



LEADER

BALTIMORE COLLEGETOWN LEADERSHAPES • CLASS THREE • 2012-13

SHAPING YOUNG MEN

On the cover:

Keenen Geter

University of Baltimore

Hometown: Baltimore

"I love everything about Baltimore from its neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and more," says Keenen Geter. He respects the many positive changes the city has made and he knows that more can be done to make Baltimore a healthy, livable city.

Keenen is troubled by the numbers of people moving out of Baltimore, particularly families. His vision for Baltimore is to be a city with more families, better schools, and safer communities. Keenen believes one way to help achieve this vision is to support young males. "I think community groups can best support young males in Baltimore by listening to these young guys and giving them positive things to do," says Keenen.

To carry out his vision, Keenen founded Young Men with P.O.W.E.R., an organization that cultivates and encourages moral character and self-awareness, and promotes community service while improving the success of young men. The program targets young Baltimore men in grades 6 to 8 and consists of 15 training sessions over the course of a year. Sixteen young men are now enrolled in the program and Keenen is recruiting for future years now. He was selected as a winner of Collegetown's PNC LeaderShape grant, which will support the work of his organization.

"My Collegetown LeaderShape experience has shaped me to be more selfless and energized me to help more people."

After graduation, Keenen plans to go to law school and become an attorney; he wants to be an advocate for people's rights and a voice for those who would otherwise go unheard.

The Baltimore Collegetown LeaderShape® program connects students across campuses and with their communities to make Baltimore a better city. Students not only develop visions, but learn to be visionary and discover how to apply their skills and passions to urban problems.

This first-of-its-kind program brings students from 11 colleges together for a week of leadership development followed by programming and support throughout an academic year to begin working on visions that may guide and inspire them throughout their lives.

SHAPE

SERVICE



◀ REALIZING POTENTIAL

Janea Mark (left)
Goucher College
Hometown: San Diego

Janea's commitment to service extends beyond Goucher's campus. She volunteers with the Hampden Family Center where she tutors and mentors elementary-age students and with Our Daily Bread where she helps to provide hot meals for Baltimore's hungry.

"Collegetown LeaderShape has helped me open up in ways I didn't know were possible. I have seen so much growth in myself just over the course of these few months."

Her vision for Baltimore is to create a mentoring and support program for victims and survivors of child abuse. Janea is confident that establishing mentoring relationships between victims and survivors can foster healing and growth for both. Her vision is for individuals to learn trust, make connections, and realize their own potential.

Summarizing her vision for Baltimore has helped Janea realize her own strengths. "Collegetown LeaderShape has given me a better understanding of myself and how I am going to achieve my long-term goals," she says. Janea's goal is to be an international human rights attorney, combining her love of law and community service.

◀ MAKING LITERACY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Aditi Kaji
UMBC
Hometown: Takoma Park, MD

"Since I've lived, worked, and gone to school here, Baltimore is my home and it's special to me," says Aditi Kaji. When Aditi first attended Baltimore Collegetown LeaderShape, she was enthusiastic about working to make the city better, but unsure of where and how to start. "Collegetown LeaderShape gave me a lot of confidence. It allowed me to see that I have the ability to make a difference," says Aditi.

She began volunteering with the non-profit Baltimore Reads, sorting books. She noticed how many parents and children visited the Book Bank and how important it was to them. She realized that working

"Everyone I've met through Collegetown LeaderShape is proactive, has the best energy, and shares my interest in Baltimore. I would have never met them if it hadn't been for this experience, even though they were right around the corner."

to improve literacy was a way she could contribute and make a difference. "Literacy is a necessity and allows people to have a voice in their community, yet there are still Baltimore residents who lack basic literacy skills," says Aditi.

Baltimore Reads provides classes, supplies, and books to children and adult learners. Aditi decided to support its mission by starting a campus-wide drive at UMBC to collect books and supplies, which she hopes will expand into the city.

