



HOWARD

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

You Can Get There From Here.

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July 12, 2004

Mr. J. Rodney Little
Director of the Division of Historical and
Cultural Programs
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD21032

Dear Mr. Little:

Howard Community College has an exciting opportunity to own the Belmont Inn and Conference Center. The facility can serve as a "laboratory school" for our hospitality and business program, to expand our continuing education offerings for businesses, government, and non-profit, and to provide a great retreat for student activities.

As a laboratory school, students can be actively involved in the business and service functions of running an inn and conference center, including deploying technology, accounting, customer service, housekeeping, maintenance, catering, culinary arts, marketing, etc. We propose to keep the current manager, Anne Johnson, and to integrate academic (credit and non-credit) activities including opportunities for student interns to work at the center.

The college does not have the resources to buy or operate Belmont, but the Howard Community College Education Foundation, Inc. is very interested in trying to make this chance of a lifetime become a reality. One of our foundation board members is willing to provide funding to purchase Belmont, on behalf of the Foundation, build a new road to overcome current restrictions, build additional facilities such as additional sleeping rooms, classroom space, demonstration kitchen, parking, and additional landscaping. But in order to help support the layout of about \$13,000,000 to accomplish these things, the Foundation would sign over about 20 acres to the donor which could eventually be developed tastefully, in such a manner that would not disturb the pristine vistas at Belmont – not closer than 500 feet from the Manor House. Development probably would not occur for a decade due to existing lot allocation restrictions in Howard County. The donor, Chip Lundy, has an excellent reputation in our community.

From our study to date, generating enough income to operate and maintain the facilities requires:

- The building of a new road from Landing Road. This road would circle around the periphery of the property and hook up to the front of the manor house.
- Water and sewer and a pumping plant may also be necessary to accommodate another facility of sleeping rooms (10-15), classrooms, demo kitchen. That study is underway.
- Gravel or paved parking will need to be expanded.
- The house that belongs to the current director might be renovated and used for foreign exchange faculty.
- The caretaker's house will continue its current use.
- Renovations may occur to the barn for additional meeting space if the resources are available (estimated at \$190,000!)
- Greenhouse could be used to support a horticulture program and some maintenance may be required.

The college also sees the venue as a place where students can reflect on the history of Howard County by learning the story of Belmont. Additionally, students and faculty in the performing and visual arts department see the opportunity to do "chamber music events" periodically in the home. They are already involved in the outdoor summer concerts.

The college will be seeking various sources of funding:

- (1) keeping and expanding current business
- (2) developing hospitality program and generating state funds
- (3) adding professional development (non-credit) offerings
- (4) asking support from the county
- (5) seeking grants and gifts

The college and the foundation have the utmost respect for the property and the Manor House – and in the perfect world, would change nothing about it at all! The American Chemical Society has said that we are the perfect buyer, but the property is not a gift, we are doing our best to partner with those who will help to make this project a reality.

Our study period ends on August 2, 2004. We hope that we can get an indication from you about whether or not our plan is possible and if it is, to understand the steps necessary to accomplish our goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Duncan
President