



UMB CURE Quarterly

Message from the Executive Director

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *UMB CURE Quarterly Newsletter*. It's with great pleasure that I share the excitement of our program's first semester. I've deeply enjoyed this journey through program development, lessons learned, and successes celebrated, and I'm honored to be involved in such a significant endeavor.

Quite often, I've remarked on the "light speed" of our program's evolution. However, I'd be remiss if I did not acknowledge the many people who, for several years, laid the groundwork for this monumental undertaking—an undertaking that influences the lives of our Scholars, their families, and our Baltimore community.

The commitment and vision of Dr. Jay Perman (UMB), Dr. Elsie Stines (UMB), Dr. Sanya Springfield (NIH), Mr. Andy Bertamini (Wells Fargo Bank), and Rep. Elijah Cummings are remarkable. I'm indebted, as well, to our extraordinary advisory board and subcommittees for their hard, hard work and unrelenting energy. The continuing support our fantastic mentors (100+), partner schools (3), scholar families (40), donors, legislators, UMB staff, community agencies, and partner organizations enables us to grow and thrive.

My sincerest gratitude goes to all who have contributed to our program's development and success! Stay tuned to learn more about the accomplishments of our impressive UMB CURE Scholars.

Robin Saunders, Ed.D.

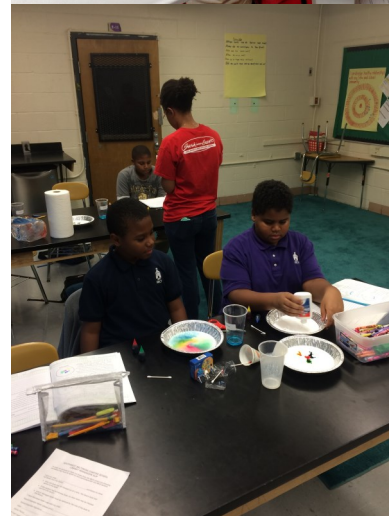
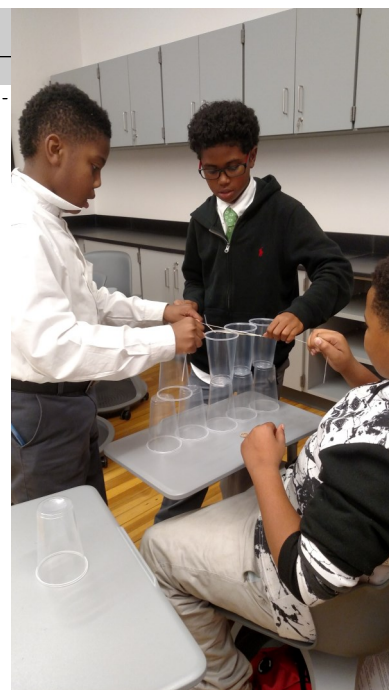
CURE Scholars Program Extolled for 'New Vision'

The CURE Scholars Program of the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) and its promise for West Baltimore families has been showcased by WYPR-FM.

The University's role in encouraging middle school youngsters to become physicians, cancer researchers, and other health workers through the innovative program is the focus of an audio story that aired Dec. 24 and continues to be available online.

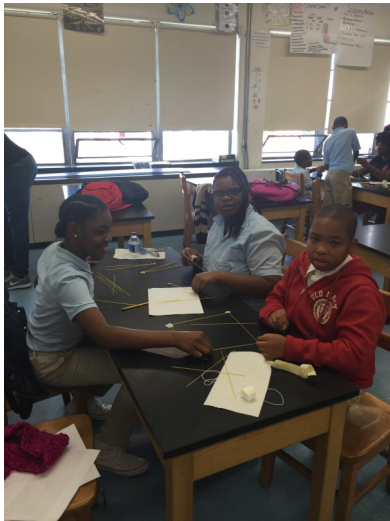
"Seeing, Really Seeing, Urban Youth," by reporter Fraser Smith, describes the opportunities being offered to 40 CURE Scholars from three public schools in Baltimore through a partnership of the National Cancer Institute(NCI), the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, and UMB.

The WYPR story takes listeners back to the launch event on Oct. 10, 2015, during which U.S. Rep. Elijah E. Cummings of Baltimore thanked the NCI and UMB for paying attention to young people from disadvantaged neighborhoods in Baltimore and helping them to meet high aspirations. The NCI was represented by Sanya A. Springfield, PhD, director of the NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities, which established the CURE nationwide initiative. *(continued on page 2)*



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(cont.) Cummings, a 1976 alumnus of the Francis King Carey School of Law at UMB, said the urban challenge is to have "a new vision." He directly thanked UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, for his role in UMB CURE.