**LAYING A FOUNDATION ▼
FOR SUCCESS**

Chyna Diaz

*Notre Dame of Maryland University
Hometown: Washington, DC*

"My experience in Collegetown LeaderShape taught me about myself and the city," says Chyna Diaz. "I was able to truly understand who I am in this community and what role I can play in being a service-oriented leader."

A philosophy and political science major, Chyna always knew she wanted to serve her country in the armed forces and go to law school. Until she participated in Collegetown LeaderShape, she was unsure of how she could best use her education and experience to serve her community.

"Working with other students in the Baltimore area was one of the best experiences I have had. I learned so many different perspectives that have profoundly affected my life and vision."

In reflecting on her own educational opportunities, Chyna formulated her vision for Baltimore: a city where any child can have the opportunity to succeed. "I want children to have the same opportunities that I have been given. I want children raised in lower socio-economic areas, as I was, to see that there is an entire world where they can live and succeed." Chyna plans to earn her J.D., concentrating in public defense, and work in community development and planning for the City of Baltimore.



**LIFTING CHILDREN UP ►
THROUGH THE ARTS**

N'Dia Harris

*Coppin State University
Hometown: Baltimore*

N'Dia Harris wants to make Baltimore a place of creativity. She believes that engaging children in the arts allows them to channel their feelings into something positive. "I see a lot of young people going in the wrong direction. I want to tell them they don't have to follow the crowd," says N'Dia. "Getting involved in the arts can help them put their energy into something that will help them in the long run."

"Collegetown LeaderShape taught me to never give up on my vision no matter how big or small. A small change is better than no change."

She sees the benefits of giving children a creative outlet for their energy and, as a result, a sense of purpose. Through Collegetown LeaderShape, N'Dia participated in a service activity for Art with a Heart, a non-profit that brings visual arts programs to Baltimore's vulnerable youth and adults. N'Dia is also the director of the dance ministry at her church. She's learned that something that seems small such as creating a flower or learning a new dance step, can help a young person lift themselves up.



ENERGY



GROWTH

◀ PROVIDING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Gena Stenger

Loyola University of Maryland

Hometown: Wyndmoor, PA

Gena Stenger's career goal is to be an elementary school teacher in an urban public school. When Gena observed students in a Baltimore City public school classroom, she was struck by the disparities between their educational opportunities and her own.

“Baltimore has been my home away from home for the past two years. It wasn't until I participated in Collegetown LeaderShape that I learned about the serious needs of the city.”

“As a future teacher, I want to make a change in these students' lives, starting with improving the failing state test grades,” says Gena. Her vision for Baltimore is to give every student equal opportunities to learn. She believes that better prepared teachers can, in turn, build student confidence, enabling them to perform well academically.

Gena volunteers with Acts4Youth, a Christian, non-profit after-school program for middle-school age boys at Guildford Elementary/Middle School. She is learning more about the school system and the communities where her students live. The experience has renewed her commitment to improving student self-esteem, and “helping them find their passions and importance in life.”

Gena shares her vision with her Loyola classmates. She co-founded UNITE, Urban Needs in Teacher Education, at Loyola – the first chapter of its kind on the East Coast.



▲ RESHAPING THE IDEA OF AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN

Lauren Pollock

Stevenson University

Hometown: Halethorpe, MD

For Lauren Pollock, community service is what keeps her grounded. “It is easy to get caught up in the craziness of school, work, and other activities, but making sure I have time to volunteer has kept me in line with my true values,” says Lauren. At Stevenson, Lauren is a team leader for the university's Service Corps. Her Service Corps team makes sandwiches for Baltimore's homeless and volunteers with Helping Up Mission and Moveable Feast. This spring she is chairing her campus' Relay for Life event to raise money for the American Cancer Society. She sees firsthand

the power a group of people have when they work together toward a common goal.

“Collegetown LeaderShape challenged me to look deeper within myself and figure out my values and ideas.”

