



Ellen Herbst

Visionary Leader in Finance & Strategy

PROFILE

Ellen Herbst is a transformative leader with a distinguished career spanning higher education, government, and the private sector. With extensive expertise in finance, strategic planning, and enterprise risk management, she has successfully led large-scale initiatives that drive operational excellence, financial sustainability, and institutional growth.

Ellen has a proven track record of guiding organizations through complex financial landscapes, implementing innovative solutions, and fostering cross-sector collaborations to achieve long-term impact.

EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

As the Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance at the University System of Maryland (USM), Ellen Herbst oversees the financial and operational strategy for a \$7.9 billion annual budget, \$250 million in capital expenditures, and endowment fund management across 12 universities and three regional centers. She provides strategic counsel to the Chancellor, Board of Regents, and university presidents, driving initiatives in enterprise risk management, shared services, and fiscal responsibility.

Ellen played a pivotal role in steering USM through the financial and operational challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring continuity in education and safety for 170,000 students and 40,000 employees. Under her leadership, USM has:

- Adopted its first enterprise risk management framework
- Implemented a consolidated ERP system
- Launched shared services initiatives that standardized key processes
- Maintained USM's AA1/AA+ credit rating, optimizing resource allocation for millions in cost savings

Board Memberships & Recognitions

- Serves on multiple national boards and councils, including the National Association of College and University Business Officers and the National Academy for Public Administration.
- Recognized as a Power Higher Education Leader (2023), one of Baltimore's 25 Women to Watch (2019), and a Top 100 Leader by Federal Computer Weekly (2018).

CONTACT

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Ellen Herbst

Academic Credentials:

Master of Business Administration (MBA) –
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

Bachelor of Science in Economics & Accounting –
University of Delaware

Career Highlights

Public Sector Leadership – U.S. Department of Commerce

- Served as **Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration** under President Obama, overseeing a **\$1 billion headquarters renovation** and managing **\$7.9 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding**.
- Spearheaded the **federal Shared Services organization**, streamlining operations across multiple agencies.
- Led the **implementation of an enterprise risk management program** for federal operations.

Private Sector Experience – Business Growth & Strategic Leadership

- Held leadership roles at **E.I. DuPont de Nemours, Giesecke & Devrient America**, and others, specializing in **business development, strategic marketing, and operational leadership**.
- Successfully **grew a North American business from zero to \$25 million in annual revenue**, showcasing her entrepreneurial expertise.