In the piece, Perman recalls interacting with a Baltimore boy who talked about his future even though, in reality, difficulties were likely. He said urban youngsters face numerous obstacles and his job as president "is to remove those obstacles one by one."

The story includes interviews with Karin Soden, the parent of one of the CURE Scholars, Katelyn Paige, and with a teacher at the sixth-grader's school, Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School. He is Maryland Carey Law alum Kirk Crawley, JD '88, who is a member of the CURE Scholars advisory board.

A month prior, on November 19th, WBAL-TV's Vanessa Herring and her team paid a visit to one of the three CURE partner schools, Green Street Academy, to learn more. Her report aired on the evening news and emphasized the long-term benefits CURE provides.

"As the program continues and the CURE commitment remains, scholars may well look back on this luncheon as an important day in their lives."

THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR CURE FAMILIES

Thanksgiving is a time for families to come together, share a meal, and reflect on the blessings in their lives.

UMB CURE helped ensure a great holiday for its own CURE family by providing Thanksgiving foodstuffs for scholars and their families. With help from our partners like the UMB BioPark, Bon Secours, Wells Fargo, and Roscoe Johnson, every CURE family was able to be offered a Thanksgiving meal.

Thanks again!

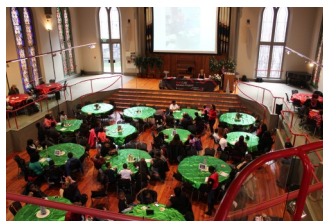
HOLIDAY PARTY A MILESTONE FOR SCHOLARS

About 100 people from the CURE family gathered on December 19th in Westminster Hall for the End of Year/Holiday Party. The luncheon included opening remarks by Dr. Sanya Springfield, door prizes, gifts, and an appearance by Santa Claus.

The highlight of the event was the awards ceremony, with awards given for Mentor of the Month, Scholar of the Week, 19 Attendance Stars, and Full Admission. 29 scholars were awarded full acceptance into the program, receiving their personalized UMB OneCard and a CURE backpack. Scholars of the Week were Demetris Beatty, Markia Eubanks, and Princaya Sanders, and honored Mentors of the Month were Amanda Azuma, Josh Pincus-Sokoloff, and Nicholas Toney.

The event marks a turning point for scholars: they are a step further along the path to achieving personal and professional success. As the program continues and the CURE commitment remains, scholars may well look back on this luncheon as an important day in their lives.

A photo collage of the event is below.



Clockwise from top left: CURE gathers in Westminster Hall; Scholars Demetris Beatty, Princaya Sanders, and Ahron Fennell eye dessert; Santa models for the camera; Scholar Aniyaa Green accepts full admission with Dr. Springfield and Dr. Saunders



Scholar Shakeer Franklin addresses the City Council as Scholars Davioin Hill and Nyah Goins listen on.

STUDENTS BRIEF COUNCIL ON UMB CURE SCHOLARS

On December 9th, 25 CURE Scholars arrived at City Hall with a message about the importance of the program to their education and one day, their careers.

Shakeer Franklin, a student at Franklin Square Middle School, began his presentation on a lighter note, asking the council to “call me Dr. Franklin, if you don’t mind.” He explained that his dream is to attend Baltimore City College High School, and later Morehouse College in Atlanta, where he says he will study to become a psychotherapist and “world-renowned” lawyer. The CURE Scholars Program, he said, “helps me by not only giving me a scholarship which is so awesome, it also helps me by motivating me to want to do my homework and motivating me to want to get to school on time. And I say this because if I do not do these things I can no longer be in the program and me or my mom doesn’t want that.”

Another student, Davioin Hill of the Southwest Baltimore Charter School, echoed Franklin’s commitment to the program. “The CURE program has already had an impact on my family because all of the hard work we have to do to keep in the program,” he said. “We all have to get involved because it’s an opportunity to get in the right school and get good training for a career.”

Hill drew smiles and laughter as he described some of the hands-on scientific experiments the students have conducted, including a test of the so-called “five-second rule.” He explained how the class tested the floors of the classroom and bathroom for bacteria. “It was gross and cool at the same time,” he told the council.

The last of the three student presenters, Nyah Goins, a student at the Green Street Academy, advised the council that the CURE Scholars Program is an investment in the future. “This program really impacts on my future because, did you ever hear the saying it’s better to give than receive? I received to get in such an amazing program,” she said. “Maybe one day it will be my time to give a chance like this to other kids who want a great education.” Goins also challenged the council to “keep and watch over better kids and better education because one day we will be your future.”

