



## From Applied Research to Policy Impact

Coppin State University is the holder of many distinctions that sometimes go unnoticed and undervalued. Among its many merits, CSU is the first public HBCU in the nation to have a formal relationship with a community-embedded makerspace. The relationship was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding during the spring semester of 2017, shortly after Open Works opened as one of the largest, most diverse makerspaces in the country. CSU also conducted the [first research of its kind on the organizational effectiveness and economic impact of a makerspace](#), showing that Open Works contributed over \$8 million to the bottom line of Baltimore and over \$9 million to the bottom line of the state in 2019. The research was instrumental in helping to pass the Makerspace Pilot Initiative, a \$5 million fund to be spent over five years to “establish or expand” makerspaces throughout the state.

National attention is now on Maryland to see the outcomes of the first investment of public dollars spent to expand makerspaces as an economic driver. This positions the CSE to continue thoughtful leadership and the production of artifacts that will help inform other jurisdictions about unlocking the potential of small-scale, local manufacturing by facilitating the emergence of making communities. There will also be an increase in the capacity to respond to unexpected demands created by events such as the COVID-19 healthcare crisis. The CSE composed the case study describing the Open Works production of 28,000 face shields in 56 days in response to the PPE shortage.

The CSE will continue to assess and report the economic impact of makerspaces and the organizational dynamics that contribute to their success.