

ALUMNI SNAPSHOT

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Vondina Brown

- ~ Woodlawn High School, 2003
- ~ Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Bachelor of Science, Biology, University of Maryland Baltimore County, 2007
- ~ 3rd year Ph.D. student, Pharmacology, Medical University of South Carolina, Spring 2012

personal accomplishments and pride

- ~ Meyerhoff Scholars Program, University of Maryland Baltimore County
- ~ Initiatives for Maximizing Student Diversity Scholar, Medical University of South Carolina
- ~ Becoming first person in family to pursue a terminal degree

their journey, their words

I had always been interested in science but did not have the tools available to hone my interests into something more defined. Building STEPS exposed me to different areas in science and technology. Because of Building STEPS, I was able to narrow my focus to biology and decided that this was what I was going to study in college. I was recommended by my guidance counselor at Woodlawn High School to apply for the Meyerhoff Scholars Program at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. I was a little hesitant, but Ms. Hettleman encouraged me to attend "Selection Weekend." After a grueling interview weekend, I received word that I was awarded a full scholarship to pursue science and obtain a four-year degree. The Meyerhoff Scholars Program was instrumental in my career development as its emphasis is on underrepresented minorities obtaining terminal degrees in the science and technology fields. I knew I wanted to go beyond a Bachelor's degree but I didn't know if I wanted to be a medical doctor or a research scientist. After interning in research labs in Colorado and New York, I decided that pursuing a Ph.D. would best fit me. I am currently starting my third year of the Ph.D. program at the Medical University of South Carolina. My research focuses on colon cancer prevention using natural products. I have found my niche in the science community and would not be here today if it had not been for Building STEPS giving me a sturdy foundation.

The Alumni Snapshot was designed by a Building STEPS' alumna, now a Towson graduate and is produced by Building STEPS.
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