

SOURCE Champion of the Month  
December 2014



**Jawara Allen**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Year MD/PhD Student, Class of 2017

*“Service gives me a unique perspective on health care. It allows me to better see the patients that I interact with as a part of a community.”*

**What do you do as your community engagement activity?**

I volunteer with Thread, Medical Education Resources Initiative for Teens (MERIT), and the Brotherhood Alliance for Science Education (BASE).

**How much time do you spend on service per week/month?**

I spend about 4 hours on service work per week.

**How did you begin to work with your community-based organization (CBO)?**

I began working with Thread, MERIT and BASE around January of 2014. After having finished Anatomy and Scientific Foundations of Medicine, I felt that I had spent enough time acclimating to medical school and Baltimore, and could now begin delving into community service work.

**What do you enjoy about or gain through community service?**

I really enjoy working with youth in various levels of their academic development. Through this, I learn a lot about the breadth of academic preparedness that is present in Baltimore city schools, and about areas where just a little bit of extra support could mean the world to a kid in high school.



**What is the community service accomplishment that has affected you and/or your community the most?**

The accomplishment that has affected me the most was when our Thread student completed his summer internship at the school of public health and presented his work. We had been working for months to try and convince him to take a summer job. And after he agreed to work for the summer, we checked in on him every few days to make sure that everything was going well. When it was finally time for him to present his poster, he was extremely nervous, but he was able to present his work to several individuals, and even perused the poster session to glance at other projects that interested him.



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