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MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION

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UMBC President Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, III Awarded “Excellence in Education Award” by Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE)

Annapolis, MD – The [Maryland Association of Boards of Education \(MABE\)](https://www.mabe.org/) today announced University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) President **Freeman A. Hrabowski, III** has earned **MABE’s 2022 Excellence in Education Award**. In keeping with MABE’s vision of serving as a champion for public education, the biennial award, established in 2012 to honor then-retiring MABE Executive Director Dr. Carl W. Smith, is presented to an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service to excellence in public education in Maryland. The 2022 Excellence in Education Award will be presented to Dr. Hrabowski during MABE’s 2022 Annual Conference, to be held October 6-8, 2022 in Annapolis.

Widely regarded as an education leader who has positively impacted countless lives and minds, Dr. Hrabowski passionately believes in transforming lives through education, MABE award nominators noted. Additionally, Dr. Hrabowski’s “model of collaborative leadership and continuous organizational improvement, as well as establishing an institutional culture of high expectations, strong support programs, and innovative instruction” made him “eminently qualified to receive MABE’s 2022 Excellence in Education Award,” the award nominators added.

Dr. Hrabowski’s work in group-based student learning; establishment of multi-pronged systems of strong supports to help students achieve success; and emphasis on minority participation and performance have been important components that ultimately helped lead to higher graduation rates and a growing focus on STEM fields of study. His leadership at UMBC transformed the institution into one of the most innovative research institutions in the United States, leading to UMBC repeatedly being featured on *U.S. News and World Report’s* “Most Innovative National Universities” list, and list of the nation’s leading institutions for “Best Undergraduate Teaching.” Indeed, *The Baltimore Sun* reported that under Dr. Hrabowski’s leadership, “more black students earn bachelor’s degrees in science and technology from UMBC than from any other non-historically black university in Maryland, even College Park, which has three times as many students.”

A passionate advocate, mathematician, author and renowned speaker, Dr. Hrabowski co-authored *The Empowered University: Shared Leadership, Culture Change, and Academic Success* (2019); *Holding Fast to Dreams: Empowering Youth from the Civil Rights Crusade to STEM* (2015); *Overcoming the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Young Women* (2001); and *Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males* (1998).

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In 2012 Dr. Hrabowski was appointed by President Obama to chair the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. The year prior, he earned one of the highest honors bestowed on an educator, the Carnegie Corporation of New York's Academic Leadership Award. Additional career highlights include having been named by *U.S. News and World Report* in 2008 one of "America's Best Leaders" and in 2009 one of "America's 10 Best College Presidents." *TIME* magazine in 2012 named Hrabowski one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World."

More recently, Dr. Hrabowski earned in 2018 the American Council on Education's Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2019 was named a recipient of the University of California, Berkeley's Clark Kerr Award. He has earned education and leadership accolades for his work from numerous additional institutions, including the Harvard Kennedy School's Center for Public Leadership, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the World Affairs Council.

Born in 1950 in segregated Birmingham Alabama to two mathematics educators, Hrabowski as a 12-year-old youth advocate joined the Children's Crusade march for civil rights, for which he was soon arrested. The dedicated young man went on to graduate with highest honors in mathematics from Hampton Institute, before earning his M.A. in mathematics and Ph.D. in higher education administration/statistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"In our continuing work to serve Maryland school boards in their public education efforts, our core values have included creating and encouraging collaborative relationships; valuing the diversity that enriches our school communities; and championing educational equity and excellence for each student," said MABE President Virginia (Ginny) McGraw. "I can think of no one who better personifies these crucial values today than Dr. Hrabowski. His efforts continue to inspire and influence countless students and educators, and serve as a valuable reminder of just how much true progress can be made by one dedicated individual devoting his life's work to such a noble and worthy mission."

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About MABE:

Founded in 1957, The Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state. All 24 Maryland boards of education are members of MABE.