

# THE UMBRELLA GROUP

*UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership  
and Leveraging Aspirations*

JULY-AUGUST 2018

## SCHOLARSHIPS PAY OFF FOR EMPOWERED WOMEN

One of the goals of the UMBrella Group is to empower women by offering educational opportunities.

It achieved this aim this year by providing scholarships to women at UMB to attend events that strengthened their knowledge and leadership skills.

First, two students attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, held at the University of Maryland, College Park from May 30 to June 2. This is the third year in a row that UMBrella has provided scholarships to this annual conference.

“Between the inspirational keynote speakers, the numerous workshops to choose from, and the tremendous amount of energy from the 700-plus attendees, there wasn’t a moment where I didn’t feel empowered and supported,” said Rebecca Fenderson, a School of Medicine student who attended the conference thanks to the UMBrella Group.

She was joined by Zoraida Younger, a School of Social Work student who was likewise impressed by the annual leadership conference, which has a rich 30-year history.

“This conference was a call to action for taking leadership in my community and university and for taking my career to the next level,” Younger said. “It was so inspiring to be surrounded by women leading in companies, movements, and politics throughout the world.”

In addition, Cherita Adams, MBA, MS, a career development manager in Human Resource Services, completed Towson University’s Professional Leadership Program for Women on May 22. Adams, who attended monthly classes starting Jan. 30, is the third recipient of this annual UMBrella scholarship.

“It’s an innovative program that allowed me to enhance my leadership skills by learning new strategies and challenging my way of thinking,” Adams said. “At the conclusion of the program I had new ideas, skills, and perspectives that will further enable

me to navigate UMB and leverage my talents. I am most grateful to the UMBrella Group for affording me this opportunity.”

In December 2017, UMBrella sent Marianne Gibson, MS, a program manager at the School of Pharmacy, and Emily Lee, MSW, an administrator at the School of Social Work, to the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Women’s Leadership Institute in Florida. The institute is geared toward women in higher education administration and student affairs who want to network with each other and learn the tools needed to pursue higher-level positions in the academy.



UMB MEDICAL STUDENT REBECCA FENDERSON AT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS.

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“The experience was transformational for me,” Lee said. “This was my first experience with any type of professional development, and it was wonderful to make connections and network with so many different women leaders in academia.”

These empowerment experiences are just what Jennifer B. Litchman, MA, senior vice president for external relations and special assistant to the president, had in mind when she conceived of the idea for UMBrella (UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership and Leveraging Aspirations) in 2014. With the support of UMB President Jay A. Perman, MD, she formed a founding committee of women in leadership positions throughout the University, representing all schools and administrative units.

A speaker series, workshops (on topics like flexible scheduling and negotiation skills for women), affinity groups, lunch and learns, continuing education, book clubs, and a coaching program have resulted.

“UMBrella’s advisory board takes great pleasure in being able to provide UMB’s staff and students with empowerment opportunities like these scholarships,” Litchman said. “Leadership development is an important component to personal and professional growth.

“Providing such robust experiences for the next generation of women leaders certainly was one of the goals when our team



ZORAIDA YOUNGER SAID THE CONFERENCE WAS INSPIRING.



CHERITA ADAMS WITH KENNEDY KRIEGER CO-DIRECTOR NANCY GRASMICK.

formed UMBrella. Supporting the success of women at UMB, advancing them into leadership roles, and championing women at all levels of the organization is what we’re all about. I look forward to seeing what Rebecca, Zoraida, Cherita, Marianne, and Emily achieve in the years to come.”

UMBrella will soon be accepting nominations for next December’s ACUI Women’s Leadership Institute. Learn more in the weeks ahead at the *UMBrella website*.

— Chris Zang

# QUARTERLY Q&A

with Dr. Perman

TUESDAY

September 18, 2018

10 a.m. | Carey School of Law, Moot Courtroom

Please join me as I answer questions from students, staff, and faculty. Everyone is welcome to attend.



ACCOUNTABILITY | CIVILITY | COLLABORATION | DIVERSITY | EXCELLENCE | KNOWLEDGE | LEADERSHIP