

EP.52 - Stewart Edelstein FINAL

Narrator: You're listening to *BioTalk* with Rich Bendis, the only podcast focused on the BioHealth Capital Region. Each episode, we'll talk to leaders in the industry to break down the biggest topics happening today in BioHealth.

Rich Bendis: Hi. This is Rich Bendis, your host for *BioTalk*. And we have a very distinguished guest today—Dr. Stewart Edelstein. He's the Executive Director of the Universities at Shady Grove and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, University System of Maryland. And that's the longest title we've ever had for anybody on *BioTalk*, Stu.

Stewart Edelstein: Oh, very cool. Well, thank you for having me. I appreciate it very much.

Rich Bendis: You're welcome. And if you don't mind, I'm going to refer to you as Stu during this, rather than the formal, even though you've earned your doctorate.

Stewart Edelstein: Please.

Rich Bendis: Thank you. A lot of people are familiar with all of the universities within the University System of Maryland, but you have one of the more unique academic institutions within this system, and we're going to talk about that later today.

0:01:00 But before we get into the academic side of you, we want to get into your biographical history and what brought you to where you are today.

Stewart Edelstein: Wow. Well, that's an interesting story. I was born in New York City. My dad was a teacher. And I started out my interest actually in music. So I went to one of the special high schools in New York City, the High School of Music & Art. Thought of myself as a musician, budding composer. I also dabbled a little bit in chemistry. And I realized very soon that while I loved music, and I still do, it wasn't for me in terms of the professional nature of what I would need to do to become a professional musician. And so I quickly moved my interest to chemistry. I went to the University of Buffalo as a chemistry major. I started out in chemistry. I had some very interesting experiences in chemistry at Buffalo. I blew up a couple of labs. And quickly the university folks suggested I might change my major to psychology, which I did.

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And I also got involved—it was the 1960s at the time, a lot of student activism. I was student body president at SUNY Buffalo, got involved in student politics. I got involved in higher education. One of my—I had two important mentors who moved me into a career in higher education. One was Martin Meyerson, who was the president of SUNY Buffalo but had come from Berkeley before that and then went off to University of Pennsylvania.

Rich Bendis:

You were running Berkeley East then, huh?

Stewart Edelstein:

Well, Buffalo was at one time described as Berkeley of the East. And then the other mentor I had was a gentleman named Warren Bennis, who was a change theorist, social scientist of some note. And I became involved with both of them, and I soon realized that higher education was a way in which you could make social change. Change lives, change communities. It was where I wanted to be. And so I went out—graduated out of SUNY Buffalo and I went to the University of California Berkeley, where I was a doctoral student in higher education.

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I worked at the Center for Higher Education Studies at UC Berkeley with some very prominent people. I got my degree as a researcher. Could have gone into teaching, but I got an offer to come to University of Maryland College Park as an administrator. I was interested in what was happening here in Maryland. University of Maryland was beginning to grow and to develop. And so I started in 1977 in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, and I stayed in College Park for about 25 years, in the social sciences. Left there in 2002 as their associate dean. So I did a lot of work at College Park as it was beginning to develop its excellence and its work as the flagship campus in the state. And from that, I got invited to come to Shady Grove. So that's my academic career. It brought me here to Montgomery County. I've lived in Montgomery County since 1989, but never really involved in Montgomery County as I'm involved now, through USG.

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Rich Bendis:

And we thank you for your involvement.

Stewart Edelstein:

Well, thank you so much. I'm very happy to be here.

Rich Bendis: And before we get into academia deeper, I'm a little interested in this music. So since you're a product of the '50s and '60s, so who were the people that you followed back then?

Stewart Edelstein: Well, I was actually into classical music,

Rich Bendis: Oh, OK, so you weren't a Bob Dylan guy.

Stewart Edelstein: —Beatles, Beatles—everybody of course was influenced by The Beatles. But my work was more in classical music, and I actually did some composition work at the time, so I had several pieces performed. Some piano work, some bassoon work. I was a serious musician. And I love music. It's part of me. But the kind of discipline that you would need to be able to be successful in music—it wasn't me.

