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The Daily Record (Baltimore, MD)

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**HEADLINE:** U of MD Baltimore County pres. celebrates 10 years

**BYLINE:** Amy Bernstein

**BODY:**

People who know Freeman A. Hrabowski III use the same words over and over to describe him -- passionate, tireless, charismatic, brilliant.

That's a weighty reputation to live up to. But as he completes his 10th year as president of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Hrabowski's accomplishments suggest the buildup may be richly deserved.

Hrabowski earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration and statistics at the ripe old age of 24 and has been devoted to academia ever since. He was promoted to the top job at UMBC in 1992 while the school was still struggling to move away from its status as a sleepy commuter campus catering to in-state high school graduates with middling test scores.

During Hrabowski's decade-long tenure, UMBC has risen in quality and quantity by almost every measure -- SAT scores, enrollment, degrees conferred, research and capital dollars. Newsweek's college guide has dubbed UMBC "a powerhouse in Baltimore ... offering a topnotch, rigorous education to scholars who don't want to pay for an Ivy."

The Carnegie Foundation ranks it among the top 4 percent of American universities and colleges. UMBC single-handedly produces almost 40 percent of Maryland's graduates in computer science and information systems and is tied with Yale for the number of undergraduate biochemistry degrees awarded.

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