Lauren's vision is to empower women, especially single mothers, to realize not only their strengths, but also their weaknesses and, as a result, understand that independence also encompasses interdependence with others. “No one is capable of doing everything; if more people, women specifically, would accept this idea, we could work together to have an incredible effect on our lives,” says Lauren.

▼ **LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCES**

Cori Caskey (bottom row, center)
Towson University
Hometown: Baltimore

Cori Caskey is a self-described people person. As a mass communication major, her career goal is to work in guest services in the hospitality field. She recently completed an internship at Walt Disney World and discovered she thoroughly enjoys helping guests make their experiences all they can be.

Building on her experiences at Disney, Cori's vision is to enhance the learning experiences of students in Baltimore, her hometown. When Cori and a group from Collegetown LeaderShape volunteered with Art with a Heart, she saw how hands-on learning experiences

“Collegetown LeaderShape helped me to better communicate with others as a leader. You can be motivated and organized, but if you cannot communicate your ideas, you cannot lead successfully.”

challenge children to be more creative and independent thinkers. While technology is important, Cori believes that it is not a substitute for hands-on, interactive learning experiences. “I'd like to see children step out from behind the screen and participate in active learning,” says Cori.

This summer she will have the opportunity to help make her vision a reality through a volunteer position with the Maryland Zoo.

MAKING BALTIMORE ► THE LAND OF THE FREE

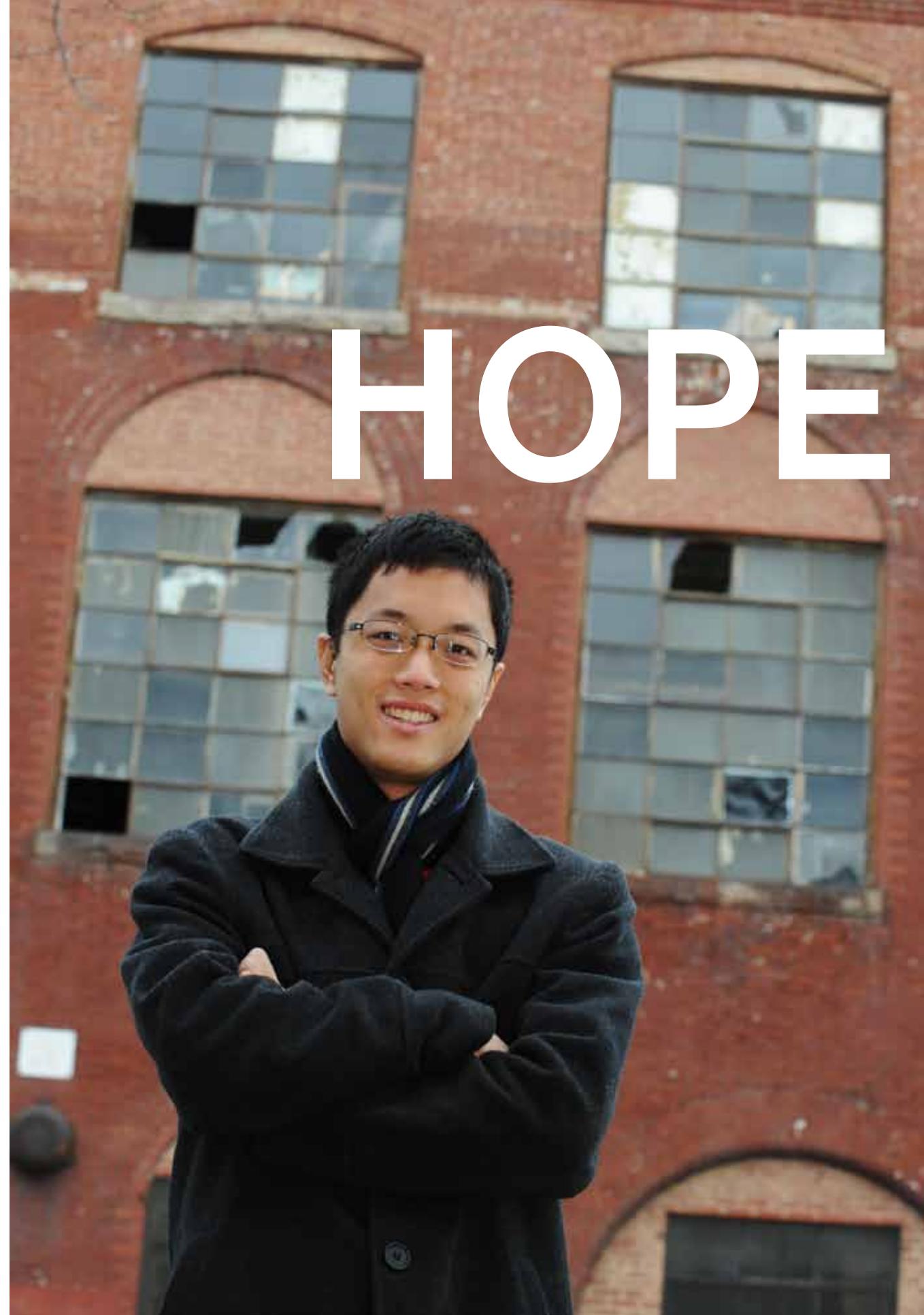
Aaron Chang
Johns Hopkins University
Hometown: Grand Prairie, TX

