



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Center

CONTACT: Liz Morse, AVID Center
Steven Baratte, AVID Center
(858) 380-4800
lmorse@avid.org

Dr. Freeman Hrabowski to Provide AVID's National Conference Keynote

SAN DIEGO – Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski has been selected as the keynote speaker for AVID's 2014 National Conference, coming December 11-13 in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Hrabowski, President of UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) since 1992, is a consultant on science and math education for national agencies, universities, and school systems. He was recently named by President Obama to chair the newly created President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. He also chaired the National Academies' committee that produced the recent report, *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads*.

“We are delighted and honored to have Dr. Hrabowski as our keynote speaker. He shares our mission to raise academic success for all students,” said AVID CEO Sandy Husk. “We look forward to his insights on acceleration and inclusive excellence that have made UMBC such a renowned university in higher education.”

Named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by *TIME* (2012) and one of America's Best Leaders by *U.S. News & World Report* (2008), Hrabowski also received TIAA-CREF's *Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence* (2011), the Carnegie Corporation's *Academic Leadership Award* (2011), and the *Heinz Award* (2012) for contributions to improving the “Human Condition.” UMBC has been recognized as a model for academic innovation and inclusive excellence by such publications as *U.S. News*, which the past five years ranked UMBC the #1 “Up and Coming” university in the nation. He and UMBC were recently featured on CBS's [60 Minutes](#), attracting national attention for the campus's achievements involving innovation and inclusive excellence.

The AVID National Conference is a forum to discuss and share best practices on opening access to rigorous curriculum for all students and to transform schools. Participants include superintendents, school board members, district and site administrators, and other educational leaders. The conference will feature more than 60 concurrent sessions, led by practitioners and educational leaders, including researcher and author Dr. David Conley and Greg Darnieder, U.S. Department of Education Advisor on the College Access Initiative.

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ABOUT AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school's academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.