



# University Center at University of Maryland and Morgan State University

## University

The University of Maryland  
Morgan State University

## Center Director

Scott Dempwolf

## Center Location

School of Architecture and  
Planning

## Center since 2011

## Center Activities

- Applied research
- Technical assistance
- Training of students
- Online training modules

## Clients

- Governments
- Communities

## Assessment Techniques

- Engagement

## Contact Information

dempy@umd.edu

## The University Center

The University Center at University of Maryland and Morgan State University is designed to leverage university assets in urban and regional planning to augment current economic development efforts in the state. The Center is already providing technical assistance in the City of Baltimore but, as a new Center, much of the Center's efforts are currently focused on applied research and the development of a database which will eventually be utilized as an innovative tool for technical assistance.

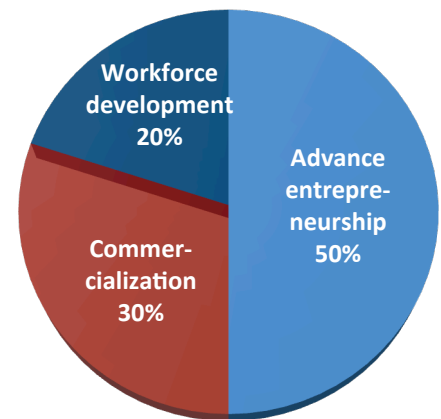
## Activities

The University Center at University of Maryland and Morgan State University aims to serve the State of Maryland in advancing entrepreneurship, commercialization, and workforce development through applied research and technical assistance.

At present, the primary focus of the Center is an applied research project in entrepreneurship and innovation networks: the building of the Maryland Entrepreneur & Innovation

Network Information System (MENIS). Upon completion, MENIS will be utilized to provide technical assistance in economic development projects with interested parties such as the Maryland Department of Labor, the Governor's Office, and the City of Baltimore.

Another core activity for the Center is the provision of technical assistance in economic development planning. The



Center has been working closely with the local community surrounding Morgan State University, the "Morgan Mile," on a project to revitalize and stabilize the area within a one-mile radius of the University. A group of master's students, as a part of a 6-credit Community Planning Studio course, have also provided technical

assistance to the City of Baltimore by examining the relationship between industrial land use and development at the local and regional level around the Port of Baltimore.

In the future, the Center plans to create a series of online “how to” modules on topics such as economic analysis.

### Leveraging

In addition to the matching funds provided by the School of Architecture, Planning and

Preservation, last year the Center received a seed grant from the University’s Office of Research in order to accelerate the development of the MENIS database. Access to students has also been leveraged by the Center through the 6-credit Community Planning Studio.

*The University Center’s work “is helping us make connections between strengths we perceived, and those revealed by the data. Our CEDS will be a stronger, more useful document as a result.”*

## Success

### The Morgan State Mile

The Morgan Mile is a university-wide project, with the goal of revitalizing and stabilizing the area within a one-mile radius around Morgan State University, which is currently economically depressed. While the project is still in progress, the dramatic increase in meeting attendance, participation, and communication between the community and the university project team is seen as an important signal of success. The relationships and trust built by the extensive outreach effort are viewed as an important foundation for the

implementation of the plan, which is currently nearing completion.

**This project built on the presence of a campus in order to rebuild a community.**

### City of Baltimore CEDS

The University Center recently completed a detailed evaluation of Baltimore City’s existing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and the potential impact of investment of different demographic and economic indicators. The Center also provided recommendations for

strategic improvement to the processes and evaluation methods for economic development in the city.

The evaluation is part of a project aimed at improving the effectiveness of economic development planning in the city, being carried out in collaboration with the city of Baltimore’s Department of Planning and Office of Research and Strategic Planning.

The results of the University Center’s evaluation will serve as an important input to the city’s CEDS planning process.