

OCTOBER 2021

# UMB's Catalyst Campaign Reaches 90 Percent of Fundraising Goal

 Brandon Desiderio  October 29, 2021  3 min read

**T**he generosity of University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) donors continues apace, with the ambitious target of raising \$750 million by the end of 2022 becoming a closer reality. An additional \$51 million has been secured since the [last Catalyst Campaign update](#) in early 2021, bringing the total of funding allocated toward the campaign to \$672 million, or 90 percent of its fundraising goal.

Key priorities of the institution will benefit from this funding during a challenging year, ranging from advancing scholarship opportunities for students, launching and sustaining initiatives spearheaded by dedicated clinicians throughout UMB, building out entrepreneurship opportunities for students and local businesses, deepening community engagement efforts, and recruiting faculty experts. Through these tireless efforts and more that remains underway, UMB philanthropy is poised to continue changing not only the University but also many programs and partners in West Baltimore and beyond.

Some of the latest contributions include the introduction of new endowed professorships, such as the inaugural [Alumni and Friends Professorship in Orthodontics](#), held by Jose A. Bosio, BDS, MS, and the [Dr. Paul and Mrs. Jean Corcoran Endowed Professorship](#), held by Robert K. Ernst, PhD, both at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry.

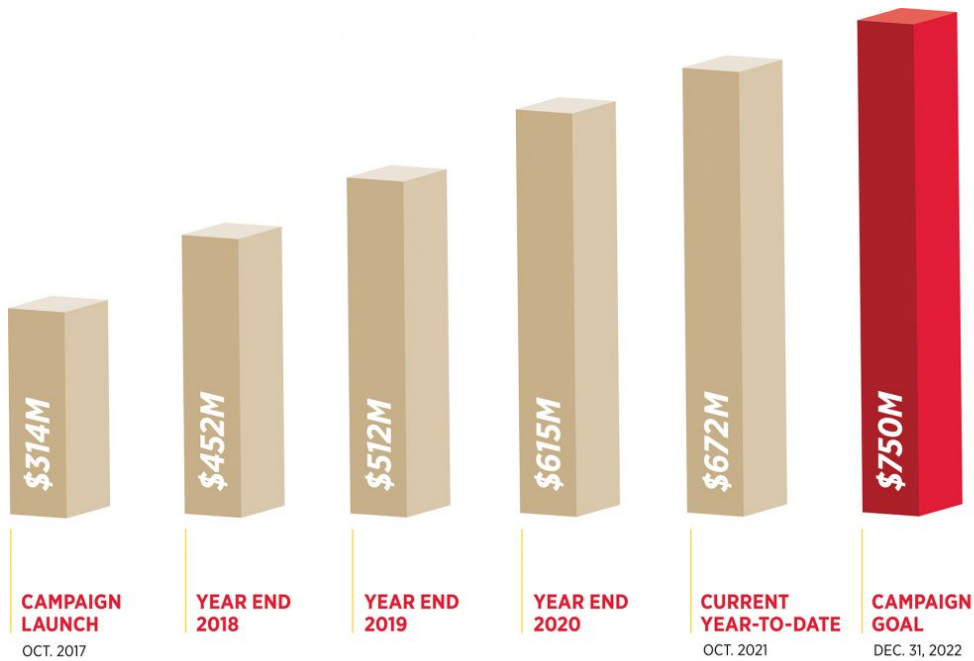
In addition to these newly supported positions, funding continues to be secured for the establishment of the interdisciplinary [PATIENTS Professors Academy](#), set to launch in early 2022 and housed in the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. The program aims to support continuous patient and stakeholder engagement so that research is conceptualized and driven by communities of patients and their care providers.

Another promising development is the continued growth and expansion of the UMB Student Social Venture Fund. This pilot program aims to bolster funding for early-stage social entrepreneurship by incorporating the best elements of venture fund models to find new businesses that promote the social good yet face challenges in securing seed funding.

