



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

C.D. MOTE, JR.
**INCENTIVE
AWARDS
PROGRAM**

2022 YEARBOOK



"I always want to
push myself to
achieve any goals
I set for myself."

ALYSSA HUTCHINSON '26

"Giving up on my
dream isn't **and never
will be** an option."

LA'MYRAH JACKSON '26





"Taking part in this program is a **once-in-a-lifetime opportunity** to be surrounded by like-minded individuals who strive to help one another become the best versions of themselves."

ALIRAT ABDULLAI '26

Then-UMD President C.D.
Mote, Jr. (right) with students
from the inaugural IAP cohort.



HISTORY

In 1998, soon after he began his tenure as president of the University of Maryland, C.D. Mote, Jr. noticed a glaring problem that required urgent attention. An abysmally low number of students from Baltimore—by far the largest city in Maryland—were applying and enrolling at the state’s flagship university. And among the few students from Baltimore’s public high schools studying at UMD, the overwhelming majority came from just three schools: Baltimore City College, Baltimore Polytechnic and Western High. Representation from all the other public high schools in Baltimore ranged from little to zero.

Mote had dealt with a similar problem before while serving as vice chancellor for university relations at the University of California, Berkeley. He led the effort at UC Berkeley to raise \$22 million for a highly successful program aimed at attracting and nurturing students from underrepresented areas. He set out to put in place a similar model at Maryland. In 2000, Maryland created a program based on the Berkeley model: the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program, renamed in his honor in 2021.

The Incentive Awards Program is designed to recognize and promote scholarship, leadership and community responsibility among students from select high schools, and to make it financially possible for these students to enroll at the University of Maryland. The program identifies and selects students who have demonstrated uncommon **PERSISTENCE**, **INGENUITY** and **MATURITY** by maintaining good academic performance in the face of challenging circumstances.

Launched as a pilot program in Baltimore, the Program was designated The Suzanne G. and Murray A. Valenstein Baltimore Incentive Awards Program in 2006, and was expanded to select schools in Prince George's County a short time later. A generous gift in 2012 allowed further expansion to KIPP public charter schools in Maryland and Washington, D.C. In 2019, another gift enabled the program to include students from select private schools in Baltimore. A game-changing gift allowed for significant expansion to Montgomery County and most recently, the Board of Charles County Commissioners provided funding for its students to participate in IAP. Each IAP student is awarded financial support for four years and benefits from a strong, nurturing community of advisors, mentors and administrative staff while at Maryland.

However, the program is not defined by its scholarship component. The distinguishing characteristic of IAP is its focus on developing **CHARACTER, CRITICAL THINKING** skills and **LEADERSHIP** in the context of an intimate community of peers. This “community within a community” sustains IAP students and challenges them to develop lifelong skills, not just to benefit themselves, but their communities as well. In addition to the advising network, the mutual support provided by the peer group encourages students to persist. IAP students are empowered to assume leadership roles within the group. They exercise autonomy in planning social and community-building activities. They're also encouraged to shape the culture of the group, with each new cohort making its unique impression on the community.





The C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program values a spirit of **RECIPROCITY**. IAP scholars embrace this spirit by maintaining strong ties to their home and school communities, regularly returning to their high schools to serve as role models for younger students. They engage in discussions with students in their high schools, sharing with them their experiences at UMD and the importance of proper academic preparation for college. The intent is for their success—attained through hard work—to be an incentive for others to persist toward high school graduation, pursue higher education and achieve in the face of adversity.

Over twenty years after the program's inception, the university's commitment continues under the leadership of President Darryll J. Pines. **"EDUCATION IS THE GREAT EQUALIZER,"** President Pines says. "It is by far the best and most rewarding investment anyone can make in the future of a young person, our local communities, our state, our nation and our world. The Incentive Awards Program is a vital part of this mission, providing opportunities for some of the most talented and dedicated students in our community to excel. **WE ALL BENEFIT FROM THIS INVESTMENT."**

As IAP students graduate and the alum base continues to grow, the positive impact will be even more profound on the communities these students call home. Throughout all future endeavors, they will hone the skills nurtured through the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program and use them in every aspect of their lives. *

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of large, dashed numbers. The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are rendered in a red color, while the number 0 is rendered in a yellow color. These numbers are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some partially visible at the edges of the frame. The text "INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF" is centered horizontally and positioned above the large yellow dashed number 0.

INTRODUCING THE CLASS OF



Another cadre of outstanding high school students has been selected to participate in the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program, designed to recognize and promote academic excellence and leadership among exceptional students from our partner high schools.

