



GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Regional business leaders creating a better tomorrow...today.



July 5, 2017

State House Update

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GBC'S 2017 AGENDA

GBC's 2017 Legislative Agenda

GBC'S LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

To read testimony and get more information about bills the GBC tracked this year, visit our legislative tracking website.

MD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

General Assembly Website

Committee Schedule

GBC EVENTS

July 12, 2017
GBC Golf Classic

July 19, 2017
SOLD OUT:
Newsmaker Breakfast:
Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises.

Message to Members

School funding and student performance are vital issues for the business community because a strong school system provides a well-prepared workforce. For this reason, the GBC actively advocates for positive change. Not only is it our duty to provide the best possible outcomes for Maryland's students, but it is important to Maryland's economy that employers are able to find capable employees across a myriad of fields.

In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation creating the Thornton Commission, named after Dr. Alvin Thornton, then Chair of Howard University's Political Science Department. The commission was charged with reviewing the education financing formula, which led to recommendations regarding adequacy of funding for students and ensuring excellence in public school systems and student performance. In 2002, the legislature enacted legislation addressing the commission's findings.

The 2002 bill called for a follow-up study 10 years later. After some delay, a study was conducted, leading eventually to legislation passed in 2016 creating a new commission named after its leader, Dr. William "Brit" Kirwan, former Chancellor of the University System of Maryland. The Kirwan Commission began meeting last year and will continue to meet until it issues a final report, comprised of recommendations, at the end of this calendar year.

The Kirwan Commission is charged with making recommendations regarding wide-ranging topics that have the potential to affect public schools in Maryland from pre-K through 12th grade. Executing these recommendations will be

CEO, Baltimore City
Public Schools

August 9, 2017

NewsMaker Breakfast:
Ricky D. Smith,
Executive Director/CEO,
Maryland Aviation
Administration

September 14, 2017

SAVE THE DATE:
Economic Outlook
Conference,
Renaissance Baltimore
Harborplace Hotel

October 11, 2017

SAVE THE DATE:
Transportation Summit,
Baltimore Marriott
Inner Harbor
at Camden Yards

October 18, 2017

NewsMaker Breakfast:
Dr. Thomas M. Scalea,
Physician-In-Chief,
R Adams Cowley Shock
Trauma Center

November 1, 2017

SAVE THE DATE:
Bridging the Gap Achievement
Awards, The Grand Baltimore

November 15, 2017

NewsMaker Breakfast:
Dr. Redonda Miller, President,
The Johns Hopkins Hospital,
and Dr. Mohan Suntha,
President and CEO,
University of Maryland Medical
Center University Campus

December 6, 2017

SAVE THE DATE:
Mayor's Business
Recognition Awards Luncheon,
Renaissance Baltimore
Harborplace Hotel

Event and sponsorship
information:
Lisa Byrd at 410-727-2820

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Shaina Hernandez

among the most debated and contentious items on the agenda for the Maryland General Assembly during the 2018 session and likely beyond.

The most recent Kirwan Commission meeting took place on June 28. At this meeting, the Commission heard presentations from nationally-recognized education experts on improving the teaching profession and how Maryland compares with other states on student achievement and funding. Meetings are scheduled for much of the remainder of the year before the December reporting deadline. The GBC will continue to monitor the progress of the Kirwan Commission and take part in deliberations to ensure this important process benefits and strengthens Maryland's educational system.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Donald C. Fry
President and CEO

Upcoming Dates of Interest

On [July 19](#) the GBC is hosting a SOLD OUT NewsMaker Breakfast with Dr. Sonja Santelises, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. at the GBC office, 111 S. Calvert St., Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202. Future NewsMaker Breakfast programs include Ricky D. Smith, Executive Director/CEO of the Maryland Aviation Administration, on [August 9](#) and Dr. Thomas Scalea, Physician-In-Chief at the R. Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, on [October 18](#).

Join the GBC on [July 12](#) for its 2017 Golf Classic at Greystone Golf Course in White Hall. For additional information, contact [Chris Fabula](#), Executive Assistant to the President and CEO, at 410-727-2820.

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