



# UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY

**Upward Bound Math Science Program**  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
MP, 006  
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250  
[ubms@umbc.edu](mailto:ubms@umbc.edu) [ubms.umbc.edu](http://ubms.umbc.edu)

Dear Upward Bound Math Science Students, Families, and Staff,

It is with a mix of excitement and deep reflection that I write to share some news about my journey here at UMBC. After a rewarding 17-year tenure as the Director of the UBMS program, I will move to a new role as Senior Assistant Dean within the UMBC Graduate School at the end of this month. Being a part of this community and serving you all has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life.

To our students: Thank you for showing up, even when you didn't feel like it, and for bringing your best selves to the program. Witnessing your curiosity, resilience, and passion for learning and STEM has been a constant source of inspiration. Your success brings me joy. I've learned more from all of you than I can put into words. Now go be great.

To our parents and families: Thank you for trusting our team and me with your children's bright futures. Your support is critical.

To the staff: Thank you for giving us your Saturdays and summers. Your dedication is the engine that powers this program's success.

To Mr. Muhammad: Thank you, brother. We have worked hard to make sure this program serves our students well. We've changed a lot of lives. You have been and will continue to be an important part of why this program works. Keep pouring into these students and families. They are the better for it.

Special shout-out to Mr. Aaron Jones, who held the residential staff down for a decade. Rest in Peace, my man. You are missed.

While my role is changing, I am not going far, and I remain a steadfast advocate for the success of every student in this program.

### **Continuity of Leadership and Support**

I want to assure you that the program remains in excellent hands. To provide stability and seamless support, we have established the following leadership structure. Kerra Trusty, the Program Director of Classic Upward Bound, will be stepping into a dual leadership role as the Acting Director of Upward Bound. Ms. Trusty will oversee the administration of CUB and UBMS for the near future, bringing a wealth of experience to our shared mission. I promise, you are in good hands.

### **Moving Forward**

The UBMS mission remains the same. Our scheduled workshops, tutoring sessions, and summer planning will continue without interruption. You can expect the same level

of care and academic rigor that defines the UBMS experience. For all immediate program needs, questions, or concerns, Mr. Muhammad remains your first and primary point of contact.

Thank you for the memories, hard work, and the opportunity to be part of your lives. I look forward to seeing the incredible achievements our UBMS scholars will continue to accomplish.

***Formal Announcement from AOP Senior Director, Dr. Corris Davis***

*After more than 17 years of dedicated service to Upward Bound Math & Science (UBMS) and AOP, Sunji Jangha will be transitioning to a new role in the Graduate School as Senior Assistant Dean, effective January 26. Most recently, Sunji served as Director of Pipeline Programs, a role that intentionally bridged the Office of Academic Opportunity Programs and the Graduate School, working with high school students through UBMS as well as UMBC undergraduates and grad students through LSAMP and other programs within the Graduate School. In that capacity, his leadership, institutional knowledge, and unwavering commitment to student pathways across the pipeline have had a lasting impact. As you can imagine, I am both sad and excited: sad to see him step away from his day-to-day leadership within AOP and UBMS, and excited to see him step fully into a role that reflects his talent, vision, and cross-institutional influence. This is a well-earned opportunity, and I am incredibly proud of him and excited for him.*

*In terms of next steps, Kerra Trusty will serve as Acting Director of Upward Bound during this transition, overseeing the administrative aspects of both Classic Upward Bound (CUB) and UBMS. Kerra brings deep continuity and trusted leadership to this role. She has been at UMBC since 2006, when she joined the program as Senior Counselor of CUB, and has steadily advanced through roles of increasing responsibility, serving as Assistant Director and, most recently, as Project Director of CUB. Given her long-standing experience and proven success leading Upward Bound programs, her appointment as Acting Director of Upward Bound is a logical and steady interim step. We will share more details soon regarding timelines, support structures, and opportunities to formally recognize Sunji's contributions.*

*Please join me in congratulating Sunji on this next chapter and in supporting Kerra as she steps into this acting role. Thank you, as always, for your professionalism, flexibility, and care for one another and for our students during moments of transition.*

With gratitude, respect, and love,

Dr. J