



# STAR 2.0 Empowers Underrepresented Students to Pursue Science

Philanthropic support of educational programming is helping Children's Mercy gain ground developing a more representative medical and research workforce for the children of our community.

The cornerstone of health equity relies on developing and maintaining a medical and scientific workforce that reflects the general population as well as those who have not equally benefited from research and healthcare.

Underwritten by philanthropy, the Summer Training in Academic Research (STAR) 2.0 program was created to give high school students from racial and ethnic groups that are currently underrepresented in medicine and science an in-depth opportunity to build their interest and understanding of health care through a high-quality research experience at Children's Mercy.

During the program, participants not only engage in a unique research project at the Children's Mercy Research Institute, but also learn about clinical and translational research methodology, writing, statistics, medical ethics and career development from nearly 50 research staff and physicians while networking with other students and educators from across the country.

STAR 2.0 launched in the summer of 2021 with five students and an area middle school science teacher and doubled in size for the



Alumni of the STAR 2.0 program received scholarships as they head to their first semester of college.

2022 program. Within the next three years the program is expected to expand to include 25 students and five teacher participants every summer.

***“I came into the program indecisive about being either a nurse practitioner or a physician. Through the program I was able to speak with both nurse practitioners and pediatricians, who answered my questions and clarified the differences between the two careers. My confidence grew significantly throughout the program, and I am pursuing a career in medicine!” - Sara, student and STAR 2.0 alumni***

As a result of this unique initiative, program leaders, Bridgette Jones, MD, MSCR and Vickie Yarbrough, MA, BA, have observed that STAR 2.0 students have expanded their understanding of medical and science careers as well as their own interest and confidence in their capability to pursue such careers.

**STAR 2.0**   
Summer Training in Academic Research

# Inspiring the next generation of pediatric health care leaders

Our community's doctors, nurses and researchers train at Children's Mercy. Your support of education means medical learners have access to world-class pediatric training and mentorship. This past year, **600** medical students, **100** pediatric residents and more than **1,400** nursing students played a crucial role in delivering compassionate care for patients and families.

## Nursing and Allied Health Education

The many hours nursing and allied health professionals spend at the bedside and with families make them powerful innovators, change agents and advocates for children. Because of donor-funded scholarships, Children's Mercy has more pediatric advanced practice nurses and specialty certified allied health professionals available to care for the children of our community than any other hospital in the region.

- » Since 1999, more than **\$2.2 million** in scholarships has been awarded to more than **1,700** recipients.
- » **162** nursing and allied health scholarships awarded in FY2023
- » **\$254,260** total scholarship dollars awarded in FY2023

**30+** subspecialty fellowships are offered at Children's Mercy

**75%** of Kansas pediatricians trained at Children's Mercy

**24%** of our Program Directors completed their residency at Children's Mercy

**47%** of Program Directors completed a fellowship at Children's Mercy

## Endowed Lectureships

Thanks to donors who create endowed lectureships, guest speakers from prestigious organizations around the country bring their knowledge and expertise to Children's Mercy for a unique opportunity to share ideas in a formal setting.

- » **9** endowed lectureships held in FY2023
- » A total of **653** Continuing Medical Education credits were awarded



## Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

Residents in the Children's Mercy Global Health rotation have created meaningful ways to reach refugee and immigrant populations in the community. Projects include the Winter Warmth project, the Bicycle Safety project and the COVID-19 project. Each project design comes from interviewing families and learning about their needs. Program materials are translated into eight languages and made available for future events.