Rich Bendis: Well, you're going to be interested in what we're going to do. We're having our sixth annual BioHealth Capital Region Forum at AstraZeneca on April 14th and 15^{th*}, and one of the things we're going to do at the reception is AstraZeneca has an in-house band that's going to—
THE BIOHEALTH CAPITAL REGION FORUM ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14TH AND 15TH HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

Stewart Edelstein: Oh, I love it.

Rich Bendis: —going to play at the reception. So you have to come for that.

Stewart Edelstein: Oh, I definitely have to come. I would come anyway.

Rich Bendis: You might be able to perform with them!

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Stewart Edelstein: I would come anyway, just for the content, but this will be an extra.

Rich Bendis: Super. Now, let's talk a little bit about your progress through the system. And then you mentioned getting to Shady Grove, so let's talk a little bit about the history of Shady Grove, and then when you got there, and then sort of the transformation that has occurred under your leadership.

Stewart Edelstein: So I think we have to go back a couple of years. The county, in the 1970s, was pretty innovative in its thinking about developing its economy and particularly its science assets. And there was a developer, the Gudelsky family at the time, gave a pretty big chunk of land, about 350 acres of

land, to the county and said, “We would like you to take this land and do something unique in the area of research and education.” And the county leadership at the time, working with scientists and NIH and other places, said, “We want to develop the first-in-the-country life sciences research park.” So the Shady Grove life sciences park was actually created in the ‘70s and began to mature in the ‘80s.

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As part of that development, they went to the University System of Maryland, the public university system, and they said, “We want to give you land in this park that we're creating, and we want you to bring research and education into the park.” And they went to Hopkins, Johns Hopkins, and they gave them land on either side of the research park. So on the land that they gave to the university system, the first building that was built was the Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology, otherwise known as CARB, which was part of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute. That was squarely establishing a research presence, a university research presence, in Montgomery County, as part of the development of this park. And that was late 1980s. In 1990s, they built education buildings that were supporting the growing workforce in Montgomery County, primarily evening, graduate education, to support people already in the workplace.

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In the 1990s, Montgomery County was growing, not just in population, but it's economy was growing, and clearly it was developing a very significant presence and prominence in the life sciences. Genome creativity here. NIH and

Rich Bendis:

Human Genome Sciences, MedImmune, and all—yeah.

Stewart Edelstein:

And a lot of spinoffs were created as a consequence of that significant research activity. And so the leadership of the county—and that's government leadership and their education leadership and business leadership—said, “We need more higher education in Montgomery County.” And Montgomery County was the only county of its size without a public university in its jurisdiction. The closest university to Montgomery County was on the border in Prince George's County and that was College Park, the flagship campus. So the leadership went to the University System and said, “We would like you to bring more higher education into the county, more baccalaureate, more graduate

education, and we would like a University of Maryland Montgomery County established.”

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That was in the mid-1990s. The leadership of the University System deliberated on that, they consulted, and they said, “We don’t really think we can have the resources to be able to build a full campus here, but we recognize that Montgomery County is growing, it needs more higher education capacity, and we want to support it by bringing more baccalaureate and graduate education into the county. But we're going to do it in a very unique way.” Because Montgomery County’s economy is diverse, we could never build a university quickly that would meet all of the higher education needs, so we're going to go to each of our campuses, and we're going to select those degrees that are highly sought after, highly needed, to support workforce and economic development interests of Montgomery County and the greater region that the county is a part of. Of course the county was becoming and is now the driver for the economy in Maryland, and clearly the system wanted to support that effort by bringing in more higher education.