Much of this latest round of funding affirms the University of Maryland's ranking this year in the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development survey as [among the top 10 public research institutions](#), a sign of not just its financial strength as a research enterprise — comprising UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park — but also of its sound investments into the future, aimed at advancing cutting-edge research and development to improve the human condition and save lives.

The Catalyst Campaign is co-chaired by UMB Foundation Board of Trustees members Ellen H. Yankellow, PharmD '96, president and CEO of CorrectRx Pharmacy Services, and Brian J. Gibbons, JD '87, chairman and CEO of Greenberg Gibbons Commercial.

For information and how you can be a catalyst for UMB, please contact James L Hughes, MBA, interim chief philanthropy officer, at [jhughes@umaryland.edu](mailto:jhughes@umaryland.edu) or by phone at 410-706-1935.



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**Brandon Desiderio**

Brandon Desiderio is a writer and editor in the Office of Philanthropy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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59 percent of American adults do not have a will. The top seven reasons are:

- It's too expensive to set up.
- I don't know how.
- I don't have enough.



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# Conquer Your Estate Plans

UMB Staff | October 29, 2021 | 2 min read

**If you don't have a current will, you're in good company: A majority of American adults do not have a will or current estate plans. The seven most common reasons are:**

1. Haven't gotten around to it
2. Not enough assets to leave to anyone
3. Too expensive
4. Don't know how
5. Don't have anyone to leave assets to
6. Takes too long
7. Rather not think about it

A common misconception is that you need to have a lot of money or a complex situation to have an estate plan, when in fact everyone who has a family or owns assets probably needs a plan.

To help University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) employees, alumni, and friends overcome the seven barriers to estate planning, the University of Maryland Virtual Wills Week Conference was held Oct. 22, 2021, providing free, high-quality presentations with the goal of getting participants started in their own estate planning. The presentations included the subjects of estate planning, wills and probate, life insurance, and Medicare and Medicaid planning.

Hosted jointly by the planned giving offices at UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park, the conference aimed to help attendees start or work on estate plans.

"In the planned giving offices, we see a lot of completed estate documents, but only the successfully executed ones that include gifts to our organizations," said E. John McKee, MA, acting associate vice president, Office of Philanthropy, and director of planned giving, UMB. "We are tuned into the obstacles people face around estate planning decisions, and we understand that as critical as estate planning may be, it is unpleasant and rarely urgent and thus easy to put off until another day."

McKee hopes that those who attended can find what they need to overcome whatever holds back estate planning decisions and actions. Learn more about Wills Week at [www.umaryland.edu/umbf/planned-giving/wills-week/](http://www.umaryland.edu/umbf/planned-giving/wills-week/).



UMB and the University of Maryland, College Park co-hosted the 2021 Virtual Wills Week Conference on Oct. 22.

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# New Pantry Will Help UMB Fight Food Insecurity Among Students, Faculty, and Staff

 Kate Ostrowski  October 29, 2021  3 min read

**R**esponding to increased food insecurity among students, a trend that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Baltimore (UMB) is launching a Student Food Pantry at the SMC Campus Center. The pantry, set to open this fall, is located in the newly renovated third-floor Student Affairs suites.

Thanks to generous donations from in-kind partners, the Student Food Pantry will be supplied by several Maryland businesses at the start, with many opportunities for future partnerships to form as it gets off the ground. The pantry is supplied with 1,000 16-ounce bottles of olive oil provided by Pompeian, the largest olive oil producer in the United States and headquartered in East Baltimore; 200 reusable 10-gallon grocery bags from IKEA; and a range of spices supplied by Maryland-based McCormick & Co.

“Close to 30 percent of UMB students who participated in the Fall 2020 Food Security Survey indicated that they worried their food would run out before they had money to buy more,” says Courtney Jones Carney, DPA, MBA, director of the Intercultural Center and executive director of intercultural leadership and engagement at UMB. “The scope of this need spurred our University community to respond to these challenges faced not just by students, but by faculty and staff as well.”

