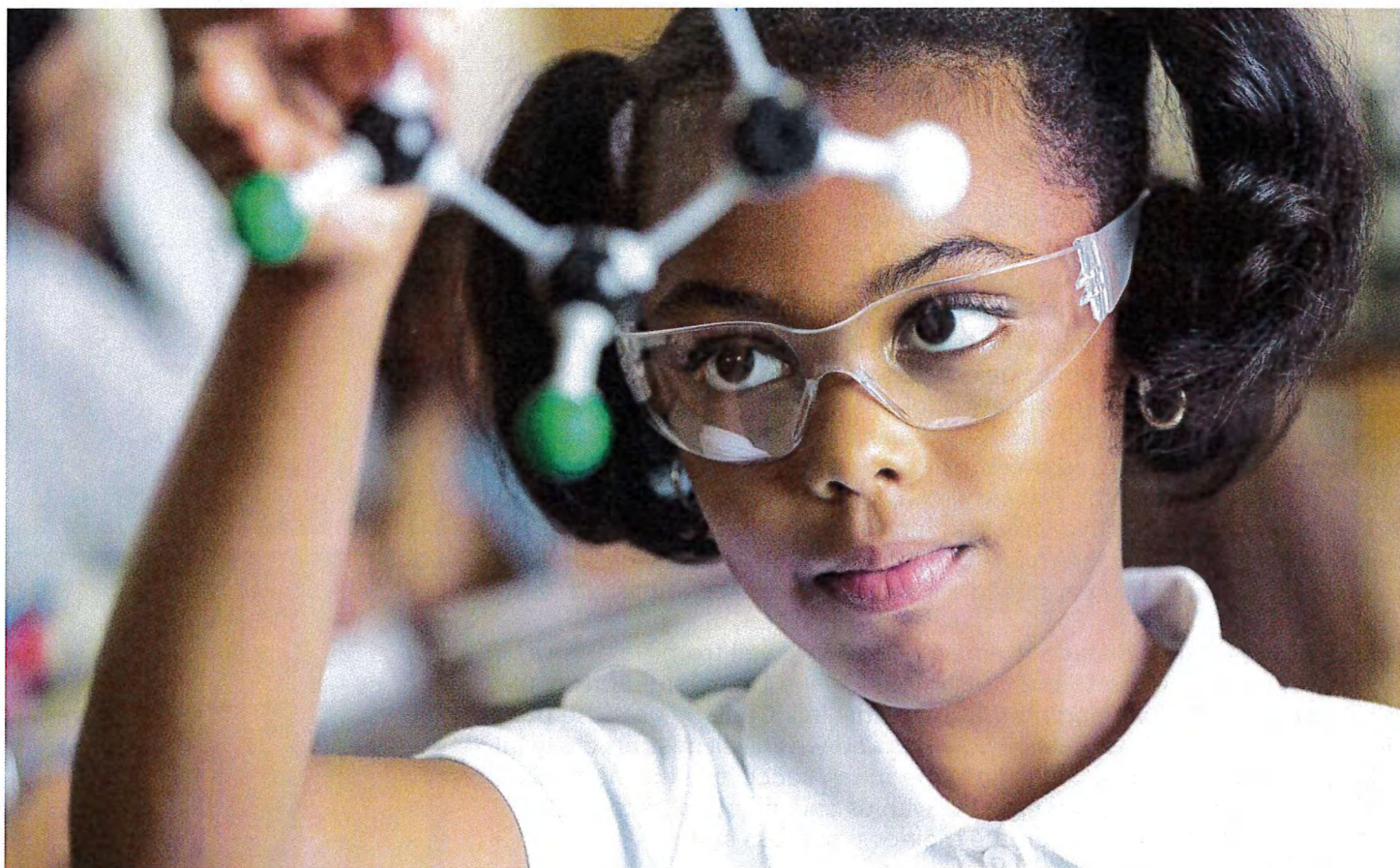




# UMB CURE QUARTERLY

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UMB CURE Scholars Program

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we are nearing the end of our school year programming (after-school component and Saturday component) and entering into our summer component, it is with great excitement, joy, and appreciation I offer congratulations to our scholars, mentors, parents, supporters, and all who contributed to the success of our first year!