In this, the 22nd year of the program, we are proud to welcome this new cohort of scholars—**THE LARGEST IN IAP'S HISTORY.**

CLASS OF 2026

ALIRAT ABDULLAI

Mercy High School Baltimore

RAANIA BIEN-AIMÉ

James Hubert Blake High School

KESHAWN BROWN

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

VALERY CAICEDO

Mercy High School Baltimore

JOSHUA CHAVEZ

Northwestern High School

TERRENCE DOUGLAS

Bard High School Early College

JERALDIN ESPAÑA

Laurel High School

KIMBER GONZALEZ LOPEZ

Academy of Health Sciences at Prince George's Community College

ALYSSA HUTCHINSON

College Park Academy

MAHA IDSASSI

Eleanor Roosevelt High School

LA'MYRAH JACKSON

Forest Park High School

GEORGE JAMALDINIAN

Eleanor Roosevelt High School

JEFFERNY LIN

Montgomery Blair High School

CHRIS LORD

St. Charles High School

DEONDRE MARTIN

Baltimore Polytechnic Institute

JUNIOR NGUH

Baltimore City College

LESTER PAZ

DuVal High School

AEIRSS PRINCE

Baltimore City College

ANGELICA REYES

Albert Einstein High School

MAXIMO REYES MALDONADO

Albert Einstein High School

BAQEE SANNI

Charles Herbert Flowers High School

ABDIEL SANTOS MOLINA

North Point High School

MIKAH SEGER

Henry E. Lackey High School

ASHLEY TAUPYEN

Mercy High School Baltimore

ARIANA TSEGAI

Richard Montgomery High School



ALIRAT ABDULLAI

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL BALTIMORE

“ As a child of two hard-working Nigerian immigrants who came to this country with nothing but a dream and managed to make something of themselves, success for me is the only option, and I know that UMD and IAP hold so many opportunities for me to not only grow as a student but as a person. It is my dream to help children like myself who were born with no spoon in their mouths to know that there is more to life than suffering, and education can get you to incredible places.”





RANIA BIEN-AIMÉ

JAMES HUBERT BLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

“ With IAP, not only will I learn to master skills like leadership, problem solving, and communication but I will also use them to fulfill my role in this community. I will be part of the continuous building of the program and help IAP advance to a place beyond where it was. I will strive to take the advantages presented to me in order to better myself, and ultimately, those around me. I will not take my place for granted.”

KESHAWN BROWN

BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

“ I am determined that there is no other way but to succeed. IAP will help me expand my horizons and help me show the world what I am made of. It will help me make connections with important people and make me, Keshawn Brown, a name worth knowing. I want to make an impact and give the kids that feel hopeless, like there is no way out, like they cannot accomplish big things in life hope. I want them to dream big and understand their dreams can become a reality. With the help of IAP I know I will be able to turn my dreams into a substantial reality.”





VALERY CAICEDO

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL BALTIMORE

“ I want to be able to give back and prove to others and myself that I took advantage of the opportunities given to me. There are many people whose kindness helped me persevere through many difficult circumstances and led me to succeed and take risks. My journey also allowed me to discover how much tenacity I had and has given me a strength I would not have otherwise gotten. While it has been challenging, I would not change my path and I appreciate what I’ve learned.”

JOSHUA CHAVEZ

NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL

“ Even when put in a difficult situation, I stay determined to complete my goals to the best of my abilities. In addition, my goal-driven attitude allows me to thrive in multiple leadership positions in various groups, one such being the orchestra at my school. As the concertmaster, I supported my peers and worked to inspire others by contributing as much as I could. I flourish in a team environment as both a leader and a team member because I can get along well with others and communicate effectively. Through these experiences, I will be able to provide a new perspective to IAP and support others in the community.”





TERRENCE DOUGLAS

BARD HIGH SCHOOL EARLY COLLEGE

“ Although there have been many challenges I have had to face, I always told myself to never give up. While I sometimes have these thoughts, the goals I have for myself are what keep me motivated to push through. I also want to change the perception of Baltimore and let people know that there’s more to the people than what’s portrayed in the media. Being in the IAP program will help me fulfill this goal of mine. It will elevate not just myself but show my peers that they can become successful no matter where you come from. This IAP opportunity is a major step for me to continue my journey and become the man my younger self envisioned. I want to become a positive role model for my city and show others that having resilience will get you far no matter what challenges may come your way.”

JERALDIN ESPAÑA

LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

“ I want to become the best version of myself that I possibly can. I want to be able to build relationships with people I’ve never met before and be a good influence. I want to be able to show my determination and my resilience to becoming better in my areas of weakness. All in all, I want to be able to prove to myself I’m able to grow past this small stage in my life. I want to show myself that I’m not the same person I was a few years ago—and that with every passing day I will continue to grow into someone that can make my past self proud.”