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So what they did was they went to each of the—they went to five institutions at the time, and they said, “College Park, you have biology. We’d like you to bring a biology baccalaureate degree. You have the Smith School of Business. We’d like you to bring a satellite program for that.” They went to UMBC and they said, “You have social work.” They went to Towson—“You have education.” So in the year 2000, they created this thing called Universities at Shady Grove. It was a regional higher education center. They used the resources that were on site at the time and they did it in a very unique way. They said, “We'll bring these programs from multiple institutions. We'll take the resources that exist across the state of Maryland, and we'll deploy them in Montgomery County, and we'll work closely with the community college.” So our baccalaureate programs are actually what we call two-plus-two programs. You complete the associate’s degree and then you transfer into one of the degrees that are offered onsite at USG by one of our university partners.

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Rich Bendis:

Is that still offered today?

Stewart Edelstein: That is the model.

Rich Bendis: OK, it's still there. OK, great.

Stewart Edelstein: We are a two-plus-two institution at the baccalaureate level, and students who graduate out of Montgomery College with an associate's degree can actually transfer into almost 80 programs now that are offered across nine institutions. And what is unique about this is not only the pathway, but when you enter the program at Shady Grove, you are taught by the institution's faculty. It's their curriculum. And in the end, when you graduate, you get a degree from that campus. So if you're majoring in business or accounting and you're transferring from Montgomery College into the program that's offered at USG by College Park's Smith School of Business and Accounting, you receive at the end a degree from University of Maryland College Park with a major in accounting. And you complete that degree onsite without having to leave Montgomery County. So the uniqueness of this is that you can get access to high quality higher education, affordable higher education, without having to leave Montgomery County.

0:11:00 So the idea was to build the capacity for the county to grow and to meet its higher education workforce needs right here by deploying all of the resources that exist within the University System. And over the 20 years that we have been in existence, we have grown significantly, and very, very successful as a consequence, in terms of the productivity. So over the years, we've produced more than 12,000 students with degrees. And I would say to you for the most part, more than 50% of those students probably would not have been able to get those degrees if not for the fact that we were located in Montgomery County, accessible, and we were bringing the degrees that were needed for the jobs that were in the county and the greater region. And this is the work that we started, and this is the work that we continue to do.

Rich Bendis: And it becomes more affordable because it becomes a commuter rather than them having to have board, so it's much more affordable for them.

Stewart Edelstein: It's extremely affordable. And in fact we've done some studies to indicate that students can save anywhere between \$26,000 and \$30,000 off of their tuition if they take the pathway from Montgomery College.

0:12:11 The tuition there is half what it is for the universities. They live in the community. They're living with themselves. They're living with their families. They're working. And they're able to get a degree in good time so that they can move on their careers and move their families forward. So yes, it's a very economical way of operating for the student. It's also economical for the state of Maryland, because these students are actually local. They're staying local. They want to be local. They want jobs locally. And we're able to provide them with that kind of access.

Rich Bendis: So you are the local option.

Stewart Edelstein: We are the local option, and increasingly, we're becoming the desired option, because of the degrees that we're offering and the way in which we partner, not just with Montgomery College and with Montgomery County Public Schools—the students who are moving through that pathway and who are looking for a local option—but we partner with the businesses.

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Rich Bendis: And you mention you entered there. What year did you enter? Over this 20-year history under the new concept, how long have you been there as a part of that?

Stewart Edelstein: I came in 2002, and so I've been there about 18 years.

Rich Bendis: OK, eighteen years. And what was the enrollment in '02 versus today?

Stewart Edelstein: When I came in 2002, there were seven degree programs across five institutions, and in 2002 there were 37 students who got their degrees.

Rich Bendis: Super.

Stewart Edelstein: Last year, a thousand.

Rich Bendis: Oh, that's fantastic.

Stewart Edelstein: With over 80 programs and nine universities. And we'll talk later, I'm sure, about this new building that we just opened.

Rich Bendis: Yeah, we're going to get to that. That's beautiful, yeah.

Stewart Edelstein: And that's a whole new phase of development for us.