Bringing a comprehensive program, such as this, into fruition takes many hands and many dedicated souls. It is for these reasons, among many others, I dedicate this edition of the UMB CURE Quarterly to our AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Dane Weinert. As most of you know, Dane has been working as a full-time volunteer since June 2015 as we developed and implemented the pilot year of our UMB CURE Scholars Program. He has been an integral contributing member to our leadership team, bringing new ideas, fresh perspectives, and unyielding energy to each endeavor. From organizing scholar applications, program events, mentor schedules, class lessons, and serving as lead mentor at Southwest Baltimore Charter School to creating a newsletter, coordinating fun Saturday activities and science Olympiad projects, Dane embraced every task that was placed before him.

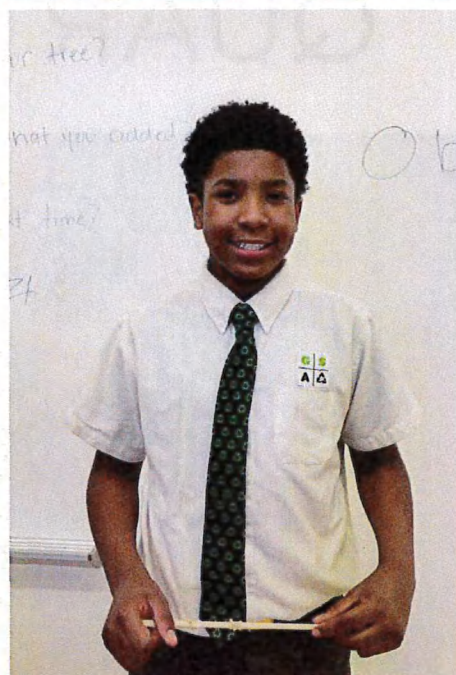
Before coming to UMB, Dane attended Emory University in Atlanta on an academic scholarship. At Emory, Dane majored in biology and health economics and continued to earn top grades. He also was involved in many community outreach activities including tutoring and fundraising. After graduating from Emory with his BS in 2015, Dane applied to the AmeriCorps VISTA program to gain additional service experience before continuing on his path to medical school. He chose to come to Baltimore because he saw a city and its people in pain and he wanted to help shape a program that was focused on education, science, opportunities, holistic services, and partnerships. Having grown up in Omaha, Neb., Dane knew Baltimore would offer him a very different perspective as a place where he could help build a program in a city that seeks desperately needed solutions to foster healing and reconciliation. Mission Accomplished ...

On May 30, we will bid Dane Weinert a fond farewell from Baltimore as he will be moving on to the prestigious Tulane University School of Medicine where he will begin his studies this fall. Dane has set the bar high for VISTA fellows who will follow him and we will all miss his cheerful and positive personality. We wish Dane much success in his medical career and hope he will keep in touch with us and, most importantly, our UMB CURE Scholars as they create their own success stories!

Fondly,  
**Robin Saunders, EdD, MS**

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“We are genuinely thrilled and proud of our three UMB CURE Scholars teams. ... Despite a few nerves, our scholars performed brilliantly and came home with ribbons, medals, and even an all-around trophy!”



UMB CURE scholars and mentors celebrate after the Baltimore Regional Competition of the Maryland Science Olympiad (right); Keayon Lawson shows off Franklin Square's team trophy (above)

**SCHOLARS STAR  
IN SCIENCE COMPETITION**

The UMB CURE Scholars put their science skills and engineering knowledge to the test on Saturday, March 5, at the Baltimore Regional Competition of the Maryland Science Olympiad, held at Morgan State University. After months of preparation with their teachers as well as student, staff, and faculty mentors from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), scholars from our three partner schools competed against 16 other teams in STEM events ranging from bridge building and bottle rocket construction to food science tests and anatomy and physiology recall.

Green Street Academy scholars D'Arria Johnson and Nyah Goins placed first in Crime Busters, Tyree Smith and Aamir Peoples placed first in Road Scholars, and the team of Jaden Buggs and Tyler McKenzie took second place in Bridge Building. Scholars Markia Eubanks and Sunnie Taylor of Southwest Baltimore Charter School placed third in the Food Science competition. And the Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School team took first in Bridge Building (Katelyn Paige and Princaya Sanders), third in Dynamic Planet (Shakeer Franklin and Beauty Holley), and third in Elastic Launched Glider (Shakeer

Franklin and Beauty Holley) on its way to a sixth-place team finish and advancement to the statewide Maryland Science Olympiad on April 23.

