

Support with Amendments**Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee*****SB 300 – Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students
Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018*****Tina Bjarekull, President of MICUA**

February 7, 2018

On behalf of Maryland’s independent colleges and universities and the 64,000 students they serve, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Senate Bill 300 – *Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018* – with two amendments. If enacted, Senate Bill 300 would establish the Maryland Center for Computing Education in the University System of Maryland, provide for the appointment of an Executive Director and Advisory Board, and delineate the mission and duties of the Center. It would also result in the development and adoption of content standards for computer science education and teacher professional development in K-12 schools. Further, at least one computer science course would be offered in every Maryland public high school by the 2020-2021 school year, designed to prepare students for colleges and careers.

We strongly support the establishment of the Maryland Center for Computing Education and efforts to expand and strengthen the pipeline of computer science students P-20. Eleven of the thirteen MICUA member institutions offer degree programs in computer science, computer information systems, computer engineering, or closely related fields. In addition, eleven MICUA member institutions prepare K-12 teacher candidates. MICUA members include the only institution in the State focused exclusively on engineering and information technology, Capitol Technology University. Both Capitol Technology University and Johns Hopkins University have been designated as Centers of Excellence in computer science related fields: Capitol Technology University as a Center of Academic Excellence by the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security, and Johns Hopkins University as a Department of Defense Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense and Information Assurance. In 2014, Stevenson University’s undergraduate Computer Information Systems program became one of only six undergraduate programs in the nation to earn “The National Centers of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence” accreditation by Defense Cyber Crime Center.

Although MICUA member institutions enroll only 15% of college students statewide in Maryland, they graduate 40% of all master’s degrees, 27% of all STEM bachelor’s degrees, and 27% of all new teacher candidates in the State. MICUA members are committed to building a

pipeline of Maryland students who have the knowledge and skills to succeed in highly technical and critical fields in computer science. Collaboration with the new Maryland Center for Computing Education and partners statewide will complement ongoing efforts at MICUA institutions to expand their computer science programs and attract even more undergraduate and graduate students to this career field.

MICUA members have a strong history of collaboration with the University System of Maryland, Maryland Association of Community Colleges, Maryland State Department of Education, and other key stakeholders identified in the bill. We have worked together with these partners on issues including dual enrollment, college and career readiness, transfer and articulation, STEM education, teacher preparation, and distance education. As a current example, the President of MICUA serves on the Advisory Board for the Maryland Mathematics Initiative, led by the University System of Maryland, with several MICUA member institutions participating in this initiative.

We support two amendments to the bill that embody this spirit of collaboration. The first amendment states that the Center shall “work collaboratively with nonprofit institutions of higher education in the State, including public senior higher education institutions; Historically Black Colleges and Universities; independent institutions of higher education; and the community colleges of the State.” The second amendment adds “one member recommended by the President of the Maryland Independent College and University Association” to the Center’s Advisory Board, joining the other segments of higher education that have representation.

MICUA members thank the Governor for his leadership on this issue and urge a favorable Committee report.

MICUA PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 300 – Achieving Computer Science Collaborations for Employing Students Statewide (ACCESS) Act of 2018

On page 3, after line 11, insert:

- (1) WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE, INCLUDING
 - i. PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS;
 - ii. HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES;
 - iii. INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
 - iv. THE COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF THE STATE.

On the same page, in line 12, strike “(1)” and insert “(2)”, in line 14, strike “(2)” and insert “(3)”, and in line 17, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

On page 4, after line 21, insert:

5. ONE MEMBER RECOMMENDED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION;

On the same page, in line 22, strike “5” and insert “6”, in line 24, strike “6” and insert “7”, in line 26, strike “7” and insert “8”, and in line 28, strike “8” and insert “9”.

On page 5, strike “9” and insert “10”, and in line 3, strike “10” and insert “11”.