

CURECORNER

DECEMBER 2016

ACTIVITIES AROUND

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 had a busy opening to the 2016-2017 year with packed after-school and Saturday CURE sessions.

To kick off the year, UMB CURE scholars and mentors participated in the Heart Walk at Camden Yards to benefit the American Heart Association on Saturday, Oct. 8. The scholars raised over \$250 to support research, education, and advocacy efforts regarding cardiovascular health, and they got some exercise walking around the ballpark!

For two additional Saturday sessions in October, the UMB CURE Scholars Program partnered with Art with a Heart, a Baltimore-based organization that develops creative initiatives for those living in the city's most vulnerable communities. Sixth-grade UMB CURE scholars learned about the solar system and constructed their own papier-mâché planets, wonderfully complementing the scholars' Earth and Space Science curriculum in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Other Saturday activities included a planetarium presentation at the UMB URecFit Pratt Gym, an interactive presentation by Mad Science of DC at the UMB STEM Fair, and five scholars attended the UMB Founders Week Gala.



In addition to these events, the scholars also have had the privilege of engaging in several academically enriching activities with students at the School of Pharmacy, including math support during "A Bridge to Academic Excellence," dietary awareness at a Healthy Halloween Event on Oct. 28, and an upcoming workshop on infectious diseases the pharmacy students developed.

During the after-school sessions, UMB CURE scholars have been working on a variety of STEM projects, including potato clock and homemade lava lamp experiments as well as a nutrition unit facilitated by Healthiest Maryland Schools. A highlight of the seventh-grade curriculum has been the Scratch by MIT unit, encouraging scholars to develop their own animation through learning basic computer programming skills. A highlight of the sixth-grade curriculum has been a financial literacy unit facilitated by M&T Bank, teaching scholars the basics of budgeting and tracking their spending over the course of a month.

Looking forward to the rest of the semester, sixth-grade scholars will complete snowflake formation and egg drop experiments. Seventh-grade scholars will be participating in an Introduction to Anatomy unit to parallel their Life Sciences curriculum in Baltimore City Public Schools. Both cohorts of scholars will begin their Science Olympiad projects in early December.

To stay up-to-date on the UMB CURE scholars' activities, follow UMB CURE on **Twitter** and **Facebook**. Want to know how you can be involved? Visit the UMB CURE Scholars Program **website**.

— Emily Rencsok