Rich Bendis: That's part of the future and part of the legacy that you're leaving. We'll just go to it now because you just introduced it. And we're talking about the new Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Education Building, which is really one of the crown jewels of not just Montgomery County but of the state of Maryland.

Stewart Edelstein: I don't think you will find a building that is as beautiful and as well-equipped as this building that we were able to build.

0:14:04 And it's an interesting story because we—

Rich Bendis: It just didn't happen overnight, did it?

Stewart Edelstein: It didn't happen overnight, and we have been growing rapidly in the beginning of the 2000 [sic]. And we have a board of advisors which are made up of business people and education folks and political leadership. And we were very successful in the degrees that we were bringing; they were meeting workforce needs in the region. But the board said, "You're missing the drivers in the economy in Montgomery County." And those drivers are the science, STEM degrees, that are going to develop the assets that Montgomery County has. So engineering, computer science, biotechnology. These were not programs that we had here. These were programs that were offered in other parts of the state. But in order to move the economic development of the county and to meet the jobs that were out there that were being unfilled because they couldn't find enough people who had these skills, we worked with the University System, we worked with the county, to get this building built.

0:15:02 It's a \$175 million capital project that the State of Maryland paid for. The county put \$20 million of its funding in, which is very unusual for a county to put money towards a state higher education project. But we were going to build this building on parking - land, so we needed a parking garage, so the county gave us the money to build the parking garage, because they realized that if we brought this building into the county, we would be supporting jobs and growth that the county needed for its future. Not just today, but for the next 50 years.

Rich Bendis: And when was the original vision for this conceptualized, and then how long did it take to become a reality?

- Stewart Edelstein:** We opened up the Camille Kendall Education Center in 2008. That was a major expansion of USG. It was classrooms and office space and services. And right after we opened up that building, which was a significant expansion for us, I went to the chancellor, Brit Kirwan at the time, and I said, "I'm going to have a special request for you. I need you to build me another building."
- 0:16:04 And he said, "Stu, we just built you a building. You've gotta wait in line." I said, "No, no. I need a building soon, and I need it in STEM." And he said, "STEM?" Well, he lived in Montgomery County, so he knew what Montgomery County needed, and he said, "Let me come back—I'll come back to you on this." He went to the University Regents. And there was a big initiative at the time to expand STEM degrees in the state of Maryland. Where better a place to do that than in Montgomery County? And he said, "Stu, we're going to put this building on a fast track, and we're going to get you the planning money. We're going to work with our major universities—College Park, UMBC, University of Maryland, Baltimore. We're going to identify the degrees that are needed, in the beginning at least, for that building to be activated, and we're going to get that building built as quickly as possible. Now, we did it in record time, and the building was funded for planning, and it was funded for construction, but we opened it up actually officially last fall, and now we're using it this spring.
- 0:17:00 So even that time period is, what, almost nine, ten years? But that is rapid time for a building to be developed. What we did, and I think what's unique about the building—it's not a building about engineering. It's a building which has engineering in it, it has biotechnology in it, it has agriculture in it, it has computer science in it. And the way science is moving, it's the interstices between these disciplines that are going to make the difference in terms of the future, and we have all of that in one building. Very unique building with regard to facilities and capacity, and we just opened it, and we're excited about what we're going to do for students in Montgomery County who are going to get access to these degrees, and more importantly for the companies and employers that are starving for the talent. Starving for the talent.

Rich Bendis: So one of the keys to this will be the relationship between industry and academia. How do you believe you can achieve that? Because sometimes that's difficult.

Stewart Edelstein: Well, I don't think it's all that difficult when you listen and when you work collaboratively.