KIMBER GONZALEZ LOPEZ

ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
AT PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

“ One thing that I learned is that I can truly do anything as long as I put my mind to it. No matter how hard it is or how impossible it seems, I have confidence that I can achieve it as long as I make a realistic plan and follow through. I have also learned that it pays to simply ask friends and family for help. I know that sometimes it can be embarrassing or hard to ask for help, but people who care about you are looking out for you as well. I hope to be someone that others in my cohort can look to and ask for help now that I have the opportunity to be in IAP.”

ALYSSA HUTCHINSON

COLLEGE PARK ACADEMY

“ I’ve always been dedicated to finishing what I start. Stemming from an inner satisfaction of completion, I always want to push myself to achieve any goals I set for myself. As the Incentive Awards Program has hard work and determination as some of its core values, I believe my persistent character will fit greatly in the program. I’ve always been keen on challenging myself, whether in school or with my own personal projects. I reflect on what I have accomplished in the past and make that the basis of what I know I can achieve in the future.”





MAHA IDSASSI

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

“ As a member of IAP, I’m part of a community that not only wants to give back, but also encourages and supports one another in being our best selves. Even though we are unique in our own ways, we have a lot in common and we can rely on each other. At a school like UMD that seeks to cultivate this sense of togetherness, security, respect, and inclusivity, I know I can thrive. I plan to use the skills I have learned to advance my academic knowledge at UMD through the Incentive Awards Program.”

LA'MYRAH JACKSON

FOREST PARK HIGH SCHOOL

“ All my life I’ve dealt with many trials and tribulations that made me the confident and proud young woman I am today. I’m a very determined, hardworking, and kind person through and through, and I always demonstrate these characteristics in any interaction I have. I am happy to be in a group of people who understand the crucial drive for education and knowledge. That is absolutely amazing.”





GEORGE JAMALDINIAN

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL

“ Whether it is with my peers, in extracurriculars, or at work, I always strive to share my positive energy with those around me. Presenting myself with confidence but humility, having independence but also thriving in team settings, and having a positive mindset but not being blind to real challenges, have all helped me develop my leadership skills. I’ve also grown by gaining the confidence to speak up for myself as well as those who are underrepresented. Experiencing this growth has strengthened my intrinsic motivation, which has enabled me to spend more time helping classmates and working on my personal development.”

JEFFERNY LIN

MONTGOMERY BLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

“ My curiosity about the world encourages me to focus on the journey of learning and discovery, which arguably, is more fruitful than the accomplishments at the end. At UMD, I hope to begin research experience in a lab, join a theater production company, and lead Asian American or art-based communities. I want to interweave all of my interests into my future. I believe my strong work ethic, passion for learning, and engagement with the community will get me to where I want to go.”





CHRIS LORD

ST. CHARLES HIGH SCHOOL

“ Throughout school, I always challenged myself by taking rigorous classes that most would avoid. I also learned how to work alongside and befriend a diverse group of people that share different interests than me. Growth can only come from discomfort, so I put myself in positions that do not allow me to be complacent. This has placed me in situations that forced me to become better and work harder. My determination to succeed has led me to become who I am today. At UMD, I will take the opportunity to meet new people and learn from them as well.”

DEONDRE MARTIN

BALTIMORE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

“ While in high school, my circle of connections grew every year and I look forward to continuing to grow and foster connections throughout college. I bring strong leadership skills to any group I am a part of and I plan to do the same during my time with IAP by engaging with my cohort and leading younger students traveling the same path as me. I am also a very resourceful person, making sure that I stay helpful, proactive, and persistent with any task at hand. I manage my time wisely and make sure I stay focused on my goals. All of these things make me a good fit for IAP.”





JUNIOR NGUH

BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE

“ IAP will give me a chance to establish a firm foundation for my life. It will allow me to reinvest the knowledge and wisdom I gain back into my peers. I am a very curious person who doesn't just love learning in school but learning about the world from real-life experiences. It's the opportunities I've taken advantage of and the setbacks and triumphs that have gotten me to where I am. I cannot wait to see what new experiences await me at UMD.”

LESTER PAZ

DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL

“ As a kid it was always a dream of mine to go to college. As I grew and it got closer to it becoming a reality, I was desperate and wondered if it was actually going to happen. I’m so thankful for the opportunity to go to college. I’m a good fit for IAP not because of my grades but because of my personality and character. I’m a natural leader and will continue to be one to my peers. I can talk to anyone and make friends quickly. Also, I help others in any way possible, volunteer to set up activities, and I am always sought out because people know I will do anything to help.”





AEIRSS PRINCE

BALTIMORE CITY COLLEGE

“ Much of my volunteer work has always revolved around being an advocate for access to resources and opportunities for voter registration or access to proper technology. I want to continue using my voice and passion for the political advocacy of young adults. I have an interest in business and entrepreneurship, which I will continue to explore and learn more about in college as well. I hope that by studying these fields, I can create an impactful change within the larger community. I know that this program will provide real-life hands-on experiences with fellow like-minded students.”

