

A Balanced Approach

WILLIAM ENGLISH "BRIT" KIRWAN

Chancellor, University System of Maryland

Selected by: *Dr. Freeman Hrabowski*

President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

It has been said that William English Kirwan, known as Brit by friends and peers, speaks with a tone in his voice as though he is waiting for something to be discovered. It is true.

Kirwan is the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

From his post, he is both an advocate for and an audience to the discovery that happens daily in Maryland's public universities. But what stands out in the minds of his admirers, specifically Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of UMBC, is Kirwan's contagious enthusiasm for people and education. "He has this quality of neoteny, of being forever young, and he is always laughing and helping to motivate and inspire people. When you mention the name 'Brit' in Maryland, people smile."

A similar smile passes across Kirwan's face when you mention Maryland. "I love the size of Maryland. It is a state where you get things done because it is possible to have very strong personal contact with people. It's a state

where nobody is more than an hour away. So people with common interests and the energy to make things happen can really come together in Maryland."

Maryland's university system has grown both tangibly and philosophically in the past few years under Kirwan's leadership. Tasked with developing and maintaining a budget that is approved by both the State government and the UMS Board of Regents, Kirwan cites the students as the most important beneficiaries of his work. Ideally, the System could keep costs down for individuals while at the same

time increasing the quality and caliber of the available education. Therefore, Kirwan is constantly flexing his mathematical genius by keeping busy calculating places within the system for cost-savings.

For a math scholar, Kirwan is innumerable adept at communicating. He is a true ambassador for the state, for the public university system, and for each of his constituents. He is also an ambassador for constant education, and in closing, he even educated me a bit on a European ancestor of mine who had discovered something formidable in quantum mechanics. **AM**



Erica Fromherz