

**Statement of University System of Maryland Chancellor Brit Kirwan
at University of Maryland, College Park News Conference
Announcing Move from the ACC to the Big Ten
November 19, 2012**

(Note: Chancellor Kirwan joined UMCP President Wallace Loh and UMCP Athletics Director Kevin Anderson at the 11.19.12 Conference. Following Loh's statement, Kirwan delivered the following remarks.)

Thank you. Wallace.

Earlier today, Wallace, Kevin, and I met with the University System of Maryland Board of Regents, which overwhelmingly endorsed the move of the University of Maryland, College Park to the Big Ten.

The benefits of this move for the athletics department are clear. Chief among them are better support for our student athletes and the possibility of bringing back some teams that the university had to cut.

Speaking personally, I support the move largely because of what it means to the institution academically. Having been a president in the Big Ten (Kirwan is a former president of Ohio State University), I know firsthand that it is not just an athletic conference. It is also an academic alliance of major research universities. This alliance, called the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation), includes the University of Chicago because it was a founding member of the Big Ten.

Among other things, the CIC:

- Engages in joint research projects among its members;
- Provides for student exchanges within the institutions of the CIC;
- Shares library resources;
- Maintains a high-speed internet connection to share information and data among the institutions;
- Has a shared study-abroad program for its undergraduates.

There is nothing to match this level of academic collaboration in any other major conference except for the Ivy League. This is what excites me about the move. It advances the academic mission of the university.

There is one other reason why I support the move. I have said publicly on numerous occasions that my concern about all the money being generated by intercollegiate athletics programs is that it stays in athletics and in many cases creates an imbalance with spending on the core missions of our nation's universities. Wallace has made it very clear that this will not be the case for UMCP as a Big Ten member. As a first step, he has committed to using a meaningful portion of the new revenue coming from the Big Ten membership to invest in undergraduate education. He has assured me that other academic investments will follow. This sends a powerful message about the appropriate role of athletics within our universities and it's the kind of commitment that I hope other universities both in the Big Ten and elsewhere will emulate.