

Freeman A. Hrabowski III

Doctor of Laws

Freeman A. Hrabowski is president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Under his leadership and with the aid of philanthropists Robert and Jane Meyerhoff, UMBC established the Meyerhoff Scholars Program in 1998. Originally designed to identify, recruit and prepare future African American scientists, engineers and mathematicians, the highly selective program, which maintains a focus on underrepresented minority students, is now open to all students interested in pursuing advanced degrees and research careers in STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). The Meyerhoff Scholars family now has more than 800 alumni across the nation, 300 of whom are currently enrolled in graduate or professional programs. In line with the same fundamental beliefs about access and equal opportunity, UMBC established the Center for Women in Technology Scholars Program in 2001 to address the underrepresentation of women in information technology. Hrabowski's experience with the Meyerhoff Scholars Program provided grounding for his longstanding research interest in science and math education. In addition to numerous articles and chapters, he is the co-author of two books, "Beating the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Males" and "Overcoming the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Young Women." Hrabowski's contributions are not limited to higher education. He has broad influence as a consultant to the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the National Academies and the United States Department of Education, among others. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Hrabowski at the age of 12 was a child-leader in the Civil Rights Movement. He participated in the Children's March in 1963 and spent five days in the Birmingham City Jail for his efforts. He was prominently featured in Spike Lee's 1997 documentary, "Four Little Girls," which told the story of the bombing of Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. Hrabowski is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He holds honorary degrees from Princeton, Harvard, Duke, Georgetown, Michigan and more than 15 other institutions. In 2008 he was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by U.S. News & World Report. Time named him one of "America's Ten Best College Presidents" in 2009 and one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World" in 2012. Also in 2012, he received the Heinz Award for outstanding accomplishment in improving the human condition.

For outstanding accomplishment in the field of higher education, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Freeman A. Hrabowski III the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.