



# Beyond the Classroom

*University of Maryland Eastern Shore helps students gain real-world experience.* **By Ivy Lamb**

★ It's a huge advantage in a competitive job market for students to get practical experience in their chosen fields before graduation. At the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), those experiences are the foundation of many of its academic programs.

Founded in 1886, UMES is the state's historically black land-grant institution. Its mission is to prepare a diverse student body to meet the demands of the American economy via programs ranging from agriculture and mechanical arts to biology and engineering. While the university provides a high-quality education across the board, three areas of study stand out for their unique approach to training the next generation of graduates.

### *The Taste of Success*

The Bachelor of Science degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management at UMES exemplifies

the term "hands-on."

In addition to time spent in the classroom, students prepare and serve a weekly, three-course lunch to campus visitors each spring; design business and marketing plans for local hospitality establishments; and annually produce a smorgasbord and intermission dessert buffet for a three-day dinner theater performance — and that's just the beginning. Students also arrange an annual scholarship banquet for 500 guests, which attracts big-name celebrities from stage, screen, music, and sports.

"Our objective is to graduate professional managers in food service, lodging, or broader areas of tourism and related supportive hospitality services," says program chairman Ernest Boger. And it works — UMES alumni work for companies such as Marriott, Hyatt, Red Lobster, and the Walt Disney Co.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE

### *Flying High*

The university's Aviation Sciences program offers Maryland's only bachelor's degree in the field and preps its students to be pilots and managers, as well as training them in specialties such as electronics and software.

State-of-the-art technology exposes students to experiences they can anticipate on the job. For example, the program's FAA-approved Modular Flight Deck simulates flying more than a dozen types of aircraft. The program also places students in internships with industry partners, giving them even more practical experience and making them attractive to potential employers.

"In addition to the coursework, the various internships prepared me to enter the workforce with a competitive edge," says alumnus Api Ajavon. "As an airport management officer at BWI Marshall Airport, I've been working with many state, local, and federal entities to address transportation and emergency-management challenges within the state of Maryland."

### *Clinic Ready*

A physician assistant (PA) is a health care professional licensed to practice medicine under the supervision of a doctor. PAs conduct physical exams, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel patients on preventative health care, assist in surgery, and can write prescriptions in most states.

Acting program chairman Peter M. Stanford summarizes the UMES Physician Assistant Department motto in two words: "clinic ready." The program's Clinical Clerkship consists of nine rotations in outpatient and inpatient settings. This full year of experiential training introduces students to what is expected of them when collaborating with other professionals and helps them develop critical decision-making skills.

By the time they graduate, UMES students will have a Master in Medical Science degree that has prepared them to deliver primary health care services to a wide range of patients in rural and urban settings.



**Clockwise from left: UMES campus; the Physician Assistant program; Hotel and Restaurant Management; Aviation Sciences**

