

THE **UMBRELLA** GROUP

*UMB Roundtable on Empowerment in Leadership
and Leveraging Aspirations*

UMBrella Coaching Program Cohort 4

Closing Ceremony

APRIL 20, 2022

NOON TO 1 P.M.





Dear Cohort 4:

Congratulations on completing UMBrella's Coaching Program! You made an important decision to take charge of your career by participating in this program. I imagine that these past two years of working virtually prepared you for a virtual coaching experience, and I know that you made the best of it, made new connections with other women on campus, and perhaps

strengthened existing bonds as well.

This eight-month program delved into important topics that are crucial to your professional development. I encourage you to apply the new concepts, strategies, and skills you learned — from your coach and from your colleagues in your cohort — to make meaningful changes in your personal and professional life.

You are now part of UMBrella's network of four cohorts of coaching programs and hundreds of women across UMB who have participated in UMBrella's programming over the past seven years. I hope that you will stay in touch with your coaching cohort for support and encouragement as you progress in your career at UMB.

And I hope you will encourage your friends and colleagues to apply for the next cohort of the UMBrella Coaching Program. I look forward to seeing you at future UMBrella events!

Stay strong and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer B. Litchman, MA
Senior Vice President for External Relations
Founder and Chair, UMBrella



SAMANTHA MELLERSON

Executive Director

W. Haywood Burns Institute

Samantha Mellerson is a member of the executive leadership team at the W. Haywood Burns Institute, a Black-led national nonprofit that is working to transform the administration of justice and other public systems by challenging racial hierarchy and the social control of communities of color.

Her work involves strategic planning, organizational development, financial oversight, project development, and managing relationships with community leaders and system decision-makers, funders, and other partners across the nation.

Mellerson, who is a member of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Foundation's Board of Trustees, brings over 15 years of experience working with issues of social justice, racial and ethnic equity, education, diversity, youth justice, child welfare, and well-being. She also has a depth of knowledge about nonprofit capacity building and is a certified empowerment and diversity coach. Mellerson has worked across public and private sectors in various capacities such as nonprofit direct service and management, local and state government, and philanthropy.

Mellerson previously worked for the Annie E. Casey Foundation as senior associate of capacity building. Her primary focus was to strengthen the field of the nonprofit sector by increasing organizational effectiveness through a race equity-informed and results-based capacity-building strategy to produce meaningful results for children, families, and communities.

Before that, Mellerson served as chief operating officer for the Department of Social Services for the city of Baltimore, where she worked on and led major Child Welfare and Family Investment Administration reforms, and chief program officer for the city's local management board, The Family League of Baltimore, where she led a continuum of strategic interventions for children and youth ranging from prenatal to career.

Mellerson has many years of experience and expertise in community-based programming, organizational effectiveness, youth and parent engagement, outreach, participatory research, co-design and collaboration, facilitation, and consultation.

She is a graduate of the University of Toronto, is an active community volunteer, and serves on several committees and boards focused on giving young people greater opportunities to thrive.

Welcome

Cherita Adams, MBA, MS
Assistant Dean, Administration and Strategic
Initiatives, School of Social Work

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Jennifer Litchman, MA
Senior Vice President for External Relations,
UMB, and Founder and Chair, UMBrella

Keynote Address

Samantha Mellerson
Executive Director, W. Haywood Burns Institute

Program Reflection Introductions

Paulette Harris-Gross, MS
Senior Community Program Specialist,
Office of the President, UMB

Program Reflections

Jane S. Allgair, MBA
Executive Director, Office of Research and Development, UMB

Davene Hinton, MBA
Training Coordinator, Maryland Center of Excellence
on Problem Gambling, School of Medicine

Kimber M. Lee, MBA
Director of Human Resources, School of Social Work

Isabel Rambob, DDS
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry

Closing Remarks

Elisa Medina, LCSW-C, ACC
Career Development Manager, Human Resource Services, UMB