More than 700 campus-based pantries in the College & University Food Bank Alliance report providing food and emergency assistance to college students. According to the Hope Center’s 2018 survey of 86,000 college students, 41 percent of students at four-year institutions reported experiencing food insecurity in the past 30 days, 44 percent said they were worried about running out of food, and about half said they could not afford to eat balanced meals. Campus pantries, emergency funds, and increased education and awareness of the issues around campus are among the top recommended solutions.

The goal of UMB’s pantry is to be a place where students can access resources that will assist them through a rough patch, whether that be food, personal items, emergency funds, or a referral to other services that can better address their needs. It will work in collaboration with existing programs such as the Hungry Harvest and Baltimore Gift Economy markets at the UMB Community Engagement Center; the University of Maryland Medical Center Farmers Market; local Maryland Food Bank locations; and UMBconnect, a resource students can use to find events around campus in their area of interest and filter for ones that also provide food.

In times of need, UMB turns to our community benefactors and friends to support students through scholarships, endowments, and programmatic funding. We also need philanthropic support to invest in the well-being of our students so they can thrive academically and personally, accomplish the dreams that brought them to UMB, and go out into the world to improve the human condition and serve the public good.

To help UMB Student Affairs in this inaugural initiative designed to support the well-being of our students and employees, and to learn more about how your contribution can improve their



UMB's new food pantry will provide shelf-stable food to students as well as faculty and staff if needed.

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**Kate Ostrowski**

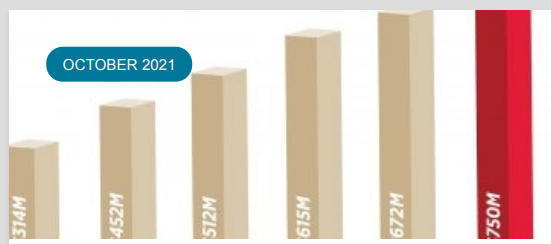
Kate Ostrowski, MPP, is the associate director, foundation operations and compliance, and board relations, in the Office of Philanthropy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

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Amount
314M
452M
512M
615M
672M
750M

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# Six Years into Program, UMB CURE Scholars Prepare for College and Workplace Success

Brandon Desiderio October 29, 2021 5 min read

The University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) [CURE Scholars Program](#), now well into its sixth year, continues to hold true to its mission of creating sustainable and competitive mentorship, education, and work opportunities for West Baltimore youth in the fields of health care and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Just this past summer, four CURE Scholars were placed in paid [virtual internships](#) with BD, a leading global medical technology company with its Integrated Diagnostic Solutions worldwide headquarters in Sparks, Md.

The four scholars were connected to this eight-week paid internship opportunity at BD through Career Navigator, which is the final leg of the CURE Scholars Program and is designed to prepare 11th- and 12th-grade students for college through mentorship, SAT prep, professional internships, and college and financial aid application support.

