



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Middle School to Dental School™ Mentoring Initiative launched in Baltimore

Over 100 thrilled 7th and 8th grade students received doctor coats and stethoscopes.

January 25, 2023 (Baltimore, Maryland). The Children's Oral Health Institute officially launched the "Middle School to Dental School™ Mentoring Initiative," developed by the nonprofit organization in 2017 on Friday, January 20, 2023. The Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys provided the perfect audience, one that the dental profession endeavors to influence. The goal of this mentoring initiative is to encourage youth to begin thinking about careers in dentistry and health care in middle school. The program is structured to include an exclusively designed, white doctor's coat with the statement, "I can become a Dentist," printed on the back. The front bares the "Middle School to Dental School" emblem. Dr. Winifred Booker, CEO of The Children's Oral Health Institute is quoted, "The intention of the coat design is to continually inspire students to nurture ideas about future career opportunities in the dental profession."

The highlight of the event occurred when every student was outfitted by volunteers in their own "Middle School to Dental School" designer doctor's coat and given a stethoscope. This led to well over 100 thrilled 7th and 8th graders. Backpacks containing sponsor donated oral health care products, including a toothbrush, toothpaste, surgical cap, gloves and more were distributed to the young gentlemen. *The Toothpaste Millionaire*, once a Weekly Reader book, and mouse pad illustrating the anatomy of the teeth escalated the jubilation.

The Children's Oral Health Institute leadership and Dr. Barney Wilson, the school's principal welcomed and thanked volunteers. The University of Maryland School of Dentistry, and the Maryland Office of Oral Health, enthusiast since being introduced to the program in 2018, delivered remarks. Representatives from the Maryland State Dental Association, the National Dental Association; Maryland Dental Society and Robert T. Freeman Dental Society were invaluable program participants seen by the students. Volunteers from the Baltimore County Chapter of the Continentals Societies provided a much needed, all hands-on deck presence. Dr. Wilson stated, "This was an amazing way to introduce our students to the dental profession. By any measure this program was a tremendous success."

For more about the *Middle School to Dental School™ Mentoring Initiative* and the upcoming presentations scheduled during National Children's Dental Health Month visit www.mycohi.org.



Middle School to Dental School™



Prevention that Empowers Globally!