ANGELICA REYES

ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL

“ I grieved my mother’s death and soon prioritized making the dreams she had for me come true. She, nor my father, went to college. I remember how she immigrated here and cleaned houses daily to provide us with a better life. Since then, I have worked to make her proud and dedicated all my academic achievements to her. I will make a great addition to the IAP and will maintain an optimistic outlook and work to uphold my academic standing.”





MAXIMO REYES MALDONADO

ALBERT EINSTEIN HIGH SCHOOL

“ I want to change the standard for kids like me that nobody believes in. The kid who has an immigrant mom who works two jobs. The first-generation college student that has “no chance”. That’s me, a young man who values hard work, tenacity, a positive attitude, connectedness, and someone who takes care of his responsibilities. We came from almost nothing and life was hard. My mom came to America as an immigrant with no education. I do everything possible for her now that she is sick. I even worked three jobs during the pandemic to provide for her and my siblings and always made sure I attended class and went to practice for football and track. I know I must have a great character to succeed in many aspects of life and keep pushing myself no matter the situation.”

BAQEE SANNI

CHARLES HERBERT FLOWERS HIGH SCHOOL

“ My motivation comes from my background and the sacrifices that have been made to put me in my current position. Whenever I have drifted off the path, I remembered to stay humble and to keep pursuing my goals. It has pushed me to be focused, level-headed, success-driven and, in times of adversity, to persevere. I have grown to appreciate everything that makes me who I am today and will continue to use it to progress in life.”





ABDIEL SANTOS MOLINA

NORTH POINT HIGH SCHOOL

“ I am exceedingly thankful for the journey I have gone through. I have gained a better understanding of who I am, along with a better understanding of who I can become. Despite my struggles, I grew into a better student, musician, future architect, and lastly a better son. I believe in being an inspiration to others through creativity, hardship, and most importantly, dedication.”

MIKAH SEGER

HENRY E. LACKEY HIGH SCHOOL

“Community and being a part of a community is very important to me. Without the people I have around me, I would not be as successful as I am. I firmly believe that people are stronger in numbers. In a strong community, if someone falls down, people rally to help pick them up. I have been in church and athletic communities for many years now, and the support system I have is incredible. They have been vital in creating the person I am today. Knowing that you have people backing you and wishing the best for you is very reassuring. I’m so happy to be in the Incentive Awards community where I can support others and be supported.”





ASHLEY TAUPYEN

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL BALTIMORE

“ Aside from my strong leadership, my vibrant, optimistic attitude is another apparent quality that sets me apart from others. Staying hopeful in challenging situations is difficult, but it’s always better than being doubtful, as failure and insecurities arise from focusing on “the worst possible outcome.” Acquiring a growth mindset is key to success, and without staying positive, I wouldn’t have been able to come as far as I have today. Ultimately, I will consistently portray a strong work ethic, uphold the strong character and positive attitudes IAP represents, and utilize my talents to serve others while acting as a good role model in my community.”

ARIANA TSEGAI

RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL

“ I was 12 years old when my parents introduced me to community work, where I valued friendships and bonds with others who had the same interests. Today, I continue my work with Mckayla Wilkes’ congressional campaign in Maryland’s 5th District, where I am the lead outreach organizer for a candidate who believes that the masses facing financial hardships deserve relief. Being in the Incentive Awards Program will enable my community work to transfer over to College Park, where advocating for students will become a key aspect in how we all succeed.”



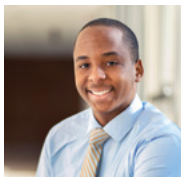


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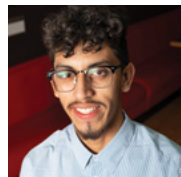
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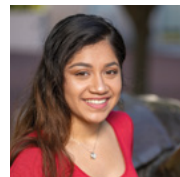
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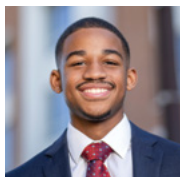
BRIAN ESCOBAR
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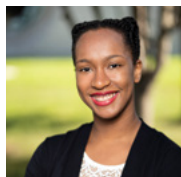
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Criminology and
Criminal Justice



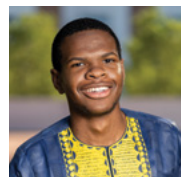
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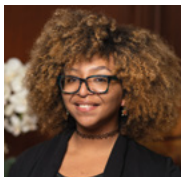
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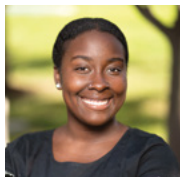
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It is the power of education and the contributions of many that will help transform students' lives and secure the future of the C.D. Mote, Jr. Incentive Awards Program. We are grateful to the friends who have joined with us to make this life-changing opportunity for our students a reality through named scholarships and other support.

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