After asking the rest of the students to stand and be acknowledged, council president Jack Young expressed his support for the CURE Scholars Program. “This is what we have to continue to support, programs like these that make a difference in the lives of our children and spark their interest to be the best that they can be,” he said.

“Tell Dr. Perman [president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore] I said ‘thanks, he kept his word’ and to continue doing a great job trying to make a difference in our schools.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming events and important dates for UMB CURE:

- Sat, Jan 30th: Resume Saturday activities
- Tue, Feb 2nd: Speaker Series/Career Exploration
- Tue, March 1st: Speaker Series/Career Exploration
- March 5th: Maryland Science Olympiad
- Fri, March 25th-April 1st: Spring Break
- Tue, April 5th: Speaker Series/Career Exploration
- April 16th: Oriole Park Tour
- Tue, May 3rd: Speaker Series/Career Exploration



SPRING MENTOR LUNCHEON

When: Friday, January 29th @ noon

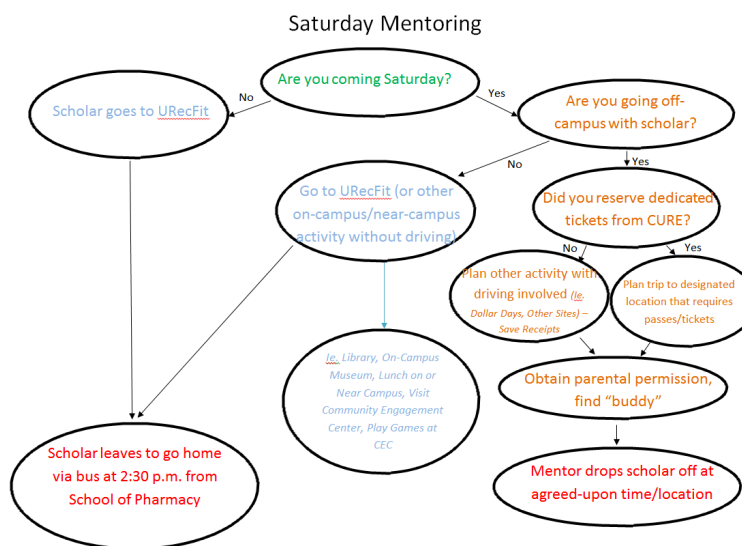
Where: To be announced

What: Lunch for mentors provided by UMB CURE + short info session

MENTORS' CORNER

As we enter a new semester, mentoring will continue to be the backbone of the program. A couple changes are on the way, like dedicating Tuesdays in February to science olympiad projects (in addition to Thursdays) in order to better prepare and retooling the way we do Saturday tutoring to better meet scholars where they are at academically. As always we will communicate these changes to you.

Saturday mentoring has been going smoothly, and we hope that outings with scholars continue throughout the school year. Scholar-mentor groups have gone to the National Aquarium, movies, basketball games, and simply eaten a meal together. Mentoring does not have to occur solely on days there are tutoring; if you'd like to spend time with your scholar outside of official mentoring hours, just let CURE staff and scholar parents know! Scholars love new experiences and learning from their mentors. See below for Saturday mentoring protocol.



UMB CURE SCHOLARS

Supported by the National Cancer Institute's Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) program, the UMB CURE Scholars Program identifies promising middle school students in Baltimore and prepares them for health care and research careers through hands-on workshops and lab experiences, and mentorship.

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UMB CURE Scholars Program

INAUGURAL CURE FELLOWSHIP

The UMB CURE Scholars Program announces the UMB CURE Mentor Fellowship. This new initiative is designed to give UMB students hands-on training and a unique experience in teaching and mentoring of minority students at the middle and high school levels in STEM/healthcare disciplines. Through this program, the Fellow gains skills in curriculum preparation and assessment, grant/resource management, effective communication with diverse audiences and team leadership that will augment his/her graduate education and professional development. The Fellowship was developed with the support of the UMB Graduate School, School of Medicine and Graduate Program in Life Sciences. Applications for the one-year program will be accepted in June of each year. The inaugural Fellowship was awarded to Tierra Johnson, a fourth year PhD student in the Molecular Medicine Graduate Program. As part of the UMB CURE team, Tierra serves as lead mentor at the Green Street Academy partner school and coordinates diverse aspects of the program including after school curriculum and mentor communications.



CURE Fellow Tierra Johnson

To learn more about **becoming a mentor** or **supporting the program** in any capacity, please contact Robin Saunders (rsaunders@umaryland.edu) or visit <http://www.umaryland.edu/cure-scholars/> !