Aaron Chang loves exploring Baltimore and its history. When Aaron first visited Fort McHenry where Francis Scott Key wrote the “Star Spangled Banner,” he didn't realize those lyrics would become part of his personal vision for Baltimore.

His vision is to eradicate sex slavery in Baltimore, and for Baltimore to truly be the land of the free for everyone. Aaron volunteers with Safe House of Hope, a non-profit in southwest Baltimore that works to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking. His first introduction to the realities of sex slavery was a night-long mission with Safe House of Hope's street outreach team. “I came face to face with one of the victims. Even though we were only able to talk briefly while I handed her a care package; her dead voice and numb eyes have never escaped my mind,” says Aaron.

Listening to and collaborating with students from other Baltimore colleges and universities through Collegetown LeaderShape, has expanded Aaron's view of what is possible. Now he focuses his energies on collaborating with Safe House of Hope with the goal of making it the most effective, innovative on-the-ground anti-trafficking organization possible. Aaron received a leadership grant from PNC Bank, which will allow Safe House for Hope to augment its outreach efforts.

“My experience with Collegetown LeaderShape was instrumental in terms of refining my vision for how to best tackle the injustice of human trafficking in Baltimore and the world.”





“Whatever path I take in the future will surely be informed by my experience with Collegetown LeaderShape – the skills I gained will stay with me throughout my educational and career choices.”

◀ EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Samantha Brodowski (center)
*Maryland Institute College of Art
Hometown: Sayville, NY*

“Baltimore is a truly incredible place to be right now, with the up-and-coming art scene and urban revitalization occurring all around us,” says Samantha Brodowski. A visual community artist, she is passionate about the power of the arts to heal and build communities.

Collaborating with students from other Baltimore colleges and universities through Collegetown LeaderShape helped Samantha to shape her vision and to broaden her perspective. Samantha volunteered with Operation Oliver, a veteran-sponsored organization dedicated to serving the needs of the Oliver neighborhood, through the Gather Baltimore initiative. Samantha collected unused fresh produce at the Baltimore Farmer’s Market and distributed it to residents in the Oliver neighborhood.

Samantha also teaches art classes to children at two primary schools in the city and to adults at an emergency outreach center. Teaching underserved students of varying ages and backgrounds is the “most gratifying experience” she has ever had. Her vision for Baltimore is to empower Baltimore’s financially disenfranchised population through art therapy.

Her peers helped her realize making art with some of the city’s most vulnerable residents is already making a difference and they challenged her to consider what she can do to compliment this work.

For Samantha and her students, the next project is to host a gallery show to highlight their artwork and their growing sense of self-worth.

