

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2010

Contact: Bobbie O'Connell

410-704-3700

cumu@towson.edu



Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Welcomes new Leadership

Election boasts new Executive Committee members including president and vice president

Fresno State was home to the 16th annual Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) Conference last week. Over 200 participants and 90 presenters attended the event. Keynote speakers were Richard Florida, author of *The Rise of the Creative Class* and Fresno Mayor, Ashley Swearingin.

The 2010-2011 Executive Board was announced at the Presidential Luncheon on October 25, 2010, following an election held earlier that day. **John Christensen**, Chancellor at the University of Nebraska, Omaha was elected as the new CUMU President with **James Harris**, President at Widener University serving as Vice President. **Roger Brown**, Chancellor at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga was elected Conference Committee Chair and **Wendell Pritchett**, Chancellor at Rutgers University, Camden was elected to serve as Programs and Policy Committee Chair. New Members-at-Large include: **James Ramsey**, University of Louisville; **Tomas Morales**, College of Staten Island; **Allen Sessoms**, University of the District of Columbia; and **Marshall Goodman**, University of South Florida Polytechnic.

Robert Caret, Towson University, will continue to serve as Secretary-Treasurer as well as Ann Millner, Weber State University, continuing her term as Membership Development Committee Chair, and Evan Dobelle, Westfield State University, continuing his term as Communications and Public Relations Committee Chair.



Dr. John Christensen became the fourteenth chancellor of the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2007. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Christensen held several administrative positions at UNO, including vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, dean of the College of Education, and chair of the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders. He is chair of the President's Committee of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA), and is Nebraska's Policy and Legislative representative to the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Council of State Representatives. Dr. Christensen has previously served as Member at

Large and Program and Policy Committee Chair on the CUMU Executive Committee.



Dr. James T. Harris III became the ninth president of Widener University in 2002. Prior to his role at Widener University, Dr. Harris served eight years as president of Defiance College in Ohio. Beyond his role as president, Dr. Harris serves as vice chair for the board of directors of National Campus Compact and as chair of the Presidents' Council, Division III, for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). Dr. Harris has previously served as Member at Large and Conference Committee Chair on the CUMU Executive Committee.

For more information on the Executive Committee and CUMU, visit <http://www.cumuonline.org>.

Founded in 1990, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) is the premier higher education resource for urban and metropolitan institutions that seek new ways of using their human and physical resources to address the problems of their metropolitan area. CUMU is a leadership organization bringing together presidents, administrators, and faculty to share best practices through conferences, seminars, networks, and publications, including the internationally recognized Metropolitan Universities Journal. The Coalition includes 80 member universities that represent over 50 metropolitan communities.