

### *The Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program*

We thank you for your consideration of a gift that will facilitate improvements in patient care for many decades to come: The Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program.

Founded in 2010, due in part to philanthropic contributions, the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program offers experiences that enable outstanding high school students to explore, and prepare for, futures in medicine as physicians and biomedical scientists. Selected students learn from leading physicians and researchers at Northwestern Medicine through a variety of activities, all of which help to inform the students' future career decisions.

A four-year pipeline program, the Northwestern Medicine Scholars at Westinghouse College Prep invests in a Chicago inner-city public high school that serves a high percentage of promising students who exist within challenging socioeconomic circumstances. The program addresses the well-recognized "pipeline" concerns in STEM education among Black, Latino, and low-income students (underrepresented minority "URM" students).

The goal of the program is to inspire students to consider a career in biomedical sciences. Success is defined by successfully completing high school, entering a competitive college with scholarship support, and entering the professional workplace as confident, well prepared and professionally mature young adults.

Now in its ninth year, this innovative extramural academic enrichment program recruits high-achieving URM ninth graders interested in health science careers. Students are chosen in a competitive process that involves both student and parent/guardian interviews. Upon entering the program, participants receive additional academic resources, mentorship, and guidance through graduation. With the mission of igniting curiosity through hands-on and interactive learning experiences, the program offers distance learning, periodic on-site awareness/learning opportunities, and mentoring interactions with leading physicians at Northwestern. In addition to endorsing a strong college prep curriculum, the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program: (1) provides Kaplan-led exam preparation for both the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT); (2) offers a one-on-one, multi-year relationship with physicians/faculty members; and (3) features an annual four-week summer intensive immersion experience, with Northwestern medical school faculty members serving as teachers for college-level courses.

The program exercises real-time process improvement through annual assessments of benchmark metrics for program participants. *Notably, 100 percent of participants have graduated high school on time, and 96 percent have enrolled in four-year colleges/universities.* Nearly 90 percent have graduated with more than five Advanced Placement classes; 87 percent have graduated with an unweighted cumulative GPA above 3.2; and 96 percent have scored above 21 on the ACT exam (using Illinois benchmark scores).



The 47 students who have enrolled in the program, to date, reflect the demographics of George Westinghouse College Prep.

- 17 are active scholars (high school), and 29 are program alumni (college students).
- 66 percent (31) are female and 34 percent (16) are male.
- Overall, 96 percent come from multicultural backgrounds, and more than 80 percent self-identify as Black or Latino.
- 70 percent come from families lacking college backgrounds.
- 72 percent are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program, a federally assisted meal program and a key indicator of poverty, based on household income.

Recruitment at Westinghouse involves a rigorous application process. Academic excellence is determined by ninth grade PSAT scores, first semester high school transcripts, and teacher recommendations. Students’ financial need is determined by their participation in the National School Lunch Program, and by their parents’ occupations and education levels. Funds from Northwestern Memorial HealthCare ensure the program's operational sustainability, while a multidisciplinary advisory board oversees its governance.

### *You Can Make the Difference*

Our scholars face many barriers as they work to reach medical school. Math and science courses at the college level are extremely challenging, and biology and chemistry are often designed to whittle down the number of students who go on to pursue medical careers. In order for our students to persevere, they need additional support such as tutoring, technology, strong mentors, and summer opportunities that provide them with financial support to continue their studies – often far away from home. With the goal of further elevating the profile and quality of this important program, Northwestern Memorial HealthCare seeks to build upon its current investments. Philanthropic support will play a vital role in the success of these efforts, and we invite you to consider investing in the lives and careers of both current and future Northwestern Medicine Scholars.



### **A Scholar’s Perspective**

*“I think that the healthcare field offers me the opportunity to give back to people and to have an impact on their lives. It’s about serving a purpose . . . making people’s lives, and the world, better.”*

*-- Name of Latino male participant*

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<i>MCAT</i> : Support for three students each year to take the MCAT preparation (\$2,500 each)	\$7,500
<i>Graduate Summer Stipends</i> : Support for three graduates to pursue summer job opportunities (\$5,000 each)	\$15,000
<i>Additional Math and Science Tutoring</i> : Support for five current students to receive Kaplan or individualized tutoring (\$150/hour at 10 hours each)	\$7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>

*With your support, the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program will continue to inspire and mentor young people who otherwise would not be able to consider medical careers. Together, we can help to train the next generation of medical professionals; address, and endeavor to overcome, healthcare disparities; and open doors of opportunity for many talented teenagers and young adults as they strive to achieve their greatest potential.*

*Thank you for your consideration of this meaningful philanthropic opportunity!*

**GIFT OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION HERE**

More information about this program is available at <http://scholars.nm.org/>.