0:18:01 So we're bringing degrees that our university partners have developed that are high quality academic degrees. But we don't do that in the absence of consulting with our employer community and saying, "What is it you need? And more importantly, how can you help us in making sure that the students that are coming out of these programs are well trained for the work that you need them to do?" The curriculum is developed clearly by the faculty from our home campuses in consultation with the industries that are in the region. Students are actually working as interns and in other arrangements with the industries that they're going to be working in. The industries are helping to train them. We're learning a lot about what's happening in those industries as they're changing and as they're looking for talent. So there is a very deep connection that we have already made, and it's very unique, I think—that because we're so local, we can work so closely with the companies that are here. The other thing that I think is really important—it's not just that our universities are working together with businesses, but we're collaborating with our community college and our school system to make sure that we're in alignment, so that we can get access to students who are in the schools today to educate them about what the jobs are, what the opportunities are, what the careers are.

0:19:15 Work with teachers, work with counselors. Get students positioned so they're making the right decisions, they're taking the right courses, they understand what they can do with their education. And we're moving them through what we call a pathway, from a school system to the community college, to one of our universities, to jobs. And those job are local, or they're regional. And it's working. And we're going to be populating, I think, the region with more people who have the skills that are going to be able to not only advance their own careers but advance the economy of the region.

Rich Bendis: What do you think it will do for the enrollment of the school?

Stewart Edelstein: Well, right now, we're at 3,000 students. The building that we just opened, the Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Building, doubles our physical capacity. And we will be able to more than double our enrollment.

0:20:01 So we're at 3,000; we would plan to be able to accommodate probably 7,000, 7,500 students. That's more than doubling our capacity. Now, that won't happen overnight, but it will be part of the vision for moving forward to be a major producer of talent. It's a producer of talent. We don't have a problem with talented people; we just have to give them the opportunity and the education and the experiences in the businesses to be able to move that talent forward.

Rich Bendis: Now that you've successfully completed this building, probably just like you did with Chancellor Kirwan, you said, "I have this request." So you had Chancellor Caret, who has just stepped down, but you have Chancellor Perman, who is really visionary as well. Now, do you have a request for him for the next building?

Stewart Edelstein: Well, I do, but I'm going to retire in June. [laugh]

Rich Bendis: You are? That's a shame, Stu.

Stewart Edelstein: No, I think it's time.

Rich Bendis: That's a good thing, huh?

Stewart Edelstein: I think it's time. If I were staying, I would make my request for my next building. We do need a building, and I would say for me, that building would be more on incubation, on entrepreneurship.

0:21:07 We have an incredibly diverse student body. Many of them are the first in their families. Many of them come from international backgrounds. If you're going to start an economy and you want to develop new businesses, that's the population that you want to support in doing that work. We need the ability to support those students and we need the ability to incubate and support their ideas and the things that they believe they can work on. So I would say the next building that we build is a combination of a research/incubation capability. We have the ability to grow at USG. We have land and the ability to build on that land. We have a research center that already exists at USG. I think we could do more

with that research center now that we have the Biomedical Sciences Building. And we need to advance our R&D capabilities through what the University System has to offer. And we're going to be able to do that in part with the Biomedical Sciences Building, but there's a greater vision here that needs to be met.

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Rich Bendis: Well, it's a shame that you can't get that started now. Maybe you could do a pilot program on entrepreneurship and incubation in this existing new building.

Stewart Edelstein: I would love to work with BioHealth, and because you do the work really well, and if we could find a way of partnering with you, I would grab it immediately.

Rich Bendis: Sounds like an action item that has to happen in the next three months.

Stewart Edelstein: Sounds like an invitation!

Rich Bendis: [laugh] Well, why don't we explore that? Seriously.

Stewart Edelstein: I would love to do that.

Rich Bendis: Because we are in discussions with the county under a potential new contract we're signing about some activities that they're very interested in. One of them relates to postdocs and PhD students and finding ways to mainstream them into the workforce. Because there's a disconnect now, and we found this out with NCI and the academic institutions, because you have all of these well educated people. Industry wants people with workforce experience. How do you get the workforce experience when you're doing your postdoc and getting your PhDs and you don't have that interaction with industry?

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And that's one of the things they'd like us to evaluate is to come up with a program where we can have closer ties. There are some pilot programs in existence in the state already. Hopkins and AstraZeneca had a program. And we'd like to find a way to expand that—that there might be some other variations of that program that we could explore with you.