COACHES

***PATTY ALVAREZ, PHD, MS**

Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs, UMB

***VANESSA CARROLL, MS**

Special Assistant to the Dean, School of Dentistry

***CRYSTAL EDWARDS, JD, MA**

Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs, Francis King Carey School of Law

***CHEROKEE LAYSON-WOLF, PHARMD, BCACP, FAPHA**

*Associate Professor and Associate Dean of
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JENNY OWENS, SCD, MS

*Assistant Dean, Graduate School, and Faculty
Executive Director, The Grid*

NICOLE PALMORE, MSW

*Director of Diversity, Inclusion, and Intercultural
Learning, School of Nursing*

***ISABEL RAMBOB, DDS**

Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry

***VIRGINIA ROWTHORN, JD, LLM**

*Assistant Vice President for Global Engagement, UMB,
and Associate Professor, Graduate School*

ROBERTHA SIMPSON, MBA

*Director, Office of Faculty Affairs and Professional
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Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

***SHANNON TUCKER, MS**

Assistant Dean of Instructional Design, School of Pharmacy

**Member of the UMBrella Advisory Board*

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*Historical Collections
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Human Services Library*

Eunissa Yancy

*Senior IT Specialist, Center
for Information Technology
Services, UMB*



In applying for the UMBrella Coaching Program, I was looking to broaden my network, meet new co-workers, make more connections at UMB, and benefit my career. The program did allow me to meet new and interesting women. The monthly presentations broadened my outlook on certain topics and increased my awareness, which will enable me to evaluate myself and my career differently and more independently. The discussions will help me as a manager, in encouraging my employees to grow and possibly look at things more positively. However, the most surprising and most enjoyable parts of the program were the discussions with my coaching group and how it felt to relate my experience and guidance to others in helping their career growth. This program has made me look beyond the 'singular me' to the 'greater we' and how we grow together.

Jane S. Allgair, MBA

Cohort 4 Participant

Executive Director, Enterprise and Economic Development, Research and Development, UMB



Over the last eight months, I have been surrounded by some amazing women: Jenny Owens [our coach], Samantha, Eunissa, Kelly, Kira, and May. We met once a month, and I was able to be transparent. From that experience, I was able to grow personally and professionally. Each month, we were also invited to attend program events with awesome speakers. This program prepared me for my promotion and gave me the tools I needed for a successful outcome. I have learned that it's OK for me to promote myself, and I can boldly say, 'I am remarkable!' Thank you, UMBrella, for allowing me to be a part of an amazing program.

Davene Hinton, MBA

Cohort 4 Participant

Training Coordinator, Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, School of Medicine

PROGRAM REFLECTIONS



The UMBrella Coaching Program was a great experience, and I feel blessed to be a part of it. Each month, we were given a topic with corresponding materials to review before meeting with our group. We discussed the topics with our coach and other areas of interest such as challenges we face as professional women. The meetings provided an opportunity for self-examination and ways to navigate my professional goals and challenges in a different way. One of the best aspects was connecting with my group. They are phenomenal women who were supportive and encouraging during our meeting discussions. My coach, Vanessa Carroll, is amazing! She imparted so many great insights and challenged me in areas where she could see I needed a gentle nudge to move forward in my goals. Vanessa was just the coach I needed to help me change my perspective and move forward in exploring what I want as a professional and how to achieve it.

Kimber M. Lee, MBA

*Cohort 4 Participant
Director of Human Resources,
School of Social Work*



Being an UMBrella coach has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had during my time at UMB. Watching the women participating in this program owning their worth, having more clarity about their aspirations, realigning their goals, and taking concrete actions to advance their careers is so reinvigorating and inspiring. I am so honored to be an UMBrella coach!

Isabel Rambob, DDS

*Coach, Cohorts 2, 3, and 4
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry*

***Cherita Adams, MBA, MS**

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**Member of the UMBrella Advisory Board*

Amplify your voice.
Become empowered.
Achieve your potential.



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