

# UMBC ACHIEVEMENTS

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County's commitment to innovative teaching, relevant research, and supportive community empowers and inspires inquisitive minds. UMBC combines the learning opportunities of a liberal arts college with the creative intensity of a leading research university, and is known globally for inclusive excellence.

## INNOVATION IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

- *U.S. News & World Report* has named UMBC a national leader in both innovation and undergraduate teaching. *Times Higher Education* recognizes UMBC as one of the world's top universities.
- UMBC faculty have recently received several national awards for teaching, mentorship, and leadership, from groups such as the American Public Health Association, Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, Anita Borg Institute, and Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors.
- UMBC regularly receives recognition for producing top K-12 educators, including alumni earning *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year honors.
- UMBC is the nation's #1 producer of African American undergraduates who go on to complete MD/PhDs and the top non-HBCU in producing African American undergraduates who complete PhDs across the natural sciences and engineering.
- *Diverse* recently recognized UMBC's Cyber Scholars program as a national model.
- UMBC is a lead institution for NSF's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) and, with other USM partners, just received a renewal of \$5M in support.
- PROMISE AGEP, an NSF-sponsored, UMBC-led professional development program for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, has extended its programs to all graduate students in Maryland. It offers supports such as the Dissertation House and Summer Success Institute to graduate students from underrepresented minority groups.
- UMBC information technology leaders received the 2017 Blackboard Catalyst Award for Leading Change for supporting student success through innovative data analytics.

## RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

- UMBC faculty were awarded nearly \$100 million in research support in FY17. Sources include the NIH, NSF, NASA, NEH, NEA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Humboldt Foundation, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, National Institute of Justice, Spencer Foundation, Cisco, GE Global Research, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, PhRMA Foundation, and state of Maryland.
- Junior faculty won numerous prestigious honors in 2016 - 17, including three NSF CAREER awards, an NSF EAGER grant for early concept "potentially transformative" research, and fellowships with the APLU Research Leaders Fellows program and National Research Mentoring Network's PROMISED program.
- NASA has committed \$87.5M over the next five years to the Center for Research and Exploration in Space Science and Technology (CRESST II), co-led by UMBC.
- UMBC faculty have received \$2.68M in Maryland Innovation Initiative grants, including Linda Dusman, music, and Eric Smallwood, visual arts, who received support to scale up a prototype of EnCue, a mobile app that enhances audiences' live performance experience.
- UMBC faculty regularly receive significant recognition as leaders in their fields. Most recently, Michael Summers, chemistry and biochemistry, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. Belay Demoz, JCET, was elected as a fellow of the American Meteorological Society. Anne Brodsky, psychology, became an American Psychological Association fellow. Govind Rao, CBEE, received the 2017 Pioneer Award for health care technologies. Kate Brown and Rebecca Boehling, history, won the Berlin Prize.
- Deborah Rudacille, English, received a Guggenheim Fellowship to pursue a writing project on addiction, as one of just two recipients nationwide for science writing in 2017. Kate Brown and Marjolein Kars, history, held the Braudel Fellowship at the European University Institute, and Meredith Oyen was a fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Christy Ford Chapin, history, has received a U.S. Library of Congress Kluge Fellowship.
- UMBC faculty from all three colleges collaborated to create the  $\text{Pi}^2$  Immersive Hybrid Reality Lab, a virtual reality research facility supported by an NSF Major Instrumentation Program and the Next Century Corporation. The lab will enable faculty and students explore complex questions and data in new ways, across all fields and scales, studying systems from traffic patterns to blood flow to energy production.



### New Scholars Program Supports Women in STEM

UMBC launched the Hill-Lopes Scholars Program to support high-potential women in STEM fields where women remain underrepresented, such as mechanical engineering and statistics.

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**Student Enrollment (Fall 2016):** 13,640 (11,142 undergraduate, 2,498 graduate)

**Freshman Class Profile (Fall 2016):** First-time freshmen: 1,538; Living on campus: 75%; Average GPA: 3.75; Average SAT: 1216 (two-part)

- *The Princeton Review, Kiplinger's Personal Finance, Forbes, Money,* and the *Fiske Guide to Colleges* have again named UMBC a "Best Value" university, with *Money* writing that UMBC is "a young school, but it has built an impressive record."
- UMBC undergraduate and graduate students regularly receive highly competitive awards, recently including Fulbright awards, NSF Graduate Research Fellowships, a Microsoft fellowship, and a Google Lime scholarship.
- Five UMBC students participated in the inaugural National Campus Leaders Summit at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as one of ten university delegations from across the country.
- Men's and women's swimming and diving have continued to win consecutive conference titles, and UMBC finished the 2017 NCAA championship as one of the top swimming programs in the nation. Emily Escobedo '17 earned bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke at NCAA championship and became one of the most decorated swimmers in UMBC and America East history.
- Men's basketball was named one of the top five most improved teams in the nation and hosted their first post-season tournament game in nearly a decade.
- The UMBC Event Center is slated to open in late fall 2017. UMBC also began construction of an Interdisciplinary Life Sciences Building, to be completed in summer 2019.
- UMBC signed international agreements with the University of Piura, University of Porto, Portuguese Naval Academy, Tel Aviv University, and others to continue expanding academic exchange and research opportunities.



### Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice

UMBC's Dresher Center for the Humanities and College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences received a \$750,000 Mellon Foundation grant to launch the Inclusion Imperative, growing a community of scholars committed to diversity in the humanities and expanding engaged humanities research, teaching, and learning on issues of race, equity, inclusion, and justice. Also, the Association of American Colleges and Universities has selected UMBC as one of 10 institutions nationwide to launch a Truth, Racial Health and Transformation initiative to prepare "the next generation of leaders to advance justice and build equitable communities."

## COMMUNITY AND EXTENDED CONNECTIONS

- UMBC views community engagement as integral to all students' educational experience. Recent popular community engagement initiatives include Hour of Code—bringing local elementary/middle school students to UMBC for hands-on computer science projects—and College JUMP—a Shriver Center college access mentoring program for high school students from Baltimore's refugee community.
- UMBC continues to expand collaborations with local institutions, including a new Peabody Conservatory partnership to strengthen musical training and innovation, collaboration with Music for Minds to launch Festival Baltimore, and expanded partnership with the Walters Art Museum focused on training in art conservation that bridges the arts, humanities, and sciences.
- UMBC faculty and staff serve in prominent leadership roles outside the university, including Joby Taylor, Shriver Center, as chair of the National Peace Corps Association; Craig Berger, student life, as chair of the American Democracy Project steering committee; Jessica Pfeifer, philosophy, as executive director of the Philosophy of Science Association; Theo Gonzalves, American studies, as president of the Association for Asian American Studies; and Tim Hall, athletics, as president of the Division I-AAA Athletics Directors Association.
- The bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park, which houses 120 technology, bioscience, and research companies and organizations, is poised to expand its economic impact through a new RISE Zone designation. The park also just launched the iCyberCenter@bwtech to help international cybersecurity companies establish a U.S. presence in Maryland.
- UMBC alumni actively serve in prominent leadership roles, including Jerome Adams as U.S. surgeon general and Adrienne Jones as speaker pro tem of the Maryland House of Delegates.
- The American Democracy Project honored Provost Philip Rous with the 2017 William M. Plater Award for Leadership in Civic Engagement.



### National Excellence in Team Competition

UMBC's intellectual sports have excelled in 2017. The UMBC Cyber Dawgs won the top prize in the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition and UMBC Mock Trial outperformed hundreds of other college teams nationwide to compete in the national championship tournament for the first time.