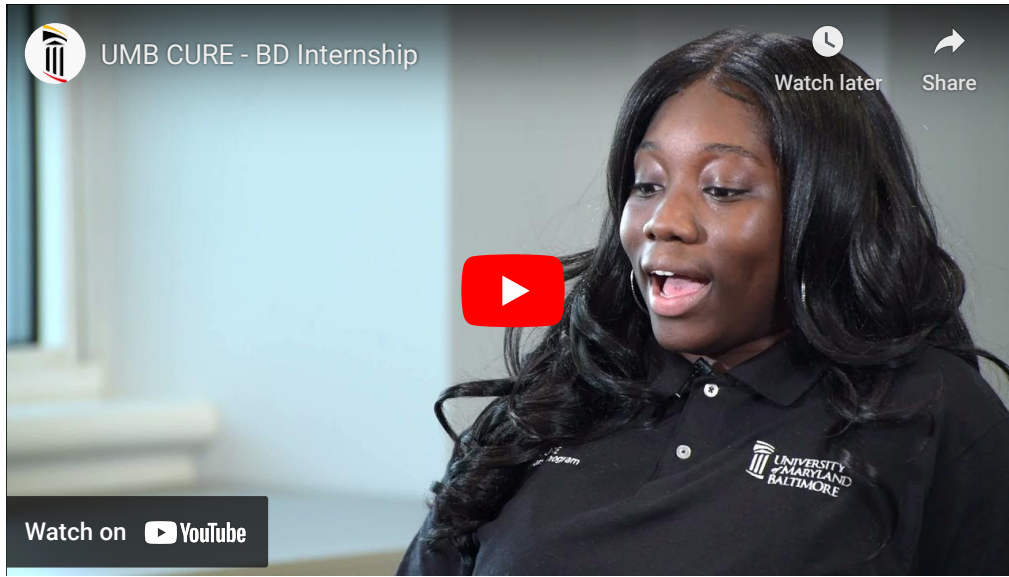


UMB CURE Scholars Jaden Buggs (left) and Princaya Sanders (right) pose with their BD mentor, Sindhusree Raghunandan. (Photo by Jena Frick)

"We're working with first-generation, low-income students, many of whom work as financial contributors for their families," said Ivan Lamas-Sanchez, MA, program manager for scholar success, who is supporting many of CURE's older students in the college early admissions application process. "While across the country many internships are still unpaid, the fact that our scholars can earn a competitive hourly wage as high schoolers while gaining this invaluable experience is essential."

The internship had two tracks with two scholars each. The first track focused on antimicrobial resistance, infectious disease, and advanced diagnostics, with the scholars producing research that informed the rollout of a testing kit produced by BD for human papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer screening. This was pivotal in a year when there was a noticeable drop in gynecology appointments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I was sincerely impressed with their skill and how quickly as young students they engaged with these sophisticated concepts,” said Nikos Pavlidis, vice president of molecular diagnostics and women’s health and cancer at BD. “When they presented their research, they were confident and professional, and they did a fantastic job.”



The scholars’ research compared the health systems in the United States and Denmark to ask questions and draw findings on the differences in the systems and their approaches to health care delivery.

“I am blessed because many people don’t have opportunities like this at such a young age,” said Ayishat Yussuf, a 12th-grader at Baltimore City College who worked on the HPV and cervical cancer research track. “Many people are doing research like this when they’re much older, so having this whole experience before even graduating high school feels pretty good.”

The second internship track was in data science and centered on cybersecurity and computer-aided design (CAD), using programming code to check genome sequencing instruments to identify health issues for individuals before they emerge.

“I was so impressed all the way through that they took on every topic and really digested them and made them their own. They were able to execute every task we gave them,” said Sindhushree Raghunandan, PhD, a staff engineer at BD who mentored scholars Princaya Sanders and Jaden Buggs.

For Buggs, a 12th-grade student at Green Street Academy, the internship inspired him to learn more about CAD and pursue engineering and design in college. He said that at the beginning of the internship he felt intimidated by computer coding, but with the help of his mentors he was able to tackle the concept very quickly.

“I truly didn’t think I was going to get it on my first try,” Buggs said. “But when I did it by myself, I was so excited that I got it right. I told my parents about it, and they were proud of me, too, which just hyped me up about my future in engineering.”

## Supporting Families

Another key component to UMB CURE in light of the pandemic has been supporting scholars’ families, including some at risk of homelessness or food insecurity, by helping with utility bill payment, rental assistance, food deliveries, or eviction prevention efforts. The Office of Philanthropy and wider UMB community [helped support](#) these initiatives earlier in the pandemic as the program [welcomed its sixth cohort](#). Lamas-Sanchez said CURE Scholars

interns earning a living wage throughout the summer was critical to bolstering family support during such a difficult time.

“Since we worked with such great staff at BD, I am already excited for next year,” Lamas-Sanchez said. “Overall, it was very successful. The students definitely took a lot away from it. Especially for students applying to colleges with a STEM or health care interest, interning at a Fortune 500 company like BD is an amazing experience.”



