



March 19, 2024

Dear UMB Community,

I'm pleased to share that after a national search, Jenny Owens, ScD, MS, has been appointed vice provost of academic affairs and strategic initiatives at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB). She currently serves as associate dean of academic affairs and associate professor in the Graduate School as well as executive director of the Graduate Research Innovation District (Grid).

As an educator and scholar practitioner with a diverse career path in academia, Dr. Owens has a 15-year record of effective strategic planning, leadership, and management resulting in innovative new services and academic programs. As associate dean in the Graduate School, she leads the academics and administration of self-supporting degree programs. Dr. Owens has been instrumental in the Graduate School's growth strategy and successfully launched over 20 academic programs, from graduate certificates to PhDs. Additionally, Dr. Owens oversees admissions and enrollment services for the Graduate School's portfolio of over 60 degree programs. She also provides leadership as the founding executive director of the Grid, an innovation space that nurtures student entrepreneurs through mentorship, programming, pitch development, and career coaching with support from UM Ventures.

Since joining UMB in 2010, Dr. Owens has been actively engaged in many Universitywide initiatives, including Leaders in Education: Academy of Presidential Scholars and the President's Council for Women. She served on the Logistics Committee of the 2016 Middle States Self-Study and serves on the Steering Committee and as co-chair of Standard III (Design and Delivery of the Student Learning Experience) of the 2025 Middle States Self-Study. She also is active in the UMBrella coaching program and UMB's Emerging Leaders program.

Dr. Owens is a former Warnock Social Innovation Fellow, an alumna of the Johns Hopkins University Social Innovation Lab, and was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Leader. She actively contributes to research on health equity, health-related social needs, and health care access, focusing on housing. She co-leads an awareness and advocacy committee in a national housing organization.

She earned a bachelor's degree in exercise and sport science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a master's in management and leadership from East Stroudsburg University, and a doctor of science degree in information and interaction design from the University of Baltimore. With experience teaching across in-person, online, and hybrid environments since 2016, she has taught graduate courses in leadership and communications, health science capstone, and human-centered design, among others.

I want to thank those who participated in our national search, especially the search committee chaired by Mark Macek, DDS, DrPH, FICD, professor and assistant dean for curriculum innovation and scholarship at the School of Dentistry.

I know that you join me in congratulating Dr. Owens on her new position, which will begin April 8, 2024.

Sincerely,

**Roger J. Ward, EdD, JD, MSL, MPA**  
*Provost and Executive Vice President*

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This note was authorized for distribution to the University of Maryland, Baltimore community by the Office of the Provost.

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