

CURECORNER

JANUARY 2017

FESTIVE FALL FINISH

CURE Corner is an occasional feature with noteworthy updates from UMB's CURE Scholars Program, a pipeline initiative that prepares West Baltimore children for health and research careers through hands-on workshops, lab experiences, and mentorship. UMB's CURE scholars are the youngest ever to participate in the National Cancer Institute's Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE) national program.

The UMB CURE Scholars Program wrapped up the fall semester with a Winter Wonderland Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 10. The day was full of guest speakers, parent workshops, awards, and holiday stores for the scholars.

Scholars began the day at the University of Maryland (UM) BioPark and the UMB Community Engagement Center to use merits they earned for good behavior to purchase gifts for their families and other scholars. Parents attended a parent workshop facilitated by the Community Engagement Center staff at the same time.



SCHOLARS USED MERITS TO PURCHASE GIFTS AT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CENTER.

The scholars then participated in an awards ceremony through the UM School of Pharmacy student organization A Bridge to Academic Excellence (ABAE). ABAE treated the UMB CURE scholars to raffle prizes, awards for all of the scholars, and lunch.

The afternoon was full of special guest speakers and awards given from the UMB CURE Scholars Program. UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, welcomed the scholars and their families and congratulated the scholars on an awesome first semester. Alison Lin, PhD, a program director for the Diversity Training Branch of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities of the National Cancer Institute, emphasized to the CURE scholars



THE ORIOLE BIRD JOINED THE CURE SCHOLARS AT THE AWARD CEREMONY.

that they can be anything they want to be and that they are all on the track to being scientists. The scholars were then treated to a presentation by Renetta Tull, PhD, associate vice provost for graduate student development at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a global speaker for STEM equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The UMB CURE leadership team (with the help of the Baltimore Orioles mascot) presented awards to the UMB CURE community, including Scholar of the Month, Mentor of the Month, and Scholar Perfect Attendance awards. The Baltimore City Council provided individual resolution certificates to each sixth-grade scholar, recognizing their achievements and acceptance into the program. In addition, 22 sixth-grade scholars became fully admitted to the program, having been enrolled for at least one semester without receiving any demerits for poor behavior and having no more than one unexcused absence. UMB CURE now has 55 fully admitted scholars.

The final presentation featured 59 scholars receiving Math Awards for completing math problems during Saturday tutoring throughout the semester. A special shoutout goes to Mariah Beatty, a sixth-grade scholar at Green Street Academy, for completing more than 1,700 math problems since Oct. 15 and being the UMB CURE Mathlete MVP for the fall semester.

After a wonderful fall semester, the UMB CURE community is looking forward to the Science Olympiad projects that the scholars will begin in January. Stay tuned to hear about the accomplishments of the UMB CURE scholars during the Science Olympiad competition being held on Saturday, March 4.

— Emily Rencsok