

## Mission

To support and expand pathways to affordable, high quality public higher education that meet the distinctive needs of our region and are designed to support workforce and economic development in the state. To achieve these goals through partnerships and collaborations with academic, business, public sector and community organizations that promote student success, high academic achievement and professional advancement.

## **Core Values**

**ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY** – USG places the highest value on expanding access to higher education services and resources within its service region. We provide affordable high quality educational degree programs at the baccalaureate and post baccalaureate levels and professional development educational activities using the academic resources of the University System of Maryland and its campuses.

**DISTINCTIVE AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS** – USG is an integral and progressive member of the region. Regional partnerships are a fundamental value for the USG growth strategy. We work closely with our participating universities and community leaders to support our educational mission and to bring well-supported, creative and imaginative curricula that are built and developed through strong and sustained partnerships.

**HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES** – USG provides a high quality educational experience (instruction and student services) unique to the region. We value and deliver curricula that provide a well-rounded selection of basic and advanced studies in both general education and in specific areas related to employment opportunities in the region. In addition, we support a wide range of academic and educational activities that enhance the experiences for all students enrolled in programs offered through the USG.

**REGIONAL/STATE CAPACITY-BUILDING FOCUS** – USG is devoted to the complementary goals of serving a well-educated population and preparing a well-trained work force in the region. USG's growth and development are integrally linked to the higher education needs of the region, with particular emphasis on workforce, economic development and expanding educational access to diverse populations. We expand our offerings and services as we identify these needs to best serve the interests of potential students and regional partners.

**RESULTS ORIENTED** – USG achieves superior performance in access, affordability, instruction, and student services. Programs address regional needs. We evaluate input on our performance as a regional higher education center and always search for ways to make improvements on what matters most to our students, faculty and stakeholders.

A CENTRAL FOCUS ON STUDENT SUCCESS – Insuring student academic success is the primary goal and priority of the USG. Of special importance are the needs and interests of students who transfer to the USG from community colleges. Our central purpose is to meet and exceed student expectations for a high quality higher education experience.

**SUSTAINABILITY** – USG is committed to environmental stewardship. It is our goal to facilitate, educate, and raise awareness of sustainability in all areas of campus life. We are a "learning laboratory" where students, staff and faculty work together to lead new green initiatives that impact the entire region.