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Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, III
President: University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The Empowered University: A 50-Year Perspective on Broadening Participation in STEM Education

Demographic, economic, and technological changes present our college and universities with significant challenges for preparing students – particularly those from diverse backgrounds -- for success. Over the past four decades, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has studied student achievement, focusing special attention on how to increase the participation and performance of students of all backgrounds. Drawing on his TED Talk and his recent book, The Empowered University, he will discuss institutional culture change and its role in supporting innovations in undergraduate education -- including course re-design, active learning, community-building, and the use of technology -- that promote student success, inclusive excellence, and achievement for all students.

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, President of UMBC since 1992, is a consultant on science and math education to national agencies, universities, and school systems. In 2012, he was named by President Obama to chair the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. He leads a university that has been recognized as a model for inclusive excellence by such publications as U.S. News, which the past 10 years has recognized UMBC as a national leader in academic innovation and undergraduate teaching. In 2012, he was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME, and more recently he received the American Council on Education’s Lifetime Achievement Award (2018), the University of California, Berkeley’s Clark Kerr Award (2019), and the University of California, San Francisco’s UCSF Medal (2020). His most recent book, The Empowered University, examines how university communities support academic success by cultivating an empowering institutional culture.