

UMBrella

2024 Recipients



Paris Barnes, M.S.

Communications Program Specialist, School of Pharmacy

Scholarship: Minority Cannabis Business Association annual membership

“Receiving the UMBrella Scholarship has been a transformative experience, allowing me to afford a membership with the Minority Business Cannabis Administration. This membership has been instrumental in advancing my career in medical cannabis while also enabling me to make meaningful contributions to my community. Through this organization, I have had the privilege of meeting, collaborating with, and volunteering alongside numerous dedicated professionals. My volunteer efforts included providing free education to healthcare providers, speaking with faith leaders about cannabis, and working alongside a doula to offer education and support. An especially notable opportunity was participating in a documentary about cannabis in Maryland

entitled “Weed Wars: Maryland’s Monopoly & The Fight For Free Markets,” which provided a platform for raising awareness and sharing insights. The scholarship was truly a blessing, as it has not only facilitated my entry into the challenging yet rewarding cannabis industry but also empowered me to make a positive impact both professionally and within my community.”



Ashley Fehringer

Training Manager, School of Social Work

Scholarship: Coverage of student fees and books

The UMBrella Scholarship gave me the opportunity to continue my master’s degree in Psychology with little to no financial burden. I am grateful to have tuition remission as a benefit of being a UMB employee, however, this does not cover additional fees or expenses such as books. The UMBrella Scholarship allowed me to finish my master’s program without worrying about this extra cost. I graduated with my master’s in psychology from the University of Baltimore in May 2024 and this degree has already helped me to advance in my career at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Thank you UMBrella for helping me achieving my professional goals!



Leslie Jamka

International Program Director, University of Maryland School of Medicine
Scholarship: Professional Leadership Program for Women

The Professional Leadership Program for Women is nothing short of amazing! While the content is not rocket science, the presentation is engaging, eye-opening, and impactful. I was drawn in – and fully embraced – from day 1. The panelists and participants bring depth and breadth that foster a supportive community to grow – personally and professionally – by leaps and bounds. The skills I learned make me a better employee, community member, and person. I am so grateful to UMBrella for the opportunity to participate in this dynamic, inspiring, and thought-provoking program.



Oprah Keyes, LCSW-C (she/her)

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Promise Heights, The Center for Restorative Change, School of Social Work
Scholarship: Prosci Change Management Training

The Prosci Change Management training felt like a missing tool in my toolbox! The materials covered are so applicable to the work that I am involved in at UMB, and I am looking forward to putting these new skills to use as I support organizational change initiatives. I am excited to support my team members as we continue to embrace change at our organization. UMBrella and the CRC's willingness to invest in me as an employee and as a person, to recognize my talents, and support my growth is so very meaningful to me. Thank you so very much!



Dana Rampolla

Director, Integrated Marketing
Scholarship: Gerry Sandusky Group (communication skills coaching sessions)

Attending the Gerry Sandusky Group communications training program significantly enhanced my marketing career by refining my communication skills and increasing my confidence in public speaking. The training provided practical strategies for crafting clear, compelling messages that resonate with audiences, which has improved my ability to pitch ideas and lead campaigns effectively. I also gained valuable insights into audience engagement techniques, helping me better understand and address consumer needs. Overall, it has boosted my professional credibility and positioned me for more leadership opportunities in marketing and helped me refine presentations I have given recently at UMB.

Danielle Ellington, Training Events and Meeting Coordinator, School of Medicine
Scholarship: Certified Meeting Professional Certification (course and exam)