Stewart Edelstein: From your mouth to God's ears. I think these are the things that we need to do. Be creative. How to use the talent that we have here. We've

nurtured that talent. The talent wants to make a difference. And we need to make the connections between the assets that we have—and we have many, many assets—and the ability to get these folks focused and positioned so that they can take advantage of it. So I would love to work with you on that.

Rich Bendis: I'd love to work with you. My only academic experience is that I taught Entrepreneurship 101, 35 years ago at UMKC—University of Missouri, Kansas City, in the Henry Bloch School of Business—and that was H&R Block.

0:24:01 And we also had Barnett Helzberg, who created the Helzberg Entrepreneurial Mentoring Program which is Helzberg Jewelry. And the HEMP. He had a sense of humor. It was the HEMP program.

Stewart Edelstein: HEMP is popular.

Rich Bendis: Yeah. [laugh] Anyway, it was more appropriate—he was way ahead of his time about 30 years ago. But the other thing is I had the opportunity to work with Ewing Kauffman.

Stewart Edelstein: Ah! The Kauffman Foundation.

Rich Bendis: Kansas City, with the Kauffman Foundation.

Stewart Edelstein: Fabulous.

Rich Bendis: I was with Marion Laboratories, and the Foundation has done fantastic work.

Stewart Edelstein: They have. They've been a leader in entrepreneurship education.

Rich Bendis: And so we need to get them more ingrained in Montgomery County.

Stewart Edelstein: We need to bring them into Montgomery County so they can see the opportunities that exist. And they are numerous. And they are numerous.

Rich Bendis: Tremendous. So we do have an action item to get something started before you leave.

Stewart Edelstein: OK. Capture that somewhere on paper. [laugh]

Rich Bendis: It's there. It's being recorded. So, I don't want to talk about your leaving, but yet you've been in academia how long now?

Stewart Edelstein: Well, I started in '77. If you count my graduate work, I started in '71. So '71 to now.

Rich Bendis: So that's 49 years.

0:25:00 That was pretty quick, wasn't it?

Stewart Edelstein: Yeah.

Rich Bendis: Yeah, 49 years. So, now, you don't seem like the type of person that just wants to go lay on a beach.

Stewart Edelstein: No, I'm not going to the beach.

Rich Bendis: So what are you gonna do?

Stewart Edelstein: I'm going to hopefully be replaced by the next leader with vision and capacity to do the work that needs to be done. I'm going to stay active in Montgomery County. I'm going to go back to my music a little bit. Take care of my body a little bit better with regard to exercise. But I do want to be engaged. This is a tremendously interesting place to be. Its diversity, its economic diversity, its demographic diversity. I want to continue to make a difference. There are some groups that I'm already involved in, on the board. I'm involved in Identity. That's a group that works with Latino youth and families. I want to continue to do that work. I will be looking for opportunities to spend my time, and I don't think I'll have a shortage of that.

Rich Bendis: I'm sure you won't. You keep talking about this music. Now, we never pursued that, though, to find out if it's sort of the composition side or if you have an instrument that you—

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Stewart Edelstein: Well, I play the piano. I had to learn to play the bass fiddle when I went to the High School of Music and Art. I don't play the bass fiddle anymore. But my interest is in composition and contemporary music composition. I don't do songs and stuff like that, but I will be doing more composition work, and I'll be playing for my own edification and joy. I think music is a universal language, and there's still a lot that I need to learn, and a lot that I want to do in music. But I'm not going to stop doing my community work.

Rich Bendis: No, no, no.

Stewart Edelstein: It's too important to me.

Rich Bendis: They're complementary.

Stewart Edelstein: Hopefully, hopefully.

Rich Bendis: Yeah. Really, when you start composing, to have to get to an end to complete that concerto, right? So that's what you've been doing with Universities at Shady Grove. And it's not done yet.

