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Message from the Dean



The Merrick School of Business is pleased to bring you this quarterly update of the Maryland Business Climate Survey, an important instrument for understanding both the progress and the sticking points of our state's economy. Essentially, "business climate" refers to the many factors that impact the competitiveness of the State. These can include both business costs, like wages and utilities, and factors that support business operations, such as the presence of an educated workforce. Government has a major impact on the state's business climate, and so you will see an emphasis on it throughout the survey. Experience tells us that public sector initiatives such as education, infrastructure, taxation and regulation create the environment in which businesses operate.

I hope that you will use the survey for its intended purpose: the enhancement of knowledge about how Maryland functions as an economic engine. Over the course of the year, each quarterly update will add to our level of knowledge and insight, and help all of us determine what our priorities should be. For the Merrick School of Business, our ongoing goal is to be a linchpin for business development and industry support, through our Jacob France Institute (authors of the survey), the Entrepreneurship Opportunity Center, and of course through our wide array of undergraduate and graduate business programs in accounting, entrepreneurship, finance, international management, and multiple other specializations.

By sharing this survey with you, the Merrick School of Business seeks to make every Marylander a true student of our state's economy. Let's get to know the business of Maryland.



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