The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's commitment to innovative teaching, relevant research, and supportive community empowers and inspires inquisitive minds. UMBC offers an honors university experience that combines the learning opportunities of a liberal arts college with the creative intensity of a leading research university. In just 50 years, UMBC has become one of the country’s most inclusive communities for undergraduate and graduate education.

**INNOVATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING**

- **U.S. News & World Report** has again named UMBC a national leader in both innovation (#4, joining MIT and Stanford in the top five) and undergraduate teaching (tied with Yale at #6).

- UMBC recently opened a $160 million, LEED Gold-certified Performing Arts and Humanities Building, featuring innovative learning and performance spaces. The next new academic facility will be an Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building, to be completed in summer 2019.

- UMBC is the nation’s #1 producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete M.D./Ph.D. programs. UMBC’s Meyerhoff Scholars Program – the “gold standard” for increasing the number of underrepresented students earning STEM Ph.D.s – is being adapted at UNC-Chapel Hill and Penn State through a $7.75 million HHMI grant.

- NIH awarded UMBC more than $18 million to create STEM BUILD at UMBC as a national model to broaden the range of students who complete STEM degrees. U.S. News & World Report has featured this new program as a promising, scalable approach to providing mentorship and research experience.

- PROMISE AGEP, an NSF-sponsored, UMBC-led, USM-wide professional development program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, now contributes to around 20 STEM Ph.D.s from underrepresented ethnic groups per year through supports such as the Dissertation House and Summer Success Institute.

**RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT**

- Overall research support at UMBC surpassed $75 million in 2015, from sources such as the NIH, NSF, NASA, NEH, DARPA, DOD, Office of Naval Research (ONR), National Institute of Standards and Technology, Fulbright Program, Smithsonian Institution, Mellon Foundation, Folger Shakespeare Library, MacArthur Foundation, National Geographic Learning, Surdna Foundation, Robert W. Deutsch Foundation, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Constellation Energy, MacDowell Colony, Creative Capital/Andy Warhol Foundation, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, and the State of Maryland.

- Professor Kate Brown, history, received the prestigious Carnegie Fellowship to investigate three decades of medical research on Chernobyl and the long-term health effects of low doses of radiation.

- UMBC’s junior faculty won numerous prestigious national awards in 2015-16, including three NSF CAREER awards and career enhancement prizes from the NIH, U.S. Department of Energy, and Woodrow Wilson National Foundation.

- UMBC’s Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology renewed its partnership with the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center for $46 million over five years. One product of that partnership is the EPIC camera on NASA’s Deep Space Climate Observatory (DSCOVR), known for its stunning new images of the moon crossing in front of Earth.

- UMBC-UMB (University of Maryland, Baltimore) Research and Innovation Partnership grants support collaborations across campuses and disciplines, leveraging each university’s strengths.

- The U.S. Naval Academy’s collaboration with UMBC has been strengthened by five cybersecurity research projects funded by the ONR, totalling $2.1 million.

- UMBC is collaborating on two NSF-funded sustainability consortia. The Center for Sustainable Nanotechnology uses fundamental chemistry to explore how modern nanomaterials interact with the environment and living organisms. The Urban Water Innovation Network addresses challenges that threaten urban water systems in the United States.

- A research team led by Yordan Kostov and Govind Rao received a $2 million NIH award to develop a wearable system tracking asthma triggers in pediatric patients.

- UMBC’s Dresher Center for the Humanities was named a major partner in a $225,000 NEH grant to transform narratives on race in Baltimore.
STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Student Enrollment (Fall 2015): 13,839 (11,243 undergraduate, 2,596 graduate)
Freshman Class Profile (Fall 2015): First-time freshmen: 1,559; Living on campus: 75%; Average GPA: 3.78; Average SAT: 1210 (two-part), 1792 (three-part)

- The Princeton Review, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance, and Fiske Guide to Colleges have again named UMBC a “Best Value” university, with Princeton Review writing, “Thanks to UMBC’s amazing Career Center, undergrads here are able to enter the job market with confidence.”
- UMBC students regularly receive highly prestigious, nationally and internationally competitive awards, including the Goldwater Scholarship, Fulbright Award, U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, Huayu Enrichment Scholarship, and Frank Karel Fellowship. Graduate students also often receive research awards from such organizations as NSF and the Ford Foundation.
- Both men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams won back-to-back championships in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Emily Escobedo ’17, psychology, also won bronze in the 200m breaststroke at the NCAA finals in March 2016, becoming UMBC’s first All-American in the pool.

COMMUNITY AND EXTENDED CONNECTIONS

- The bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park houses Maryland’s first cyber incubator and 120 technology, bioscience, and research companies and organizations. The park generated $500 million in income and business sales in 2014 and contributes more than 2,500 jobs to Maryland.
- UMBC’s BreakingGround initiative has been recognized nationally for its contributions to the higher education civic engagement movement by the American Democracy Project and the American Association of Colleges and Universities.
- UMBC hosted the 2015 Imagining America Conference in Baltimore to explore how the arts, humanities, and design could help the city heal and grow following large-scale protests.
- UMBC views community engagement as an integral part of the educational experience for all students and has been recognized annually on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll since 2008.
- The Choice Program at UMBC, which has served more than 20,000 youth from Maryland’s highest risk communities for nearly 30 years, providing 24/7 wrap-around support, has expanded its jobs program through a new café at the University of Baltimore School of Law. LaMar Davis was named an Inspiring Voice in Baltimore by Community Law in Action for his work as director of The Choice Program.
- UMBC faculty and staff serve in prominent roles outside the university, including Graduate School Dean Janet Rutledge as chair-elect of the GRE Board.

Establishing Maryland’s First NROTC Program
Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Navy Dennis McGinn and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski joined UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski in celebrating the establishment at UMBC of Maryland’s first Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program. The program, part of the new Maryland NROTC consortium that includes the University of Maryland, College Park, enables students to earn a commission in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps while completing their undergraduate degrees.

New Partnerships Support Students, Kindergarten and Up
The Northrop Grumman Foundation recently invested $3.1 million to support Baltimore students, from kindergarten through college, in partnerships with UMBC and Baltimore City Public Schools. One project expands the UMBC Cyber Scholars program. Another is a new initiative to boost science, technology, engineering, arts, and math education (STEAM) at three city schools, building on UMBC’s ongoing work to support Baltimore’s K-12 students, teachers, and their communities through the Sherman STEM Teacher Scholars Program, Shriver Center Peaceworker Program, and Choice Program.

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