VISIONS

We invite you to meet all of the members of our third class of Baltimore Collegetown LeaderShape students. They are our next generation of civic-minded leaders who will transform our city and our world.

ARTS & CULTURE

Cori Caskey

Towson University

Vision: Lessen Baltimore youth's reliance on technology in order to encourage them to be creative and independent contributing members of the community.

Next steps: Interning at Baltimore Collegetown Network to support current and new LeaderShape students.

Aaron Chang*

Johns Hopkins University

Vision: Utilize personal networks to bolster Safe House of Hope into the most effective and innovative anti-human trafficking organization in Maryland.

Next steps: Submitting anti-trafficking tech strategies to USAID competition and sharing those strategies with Justice Ventures International.

Anna Clark*

University of Baltimore

Vision: Create a world where underprivileged youth have the opportunity to access and enjoy a wide range of music and culture.

Next steps: Organizing a recital for the students that she works with and volunteers with as well as participating in Vision 2013 at UB.

Elizabeth Causey

Goucher College

Vision: Create a place for Baltimore residents to express themselves no matter their background.

Next steps: Researching organizations with similar visions.

Nour El Safoury

Johns Hopkins University

Vision: Create a conference at JHU about women in film and how film therapy could help Baltimore.

Next steps: Planning details for conference in Fall 2013.

Nekia Hampton*

University of Baltimore

Vision: With after-school arts, etiquette, and speech programs that will allow children to become more confident and creative.

Next steps: Researching potential partner schools.

N'Dia Harris

Coppin State University

Vision: Create an organization in Baltimore to empower and support families in Africa to have access to a healthy life through proper healthcare, genocide protection, and government initiatives.

Next steps: Involving church community and students on campus in same vision.

Melissa Hecker

MICA

Vision: Create a community where Baltimore high school students can have access to after school art and life skills programs.

Next steps: Working with Community Arts Partnership to identify partner schools.

Juanita Zimmerman

UMBC

Vision: Reduce the onset of delirium in Baltimore by keeping those at risk cognitively stimulated.

Next steps: Volunteering for the Delirium Prevention Program at Saint Agnes Hospital.

HEALTHY FAMILIES

Jessica Drake*

University of Baltimore

Vision: Create a world where families support each other and are relieved of stress in times of illness or death.

Next steps: Volunteering at Roberta's Grief Counseling Center and encouraging diabetes awareness on campus.

Aaron Hasenei

Towson University

Vision: Create a healthier Chesapeake Bay to benefit the health of the Baltimore community and restore natural beauty to the area.

Next steps: Contacting organizations specializing in bay revitalization.

Amelia Hutchison

MICA

Vision: Create a program in the Baltimore City prison system that offers art therapy to inmates.

Next steps: Beginning work with the women's detention facility in Jessup.

Marie Jean

UMBC

Vision: Work with public policy agencies that overlook foster care and that misplace children to get parents more involved in the process and take an active role in the lives of foster children.

Next steps: Volunteering with foster care and children's advocate agencies.

Janea Mark

Goucher College

Vision: Create a mentoring program for recent and/or young child abuse victims in Baltimore where they would be matched with older victims.

Next steps: Volunteering with Hampden Family Center.

Jazmyne Miller

Morgan State University

Vision: Provide free healthcare to sick and impoverished children in Baltimore.

Next steps: Volunteering with Healthcare for the Homeless.

Marianna Milkowski

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Vision: Create a safer world for women in which they have adequate access to legal resources.

Next steps: Volunteering at the House of Ruth.

Nomazwe Ncube

Coppin State University

Vision: Create a world that is more globally aware and that understands the value of global awareness.

Next steps: Finding individuals interested in promoting global awareness.

Lauren Pollock

Stevenson University

Vision: Empower women in Baltimore, especially single mothers, to realize not only their strengths, but also their weaknesses and realize that independence also encompasses interdependence with others.

