

Eastern Shore Rural Health Scholars Program

The University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) continues to effect real and lasting change by serving the public good of Maryland and society-at-large through education, research, clinical care, and service.

UMB enrolls nearly 6,700 students in six nationally ranked professional schools — Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work — and the interdisciplinary School of Graduate Studies. The University offers 97 doctoral, master's baccalaureate, and certificate programs and confers most of the professional practice doctoral degrees awarded in Maryland. As such, UMB is uniquely positioned to address the urgent need for health care professionals across Maryland's Eastern Shore through a comprehensive, student-centered ecosystem designed to build a pipeline of talented, community-rooted providers.

OUR VISION is to improve the quality of health care on the Eastern Shore by investing in a continuum of engagement — beginning in middle school and extending through graduate health care education.

OUR PURPOSE is to function as a connector — bridging gaps between university expertise and local community assets — to increase health care access and economic opportunity for families across the region.

OUR APPROACH builds on trusted community partnerships and UMB's institutional strength to deliver a holistic, place-based talent development model. This approach includes:

- Early exposure to health care careers through community organizations and school partnerships
- Mentorship and academic advising by UMB faculty and health care professionals
- Scholarship support, clinical placements, and incentives to stay and serve in Mid-Shore communities
- Ongoing student support and alumni tracking to ensure career success and local retention

Building a Pipeline of Health Care Providers on the Eastern Shore Through Scholarship Support

Academic support through scholarships is important for removing financial barriers for talented Eastern Shore students to pursue careers in the health care field. Dorchester County student Amanda Bair is an example of how UMB alignment with an Eastern Shore community organization can remove these financial barriers.

Amanda, who decided to become a physician in middle school, began her journey with the support of a scholarship from the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce for her undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Upon acceptance to the University of Maryland School of Medicine, she was able to attend tuition-free with a four-year UMB Eastern Shore Rural Health scholarship.

"I am so thankful for the support of the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce and the University of Maryland, Baltimore as I work toward my dream of becoming a physician and practicing on the Eastern Shore. When I finish my education, I plan to continue in the Rural-MD Scholars Program by mentoring other students."

— **Amanda Bair**, University of Maryland School of Medicine Class of 2029, Tom Lewers, MD '64 Rural Health Scholarship Recipient



"We believe it is important to invest in our talented students on the Eastern Shore," said Bill Christopher, president of the Dorchester Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited that we are able to partner with the University of Maryland, Baltimore to be part of Amanda's health care educational journey."

UMB provides opportunities to many more talented Eastern Shore students like Amanda through coordination of UMB and community resources, **creating the talent pipeline of health care providers needed on the Eastern Shore.**

The UMB Eastern Shore Pathways Ecosystem

UMB's Eastern Shore Pathways Ecosystem model demonstrates **the power of aligning education, health care, and community development into one unified pathway.** Our values emphasize equity, trust-building, consistency, and long-term partnership, and we are already seeing results. UMB's first three Eastern Shore scholars are now thriving in their first year of medical school.

Furthermore, the UMB Eastern Shore Pathways Ecosystem is a **model of true community partnership and collaboration.** By bringing together assets, resources, organizations, and individuals who have been at this for decades, with new partners and stakeholders that see what current and future needs are, we are connecting the ecosystem to close gaps and lead us to new levels of success for all.

STAGES

Stage 1: Middle and High School

- Partnership with Local Health Care Education Programs
- Interactive Experiential Activities: ITCH, ESAHEC, Career Coaches

Stage 2: Mentorship and Exposure

- UMB Faculty, Community Health Providers
- Storytelling, Shadowing, Community Events: Talbot Mentors, Career Buddies

Stage 3: Academic Support

- Scholarship Pathways: Local and University, Advising, Enrichment Programs

Stage 4: UMB Health Professions Schools

- Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Pharmacy, Dentistry

Stage 5: Clinical Training on Eastern Shore

- Rotations, Local Residencies, Rural Health Track

Stage 6: Graduate, Stay, and Serve

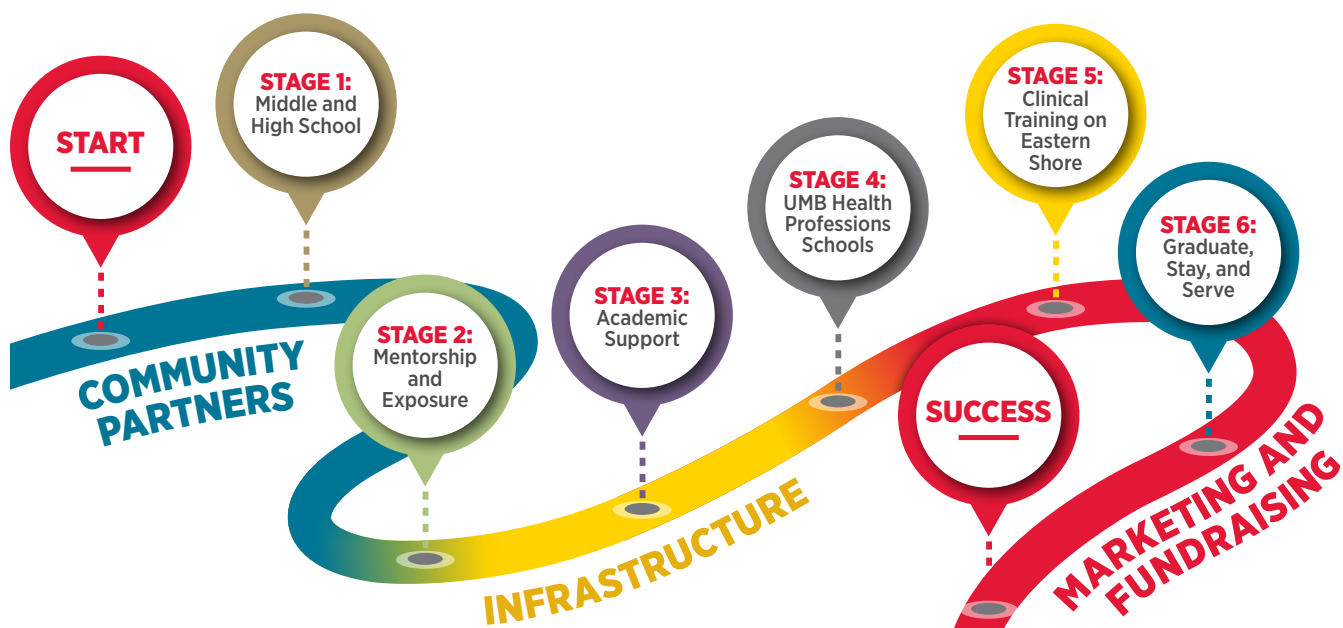
- Incentives, Job Placement, Mentoring, Community Connections

SURROUNDING ECOSYSTEM:

Community Partners: Shore Health, State Legislators, Schools

Infrastructure: UMB Investment, Policy Support, Local Chambers

Marketing and Fundraising: Campaigns, Philanthropy, Scholar Stories



WE INVITE YOU TO LEARN MORE.

Together, we are **forming strategic partnerships for collective impact**, weaving individual student success into the broader health and economic well-being of the Eastern Shore.

Join us in shaping the future of health care on the Eastern Shore. Your gift can help meet the urgent need for health care professionals and transform lives across the region. To learn more, please contact:

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