from left: JHU Vice Provost for Research Scott Zeger; MCCC President and CEO Gigi Godwin; JHU-Montgomery County Executive Director Elaine Amir; and MCCC Board Chair William Eisig, a partner at BDO Seidman, LLP.**

Johns Hopkins University's new president, Ronald J. Daniels, capped a whirlwind day in Montgomery County on February 24, 2010, by attending the Chamber's Board of Directors meeting, where he briefed Board members on his overall vision for the university and plans for expanding its research and education presence.

Earlier in the day, Daniels and County Executive Isiah Leggett signed a Memorandum of Understanding between JHU and Montgomery County, regarding joint cooperation on strategies to advance the biosciences industry, higher education and workforce development in the county. President Daniels also announced that the National Cancer Institute will consolidate its headquarters to JHU's Montgomery County site, which will bring approximately 2,000 jobs to the Shady Grove Life Sciences Center.

Daniels said Hopkins would work closer than ever with business and industry to ensure that "our discoveries will go to the marketplace, for the benefit of all society."

He emphasized that the university's Montgomery County Campus "has never been intended for education alone," as it integrates teaching, research and business opportunities. "In all of our collaborations, proximity matters. Montgomery County is home to 19 federal labs and agencies, a list that notably includes the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Energy. Add in more than half of the state's life sciences companies and two major research universities, and you have an unparalleled local landscape of science assets."

## Chamber's First "NIST Industry Day" Attracts 500-plus Business Leaders Looking to Secure Federal Contracts



**Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director of NIST, addresses the audience at the NIST Industry Day event co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Chamber and its GovConNet program.**

More than 500 local business leaders came out to the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) headquarters, on March 2, 2010, to gain valuable insight on how to successfully do business with NIST. The first-ever NIST Industry Day, sponsored by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and its government contracting network (GovConNet), gave participants a chance to meet face-to-face with key NIST procurement officials and to hear first-hand the direction for the agency's operations.

Dr. Patrick Gallagher, Director of NIST, kicked off the event with an overview of the NIST mission and noted that 59 percent of all NIST's acquisitions went to small businesses. "NIST relies heavily on Montgomery County businesses and other Maryland businesses to accomplish its mission," said Dr.

Gallagher. "In the last fiscal year, NIST purchased about \$64 million in products and services from Maryland businesses."

MCCC President and CEO Gigi Godwin welcomed business leaders and discussed the Chamber's increased emphasis on support for government contracting firms, one of the fastest growing sectors of the local economy. "Your success in selling to federal government agencies depends on your ability to fully understand and respond to their changing needs," said Godwin. "That is why we sponsor events such as this one - to give you a unique opportunity to meet with key players in that procurement process, here on their own turf."

## County Council Appoints Chamber-endorsed Applicant, Norman Dreyfuss, to Fill Montgomery County Planning Board Seat

---



**Norman Dreyfuss (left), the newly appointed commissioner on the Montgomery County Planning Board, is shown here with Gus Bauman, vice-chair of the Chamber's Infrastructure and Land Use Committee.**

Norman Dreyfuss, executive vice president of IDI MD, the developer of Leisure World and many other developments throughout the Washington, D.C. region, was appointed by the County Council in February to fill a vacant commissioner seat on the Montgomery County Planning Board. The Chamber's Infrastructure and Land Use Committee interviewed all of the finalists for the position. The Chamber's Board of Directors sent the County Council an endorsement letter, strongly recommending that Dreyfuss be appointed to the post.

## Chamber Leads on Transportation Funding Initiatives, Advocating on a Broad Range of Legislative Issues in Annapolis



**Lisa Fadden, MCCC vice president of public affairs, speaks with State Delegate Brian Feldman (District 15), who chairs the Montgomery County House Delegation, after a rare joint meeting of the Montgomery and Prince George's combined House and Senate delegations, on regional transportation funding issues.**

With less than a month to go in the Maryland General Assembly, the Chamber has been actively involved in advocating on behalf of its members on a wide range of legislative issues. The Chamber has taken a position on more than 55 House and Senate bills and continues to monitor dozens of other bills and matters of strong interest to Chamber members.

Lisa Fadden, the Chamber's vice president of public affairs, recently testified before the legislature on several transportation issues. This included the Chamber's support for proposed, dedicated increases to the gas tax, to help fund the state's depleting Transportation Trust Fund, which pays for road and transit projects. Fadden also testified in favor of the passage of a Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation Funding, a direct outcome of the Chamber-led coalition of Montgomery and Prince George's County legislators' effort to forge solutions to the transportation funding crisis.

If you'd like to learn more about state legislative issues or to review Chamber testimony on a variety of bills before the General Assembly this session, please visit the Chamber [website](#).

### **County CAO Firestine to Address County Budget Situation March 22**

At the local level, the Chamber is also keeping a close watch on the County's fiscal situation. Montgomery County's chief administrative officer, Tim Firestine, will be the next speaker at the Chamber's Legislative Committee meeting on March 22, 2010, at 8 a.m. on the topic of the County Executive's fiscal year 2011 operating budget proposal.

## Director of National Center for Smart Growth Briefs Chamber Members on How Maryland is Faring

---



**Gerrit-Jan Knaap, executive director of the National Center for Smart Growth, headquartered at the University of Maryland, addresses Chamber members.**

Gerrit-Jan Knaap, executive director for the National Center for Smart Growth, based at the University of Maryland (College Park), was a guest speaker on Tuesday, March 9, at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Knaap addressed a joint meeting of the Chamber's Infrastructure and Land Use Committee and its Economic Development Committee and presented a snapshot on how Maryland has fared on smart growth planning policies and implementation since the passage of landmark state legislation in 1997.

## Upcoming Events

---

## Chamber After Hours

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

5:30pm-7:00pm, Buffalo Wild Wings

33-C Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD

[Register for After Hours](#)

## New & Prospective Member Orientation

Thursday, April 22, 2010

8:30am - 10:30am, MCCC Board Room

[Register for Member Orientation](#)

*Don't forget to check us out on [Facebook!](#)*

And, to learn more about Chamber events, programs and services, please visit [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com).

Or, call us any time, at 301-738-0015.

## Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members!

---

[WELCOME NEW MEMBERS](#)

[THANKS TO RENEWING MEMBERS](#)