“We are genuinely thrilled and proud of our three UMB CURE Scholars teams,” said Robin Saunders, EdD, MS, executive director of the program. “For these children, this was their first time in a regional science competition such as this. This was also the first time many of our sixth-grade scholars had been on a college campus. Despite a few nerves, our scholars performed brilliantly and came home with ribbons, medals, and even an all-around trophy!”

At the statewide competition, Franklin Square tried to repeat — or surpass — the success Southwest Baltimore Charter School enjoyed last year, when SBSCS advanced to the statewide Maryland Science Olympiad and earned silver and bronze medals. Franklin Square performed admirably. Shakeer Franklin took fifth place in the Elastic Launched Glider category, and the Bridge Building team of Katelyn Paige and Princaya Sanders earned a silver medal, placing second! This statewide success bodes well for next year, and CURE scholars from all three partner schools are eager to compete again.



ADVENTURES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Scholars have had the opportunity for many fun and educational excursions outside of their classrooms. Below are some of the highlights:

Scholars visit a surgical operating room with Rodney Taylor, MD, MPH



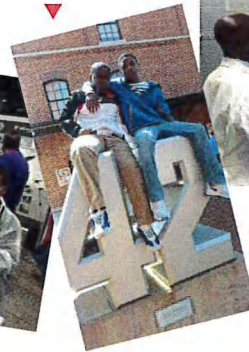
Scholar Davioin Hill scales a rock climbing wall at the B'More Healthy Expo

Scholars tour the Maryland Proton Treatment Center, led by mentor Shahed Badiyan, MD

Scholars and mentors tour Oriole Park



Scholars at the X-STEM Symposium in Washington, D.C.



Scholars at the URecFit pool



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT  
AAMIR PEOPLES



Aamir Peoples is a CURE scholar at Green Street Academy.

THE MOST FUN THING HE DID IN CURE THIS YEAR:

Science Olympiad. Because I am competitive and I got to compete. I liked doing the Road Scholars — thrown in last minute. I was nervous and intimidated at first because there were high school kids there, but then Tyree [Smith] and I decided to try to win ... and won gold!

BEST EXPERIMENT:

Bristle Bots; I like building robotics — I built a robot at home with my brother from parts.

WHAT HE WANTED TO DO BEFORE CURE:

NFL player

NOW:

An engineer. I want to design fields and stadiums because I'm good at math and like football.

LESSONS HE LEARNED FROM A CURE MENTOR THIS YEAR:

Miss Emily taught me to always show gratitude and be thankful.

WHAT HE HAS SHARED WITH HIS FAMILY FROM CURE:

I taught my brother how to ask questions and be less shy. I have seen him being less shy.

CHANGES HE HAS NOTICED WITH OTHER SCHOLARS OR HIMSELF THIS YEAR:

I have noticed that I have become much less shy because of CURE.

**MENTORS' CORNER**

Mentors continue to be the key element that enriches CURE scholars' lives outside the classroom and opens them up to new experiences. Every scholar has gone on an excursion with their mentor in the spring — from the National Aquarium and the Maryland Science Center to movies, lunch, and bowling, any time that scholars spend with mentors has been a blast.

Below are just a sample of some of the great photos from these outings; if you've got some more, send them in to Dane Weinert ([dweinert@umaryland.edu](mailto:dweinert@umaryland.edu))!

**TO LEARN MORE**

about becoming a mentor or supporting the program in any capacity, please contact Robin Saunders ([rsaunders@umaryland.edu](mailto:rsaunders@umaryland.edu)) or visit [www.umaryland.edu/cure-scholars](http://www.umaryland.edu/cure-scholars)

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**KEY**

Franklin Square Elementary/  
Middle School (FSEMS)

Green Street Academy (GSA)

Southwest Baltimore  
Charter School (SBCS)

**LOOKING AHEAD**

Upcoming events  
and important dates  
for UMB CURE:

**Saturday, May 14**

Family Fun Days  
for prospective scholars  
(SBCS and FSEMS)

**Friday, June 24**

Family Fun Day for  
prospective scholars (GSA)

**Monday, June 27**

First day of summer  
programming

**Friday, Aug. 5**

Last day of summer  
programming

**Saturday, Oct. 1**

Fall 2016 launch event

**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, lab experiences, and mentorship.

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