Gia Grier McGinnis, DrPH, MS, executive director of UMB CURE, said, “The sky is the limit for our scholars, thanks to the public-private partnerships we have been able to forge that continue to provide CURE with the network necessary for its success. We are grateful to BD for charting the path forward for our senior cohort of scholars, showing them what is possible with careful — and caring — work.”

As UMB CURE continues to expand and its younger cohorts advance in their high school careers, the program is eager to partner with other organizations in the STEM and health care fields. If you are part of a lab or organization and would like to explore partnering with UMB CURE to host scholars, please contact the program’s philanthropy officer, John Palinski, MPA, at [jpalinski@umaryland.edu](mailto:jpalinski@umaryland.edu).

Contributions also are sought to fund and support paid internships and college scholarships that can help keep the CURE Scholars’ pursuit of higher education affordable. To explore contribution options toward these efforts, please contact Palinski at the email address above.

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#### Brandon Desiderio

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# Spotlight on UMB Foundation Board Trustee Mary Caskey Gregory

 Kate Ostrowski  October 29, 2021  4 min read

**M**ary Caskey Gregory, MEconSc, is a principal with Brown Advisory in Baltimore, where she leads the institutional relationship management team and has expertise in sustainable investing. She focuses on the firm's proprietary investment strategies and works closely with institutional clients. She has been with Brown Advisory since 2010 and was previously with T. Rowe Price. She received a BA degree in French from Duke University and a master's in economic science from University College Dublin. Gregory has served on the University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees since 2015.



**SPOTLIGHT: Can you tell us about your experiences as a woman in business? What challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?**

**MARY CASKEY GREGORY:** When I started in financial services in the 1990s, women were frequently hired for support and service roles, and it was uncommon to see women in leadership or senior, external-facing roles. Growing professionally in that era, my biggest challenge was matching my hopes and expectations with the reality of opportunities. I also had the challenge of taking six years off the career track to focus on my children, so I had to restart. I've benefited from the many great women role models who helped me envision a path to advancement at different stages. Some of these role models sit on the UMBF board with me!

**What is your vision for the future of business in Baltimore? Do you have any hopes or dreams of how the city will grow and change?**

Baltimore is my hometown, and I love the city and the state. My vision is for the people of Baltimore to be proud of their city and able to find opportunity to grow, learn, build, and invest right here, in this great city. Education, health, safety, and strong community are the foundations people require, and these create a good environment for business.

**How do we build a future of sustainability practices embedded in business practices?**

We have to ask the questions we haven't traditionally asked in business: In everything we do, whether it is lowering costs by using less energy, water, material, or reducing waste, we have to ask: Is this practice sustainable? The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are a very useful framework calling for worldwide action among governments, business, and civil society to end poverty and create a life of dignity and opportunity for all, within the boundaries

of the planet. The U.N. Global Compact provides a guide for businesses to develop their own path to sustainability.

### How did you first get involved with UMB?

An old friend with whom I worked with on a Duke alumni board recommended me for the UMBF board. Once I spoke with Jay Perman [former UMB president and now University System of Maryland chancellor], I was immediately drawn in by his vision for UMB and wanted to be a part of UMB's growth and impact through the foundation.

### Which causes at UMB do you feel have a special impact?

UMB is a great university, but the cause that to me is most special and impactful is the Community Engagement Center [CEC]. I feel that the CEC represents the best of what UMB can be: bringing UMB's energy and expertise to the world in a direct and local fashion, while providing UMB students and faculty the opportunity to learn things they won't learn in the classroom.

### Do you have any advice for UMB students as they enter the workforce?

Done is better than perfect. Don't put limits on yourself.

### Why do you give to UMB?

I give because I know that UMB will make good use of my hard-earned dollars advancing a mission I believe in wholeheartedly: To improve the human condition and serve the public good of Maryland and society at-large through education, research, clinical care, and service.

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