



Friday, November 30, 2018
UMCES Environmental Summit & Peter Goodwin Presidential Investiture
Chancellor Robert L. Caret
(AS DRAFTED)

Good morning. I am very pleased to be here on this important occasion.

Traditionally in academia, the investiture ceremony for a university president is an occasion marked by formality and pageantry: Participants in academic regalia; The bestowing of a medallion or a mace; And lots of speeches focused responsibilities, vision, and “charges” for the president.

It says a great deal about the principles and priorities—the character—of Dr. Peter Goodwin that he has opted to forgo these conventional trappings, and instead use the occasion of his investiture to host an environmental summit.

And so today will be a day showcasing panelists discussing environmental topics that are both relevant to the mission of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES), and that will help develop and strengthen the UMCES strategic plan.

UMCES is expected to serve as a catalyst for the University System of Maryland (USM) to engage the talent from sister institutions, both for interdisciplinary educational programs, and to generate the scientific knowledge Maryland needs to manage the environment for a sustainable and vibrant future.

I am especially pleased to note that these panel presentations and discussions tackle some significant challenges. Not just vital issues like healthy harbors, coastlines, and ecosystems, but also featured will be presentations on ensuring that **science** informs policy, as well as discussions on advancing diversity and inclusion in the STEM disciplines.

Clearly this is an incredibly ambitious agenda, both for this summit and for Peter’s presidency. But it is totally in keeping with his overarching focus on “the grand challenges in the environment” and the future of UMCES.

USM and UMCES cannot undertake these challenges alone. It will take partnerships with agencies, NGOs, the private sector, communities, and other research institutions. It will also require the exchange of experiences, technologies, and expertise from other states and other countries. So I particularly welcome those joining us remotely, whatever your time zone. We hope some of what you hear today will inspire you to collaborate with Maryland.

And while Peter didn't want today's focus to be on him or his leadership, I will nevertheless invoke a bit of "chancellor's prerogative" and take a moment to underscore why Dr. Peter Goodwin is the right leader—at the right time—for this institution and its mission.

Dr. Goodwin came to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science one year ago as an internationally recognized expert in ecohydraulics, with more than three decades of experience in higher education.

And just as UMCES stretches across Maryland from the Eastern Shore to the Appalachians, so too Dr. Goodwin's expertise and research is remarkably expansive: River restoration, coastal wetland sustainability, flood control, restoration of aquatic systems, sediment management, and estuarial systems.

Of course, along with his substantial experience and expertise, Peter brought with him a vision for the future of UMCES: A leading research center that seeks to help manage the world's environmental resources and address the world's environmental challenges.

While only a year into his tenure, Dr. Goodwin—with his signature positivity and energetic approach—is already bringing that vision to life, with today's summit only the most recent example.

So now ladies and gentlemen . . . Please join me in welcoming the president of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. . . Dr. Peter Goodwin.

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