

Image Courtesy of *College of Southern Maryland*



College of Southern Maryland's **Velocity Center at Indian Head**

Prepared By:
The Maryland Department of Planning



The College of Southern Maryland (CSM) Velocity Center at Indian Head is a unique facility offering a collaborative learning space that supports workforce and economic development in southern Maryland. It is designed as a place for innovation, creativity, and collaboration for the CSM, Navy, and community. The CSM Velocity Center promotes collaboration between the CSM and the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Division (NSWC IHEODTD).

Responding to Community Needs

The Town of Indian Head is located approximately 30 miles south of Washington D.C., in Charles County, and is home to Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head. Although rich in history, Indian Head has aged; with dated infrastructure and confronted by numerous constraints, including geographic growth limitations, constant population migration due to military re-stationing, lack of basic community services, and few attractions or entertainment options. Additionally, the town does not benefit from through traffic as MD Route 210 terminates at NSF Indian Head. However, in the past decade, Indian Head has made strides to increase amenities and services by opening a coffee shop, theatre, and expanding events hosted at a local park.

Progress continues to promote development and revitalize Indian Head, helped by the opening of the Velocity Center. This learning space for innovation supports workforce development and economic growth in southern Maryland and helps to attract new opportunities for retail and dining; benefiting residents, tourists, and surrounding communities.

Velocity Center Features

The Velocity Center houses many types of spaces that can be utilized by the military and community. A variety of conference and meeting spaces, shared flexspace workspaces, and a makerspace are available to host community, Navy or professional development events. Navy scientists can use the space to collaborate with local students in tech transfer classes, while residents are welcome to take workforce and professional development courses hosted by CSM. The 1,984 square foot Makerspace is a community workspace equipped with 3D printers/scanners, laser cutters, soldering irons, and additive and subtractive machines for manufacturing. It also includes hardware and software for cyber/gaming, CAD modeling, simulation, app development, robotics, and prototyping.



CSM Velocity Center

Image Courtesy of College of Southern Maryland

At-A-Glance

Opened: 2020

Features: 13,400 square feet of conference and meeting space, shared workspace, and makerspace

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Learn More About
the Velocity Center's
Features



Watch CSM's
Velocity Center
Introduction Film



Take an Interactive
Tour of the Velocity
Center



The Velocity Center offers many types of workspaces, including offices, workshops, and classrooms. Images courtesy of the College of Southern Maryland.

Did you know?

The Urban Land Institute's 2016 study, *Economic Development Opportunities in Indian Head*, brought together planning officials and subject matter experts to work together to strategize methods to catalyze re-development in Indian Head, increase resilience, set the stage for sustainable, long-term growth, and form a foundation for future economic development. The Velocity Center responds to many of the strategic initiatives from the report, including:

Short-Term Strategic Initiatives

- *Formalize outreach protocols with Navy personnel, with a goal of initiating more joint activities between Town and base.*
- *Possibility of blight mitigation through strategic teardowns of vacant structures, and possible joint redevelopment projects.*

Long-Term Strategic Initiatives

- *Implement an investment plan for developing an Innovation Center.*

Funding and Support

The Town of Indian Head has several designations that lend additional access to funding and support for the Velocity Center. Much of Indian Head is a designated **Priority Funding Area (PFA)**, which is where local governments want state investment to support future growth. PFA status is helpful because it promotes local development within a state designated zone, allowing access to many state agency grants.

Indian Head was also designated as a **HUBZone** and **Opportunity Zone** in 2015. HUBZone designation helps small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities, while Opportunity Zones provides tax incentives to private investors with unrealized capital gains. The goal is to encourage long-term, private investment from capital gains to be directed into low-income areas around the country. Consequently, the Velocity Center will help the region and state revitalize Indian Head and enhance the economic mobility of the region's workforce.