Next steps: Organizing Stevenson University's Relay 4 Life.

K-12 EDUCATION GROUP 1

Sarah Bokhari

UMBC

Vision: Create a world where Best Buddies does not exist because the relationships are organic and not orchestrated.

Next steps: Working with UMBC's Best Buddies program.

Nkese Essien

UMBC

Vision: Create a world that is safer and better where energy is saved, natural resources are conserved, emissions of greenhouse gasses are reduced, pollution is prevented, and there is a reduced detrimental impact on our environment.

Next steps: Working with organizations with similar visions, including Civic Works and Park and People Foundation.

Keenen Geter*

University of Baltimore

Vision: Create a future where every young male in Baltimore has a self-reliant manhood, moral character, self-awareness, self-esteem, ethical values, and involvement in community service.

Next steps: Launched the Young Men with POWER program, a nonprofit that mentors young men in Baltimore.

Noelle Hoffman

MICA

Vision: Inspire a sense of wonder in the hearts of youth by inspiring outer space exploration through art.

Next steps: Continue running MICA's Outer Space Exploration.

William McNamara

Loyola University Maryland

Vision: Partner with education leaders to provide legitimacy and credibility in the Baltimore school system.

Next steps: Compiling information from organizations and looking into specifics of starting a site.

Yvette Pappoe

UMBC

Vision: Encourage young people to be passionate about learning and investing in their future through mentoring in grades 6-12.

Next steps: Working with Maryland Business Roundtable for Education to expand Speaker's Bureau to college students.

Faith Pearson

Goucher College

Vision: Create a non-profit organization in West Baltimore that will inspire, encourage, and mentor children.

Next steps: Providing a positive relationship to children as a Big Sister.

Gena Stenger

Loyola University Maryland

Vision: Mentor 5 & 6 grade students to have confidence, consistent self-esteem, and resiliency to utilize in the classroom and throughout life.

Next steps: Volunteering with Acts4Youth, an after-school program at Guilford Elementary/ Middle School.

K-12 EDUCATIONGROUP 2

Milton Anthony

Morgan State University

Vision: Create a mentoring program for Baltimore students who want and need someone to look up to.

Next steps: Gathering a network of mentors and seeking a location for the program.

Chyna Diaz

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Vision: Create a future where all minorities have equal opportunities and the ability to prosper.

Next steps: Mentoring at the Dream Academy, an after-school program at Pimlico Elementary/Middle School.

Kerienne Huggins

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Vision: Establish a working women's reproductive health advocacy group/awareness campaign.

Next steps: Developing a new program with the help of existing student groups on campus.

Marie Mattes

Loyola University Maryland

Vision: Serve teens in Baltimore by inspiring them to stay invested in their futures.

Next steps: Involved with mentoring programs and CCSJ.

Keyona McNeil

Goucher College

Vision: Create a recreation center for underprivileged children in Baltimore.

Next steps: Mentoring at a Baltimore elementary school.

Hyland O'Brien

MICA

Vision: Create a future where quality arts education is available to all Baltimore students regardless of school, neighborhood, or access to transportation.

Next steps: Using Open Space community darkroom to host weekend workshops for students.

Rojina Pathak*

University of Baltimore

Vision: Work with kids in Baltimore who have a difficult family background, such as incarceration, abuse, alcohol addiction, and help them understand the importance of college education.

Next steps: Mentoring at the Dream Academy, an after-school program at Pimlico Elementary/Middle School.

Amber Shephard

Morgan State University

Vision: Revamp the Baltimore school system to focus on collective learning through the involvement of teachers, parents, mentors, and community organizations.

Next steps: Evaluating opportunities.

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Sarah Bogle

UMBC

Vision: Transform abandoned homes/apartments/lots in Baltimore into community centers, gardens, parks, homeless shelters, low income housing, etc.

Next steps: Organizing a planning committee to determine potential neighborhoods and changes.