Stewart Edelstein: Yeah. Or an anthem for Montgomery County. I don't know.

Rich Bendis: Yeah, well, we've talked about—we don't have—

Stewart Edelstein: Fight anthem, yeah.

Rich Bendis: Yeah. Right, yeah. Before we started doing this podcast, we were talking—the things that you don't have. What were those things again?

Stewart Edelstein: The three things were fraternities, football, and freshman.

Rich Bendis: And freshmen, OK.

0:27:00 **Stewart Edelstein:** And we also said you don't have a mascot. But then you clarified that for me.

Stewart Edelstein: Yeah, we have an informal mascot, but we maybe need a mascot.

Rich Bendis: OK, very good. [laugh] I guess legacy—a lot of people talk about legacies. If you look back over your 49 years, what do you want to be remembered for, in your academic career?

Stewart Edelstein: I want to be remembered for the opportunities that I helped to create to change lives for people who took their educations and are now very productive, creative. They're making a difference in their lives. They're making a difference in the lives of their communities. I really believe that education is a social change agent. It's an equalizer. And if offered in the right way with the right opportunity, it can make a tremendous difference in the way our society develops. We have an incredibly interesting county with a lot of diversity. Not everybody has the opportunity to get an education. Through Universities at Shady Grove,

we've expanded that considerably, in our partnerships with the school system and the community college.

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That for me is an extremely rewarding accomplishment. I know I've laid the foundation for a tremendous amount of growth. And what we have done and what we will do will continue to change lives significantly.

Rich Bendis:

I compliment you on what you've accomplished, because I think it has made a tremendous difference here within the county and in thousands of students' lives.

Stewart Edelstein:

Well, let me say—I appreciate you saying that—I have not operated alone. I've operated in a community which supports what I've tried to do. I've operated in a community which understands the value of education, which is committed to providing that opportunity to everybody who lives in the county. And I would not have been successful without the support of a lot of people and a community behind me.

Rich Bendis:

And we're speaking with Dr. Stu Edelstein who is the executive director of Universities of Shady Grove. I'm not going to go through the rest of the stuff, Stu. Your title is long! Now, one thing I like to do with people is—say we have the magic wand, OK?

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You have a magic wand. You can do anything you want, that you'd like to accomplish personally or within your career or within Montgomery County. What is that thing that you'd like to do?

Stewart Edelstein:

I would like to be able to say to every student coming out of the Montgomery County public school system that you have the opportunity to make a difference in your life right here in your own county, and we will give you the skills and we will remove any of the financial barriers or other things that restrict your ability to take your talent, to nurture it, and to give you the opportunity to make a difference.

Rich Bendis:

I think you've really set the foundation for that to happen.

Stewart Edelstein:

I hope so.

Rich Bendis:

Yes.

Stewart Edelstein:

I hope so.

Rich Bendis:

I want to thank you for being on *BioTalk*.

Stewart Edelstein: Well, thank you for having me.

Rich Bendis: This has been a pleasure. We'll come back and do it again *after* you leave and we get you into your music career.

Stewart Edelstein: Ah! OK.

Rich Bendis: OK? And maybe you can play. Because this is being taped. We can actually hear pianos on this microphone.

Stewart Edelstein: Well, maybe that's something we can talk about.

0:30:00

Rich Bendis: OK. Thank you. Well, we have had the pleasure of doing *BioTalk* with Dr. Stu Edelstein, who is the executive director of Universities at Shady Grove and associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, University System of Maryland, and also is retiring—not retiring; you're going to be semi-retired in June of this year. Is that right?

Stewart Edelstein: That's correct.

Rich Bendis: And going on to the next chapter of your life.

Stewart Edelstein: I'm going to reinvent myself. Yes.

Rich Bendis: And we do that often. So thank you very much for what you've done for academia, the students, and this region.

Stewart Edelstein: Well, thank you so much. I appreciate that.

Narrator: Thanks for listening to *BioTalk* with Rich Bendis.

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