Funding Designations

Funding support for the Velocity Center came from many sources:

- MD Department of Housing and Community Development
 - FY19 SRP-SDF \$550,000 award
 - FY20 SRP-SDF \$500,000 award
- MD Department of Commerce's **"E-Nnovation" Initiative Fund (MEIF)**
 - FY2018 \$500,000 award
- Rural Maryland Council
 - FY20 \$350,000 Prosperity Investment Fund award
 - FY21 \$274,000 award
- College of Southern Maryland
 - \$1M CSM Foundation Endowment
 - \$100,000+ in-kind staff & time donation
- Charles County Economic Development Department
 - \$100,000 per year for three years of programming efforts

Partnership Details

Development of the Velocity Center was a collaborative effort. It involved many organizations and individuals, including the **Charles County Board of County Commissioners**, the **Town of Indian Head** and the **Charles County Military Alliance Council**, who were instrumental in supporting CSM. Collaboration with **NSF Indian Head** and the IHEOD Technical Director's Office, the **Office of Naval Research**, and the **Technology Transfer Partnership** enhanced educational and outreach opportunities. Financial support was provided by the Maryland Department of Commerce and the Department of Housing and Community Development, with numerous local, state, and federal elected officials helping to procure funding.

Velocity Center Awards

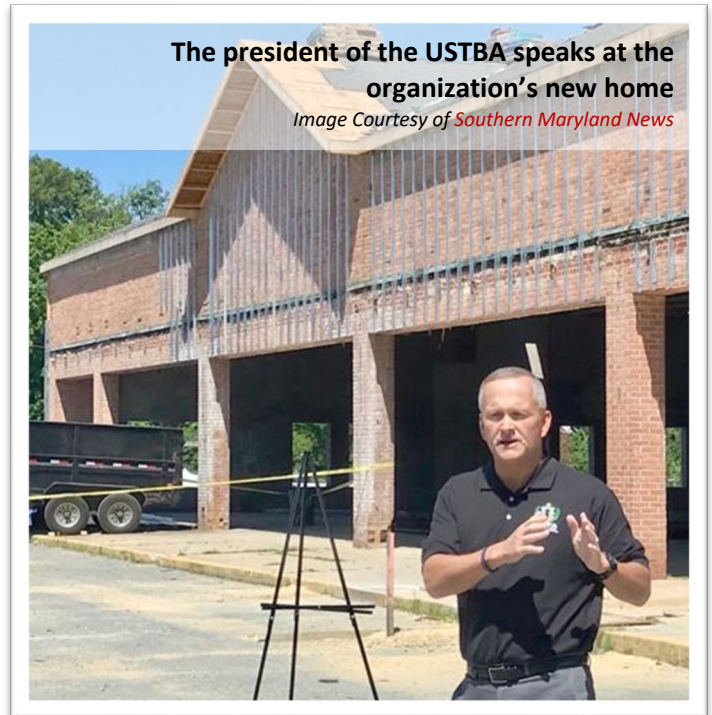
The Velocity Center has already been recognized for its impact and dedication to strengthening the Indian Head community and has received the following awards:

- **2021 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award:** Presented by the Maryland Department of Planning
- **2021 Excellence in Economic Development; Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse Award** (CSM Velocity Center and the Revitalization of the Town of Indian Head): Presented by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC)

Next Steps and Future Plans

Activities continue across from the Velocity Center to develop the Maryland Technology Center (MTC). Catalyzed by a \$250,000 grant to the Military Alliance Council from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, the 30,000 square foot former grocery and drug store is being renovated as the headquarters for the US Bomb Technicians Association (USBTA). In addition to the USBTA, several association member businesses and base contractors will be housed there. The MTC is the first of its kind and will help support academic, industry, and government organizations. Its goal is to develop new technologies to support NSF Indian Head, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, bomb technicians, and safety personnel around the world.

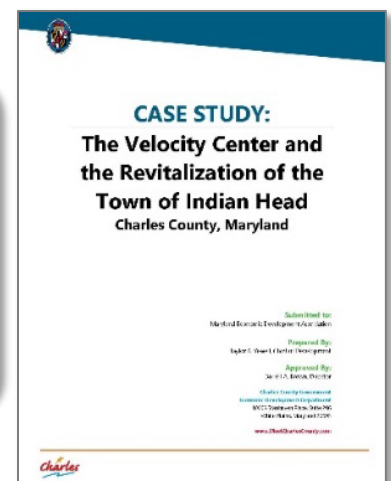
The USBTA has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CSM to create a partnership that will continue to bolster economic growth in Charles County and the region.



For more information on the development process, business, community, and economic impacts, visit:

Case Study:
The Velocity Center and the Revitalization of the Town on Indian Head

Prepared by the Charles County Government Economic Development Department





Maryland

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