



Natalie D. Eddington, PhD, Dean
Statement of Interest
Maryland Pharmacists Association
Board of Trustees Dean Position

As dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, I would like your support for the dean position on the MPhA Board of Trustees. My 30+ years of pharmacy education experience in Maryland has prepared me with a unique ability to understand the education, workforce, and practice-based needs of the pharmacy profession.

Current Position: In 2007, I was appointed dean of the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. This leadership position has given me the opportunity to focus more broadly on the alignment of education and workforce needs. A major tenant of my vision for pharmacy is to harness transformations within health care, such as value-based reimbursement as an opportunity to pursue reimbursement for pharmacist services (aka provider status), to accelerate interprofessional education and its adoption in practice, and to address the social determinates of health and population health needs for Maryland residents.

These three items are interrelated to the work underway in Prince George's County, where in 2017 I established an interprofessional care clinic at Prince George's Hospital Center for patients who lack access to primary care physicians. The clinic came to fruition through my role as UMB's executive director of university regional partnerships. The clinic employs nurse practitioners, pharmacists, social workers, and lawyers in a team-based model of care to reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions for patients who lack access to primary care providers. At the state level, I plan to leverage the visibility of the clinic to advocate for additional changes/rewrites of collaborative practice laws and seek reimbursement for pharmacists' clinical services by payers.

To speed the adoption of interprofessional education (IPE) and its acceptance in practice, I am working on plans to establish an interprofessional care clinic at the Universities at Shady Grove in Montgomery County for all health professional students. It is my belief that teamwork and shared values will convert fragmented care into integrated care. This work will aid my ability to influence Congress in making permanent changes to CMS policy and encourage third-party payers to follow suit.

Another area where I bring value to the Board is population health, especially in the arena of Medicaid managed care. UMSOP worked closely with Maryland Medicaid during its most recent expansion, when we heard from leaders on the challenges of payment reforms, infrastructure, and building provider networks in a timely fashion. We also heard about the need to

experiment with alternative care models that move away from office-based, face-to-face encounters toward a strategy that makes use of telehealth consultations, and the need to address integration of health and social services. This work allowed the School to deploy telehealth for follow-up consultations at the Prince George's clinic and seek reimbursement for those services.

I hope you see that my years working in pharmacy education in Maryland have provided me with a rich network of collaborative resources. My experience has provided me the opportunity to work among disparate groups to achieve a common goal. It is therefore, with great pleasure, that I seek your support for the dean position on the Maryland Pharmacists Association's Board of Trustees.

Education: Howard University School of Pharmacy, Summa Cum Laude, BS Pharmacy
University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, PhD