Samantha Brodowski

MICA

Vision: Bring art to underserved and financially disenfranchised communities in Baltimore, who would normally not have access to the benefits art has to offer, including betterment of self-worth and diligence.

Next steps: Creating a significant and cohesive body of artwork with the stated community at the Franciscan Center.

Caryn Carson

Johns Hopkins University

Vision: Create a sustainable and environmentally responsible world.

Next steps: Volunteering with Operation Oliver.

Alexander Crockett

Goucher College

Vision: Work towards building a more respectful and community based environment on Goucher's campus through a comprehensive community arts program.

Next steps: Establishing a committee of students that share a similar vision.

Aditi Kaji

UMBC

Vision: Empower isolated communities, specifically those without transportation access, in Baltimore with resources and education in an effort to mobilize progress within those communities.

Next steps: Organizing a book drive at UMBC to collect books for Baltimore Reads.

Ronnica McFarland

Morgan State University

Vision: Revamp a vacant neighborhood in Baltimore City.

Next steps: Researching neighborhoods.

Hannah Reed

Goucher College

Vision: Create an ideal future in Baltimore that celebrates diversity and differences rather than just tolerating them.

Next steps: Continuing to work with clubs on campus to plan events that will address issues related to race and race relations.

Jessica Strothers

Stevenson University

Vision: Create a future where college students genuinely care for one another and can learn about teamwork and hard work outside of their classrooms through giving back to their own communities.

Next steps: Seeking out investors, volunteers, and students interested in the same vision.

HEALTHCARE

Moshin Ahmad

Goucher College

Vision: Creating social spaces for students where they can connect, engage in meaningful discussions, and plan activities to improve their communities.

Next steps: Creating an interactive blog for Baltimore students.

Uloma Anele

UMBC

Vision: Assist the sick community in Baltimore so they can receive indirect support that will ultimately aid in their recovery.

Next steps: Seeking out education on holistic medicine to be able to inform others.

Bre-Onna DeLaine

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Vision: Create a space for the homeless and displaced population to get mental health and meditative services.

Next steps: Volunteering with Project PLASE.

Eleanor Etchu

UMBC

Vision: Create a future in which all the homeless in Baltimore have a place to fulfill their daily needs such as taking showers, doing laundry, brushing their teeth, and receiving mail.

Next steps: Researching homelessness and its causes, specifically in Baltimore.

Lauren Lake*

University of Baltimore

Vision: Promote a healthier lifestyle for children through exercise and nutrition education and a mentoring program between elementary age children and high school or college student-athletes.

Next steps: Interning with Back on My Feet.

Porscha Lee

Morgan State University

Vision: Create an organization that addresses the unique needs of Baltimore children from abused homes, foster care, single parent homes or those affected by incarceration.

Next steps: Contacting a school counselor to find out where the greatest need for mentors exists.

Gaida Mahgoub

Johns Hopkins University

Vision: End homelessness, specifically targeting underserved and vulnerable populations, by collaborating with various organizations in Baltimore.

Next steps: Creating an interactive resource database to better connect the homeless population with services.

Anna Maika Manalad

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Vision: Bridge the gap between cultural healthcare differences in the Baltimore region.

Next steps: Connecting with point people on campus and in the Greater Baltimore area.

Candice McDonald

Coppin State University

Vision: Create a program that will promote awareness about mental health issues within Baltimore City.

Next steps: Volunteering with the Department of Mental Health Services.



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BALTI➔ MORE COLLEGETOWN LEADERSHAPE[®]

CREATE A BETTER BALTIMORE. CREATE A BETTER WORLD.

The Baltimore Collegetown Network is a consortium of 14 colleges, which includes 120,000 students, \$17.2 billion in economic activity and more than 60,000 employees, that works to attract, engage and retain students and raise the profile of Baltimore as a college town. Key initiatives include joint marketing campaigns, the Collegetown Shuttle, Baltimore Collegetown LeaderShape, and internship and student programs. More information may be found at www.BaltimoreCollegetown.org.

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