

April 10, 2001

TO: The UMBC Community

FR: Freeman Hrabowski

Arthur Johnson

RE: Strategic Planning Report and Campus Town Meeting

We are very pleased to share this [report](#) from the campus's Planning Leadership Team. It reflects major strategic directions and priorities for UMBC defined by a two-year planning process involving administrators, faculty, staff, and students who participated in several retreats and on six planning task forces. We commend all involved in this phase of the planning process for their efforts and insightful thinking about UMBC's future.

The major strategic directions recommended by the Planning Leadership Team are consistent with the goals UMBC has pursued for several years: 1) *Continue to rank in the top tier of research universities* and 2) *Continue to build the quality and size of the undergraduate and graduate student bodies*. Many investments have already been made in support of these strategies. The challenge we face over the next three-to-five years will be to continue building the infrastructure and initiatives necessary to institutionalize our success in these areas. The Planning Leadership Team's recommendations provide an important guide that will help us continue to link decisions about resources with strategic priorities.

While this report is a significant milestone, we hope it is only the beginning of a larger effort which engages the entire campus community in pursuing the vision for UMBC developed by the Planning Leadership Team:

*UMBC: An Honors University in Maryland seeks to become the best public research university of our size by combining the traditions of the liberal arts academy, the creative intensity of the research university, and the social responsibility of the public university. We will be known for integrating research, teaching and learning, and civic engagement so that each advances the others for the benefit of society.*

We welcome dialogue about the strategies and priorities recommended by the Planning Leadership Team and invite the entire community to participate in a campus town meeting focused on this report and the University budget for the coming year. The meeting will take place Thursday, April 26, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom and will conclude with a wine and cheese reception. Administrative offices will be closed so that staff may attend. We look forward to your participation.