

WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY CAMPUS WEBSITE



The Community Campus, an outgrowth of the University of Maryland, Baltimore's (UMB) deep commitment to strengthening West Baltimore in collaboration with our neighbors, is an effort that began with my predecessor, former UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD.

Dr. Perman established the Office of Community Engagement in 2014 and opened the UMB Community Engagement Center (CEC) in West Baltimore's Poppleton neighborhood in fall 2015. The vital health, wellness, employment, education, and social services offered there have been so well-received (nearly 40,000 visits in four years) that we have run out of space in our current CEC and are renovating a historic building seven times larger just down the street.

Our new CEC will provide a richer portfolio of community-driven programming our neighbors have been asking for: an exercise/dance studio, a large multipurpose room for community meals and events, a safe play area for children, a wellness suite, and a more robust computer lab among them.

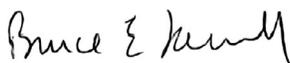
When the expanded CEC opens in summer 2020, our work won't be done. The Community Campus, which serves 6,500 households in the seven neighborhoods of the Southwest Partnership, is much larger than one building like the CEC.

It includes the UMB CURE Scholars Program, a mentoring pipeline initiative to excite more than 100 West Baltimore middle and high school students about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and prepare them for rewarding careers in cancer research, biotechnology, and health care; the Police Athletic/Activities League, which is fostering a new bond between neighborhood children and UMB police officers; neighborhood partners like James McHenry Elementary & Middle School and the James McHenry Recreation Center; and a deep partnership with the United Way of Central Maryland to expand their "Ben Center model," providing wraparound family services to West Baltimore residents, and so much more that is featured on this Community Campus website.

I am committed to building on Dr. Perman's legacy of community engagement. We will ensure that his work in this area not only will endure but will thrive.

I thank all those whose support continues to strengthen the Community Campus and I look forward to joining you in fulfilling this mission in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Bruce E. Jarrell, MD, FACS
Interim President
University of Maryland, Baltimore