

## Meet Benson Bonyo, DO . . .

Growing up in Kenya, Benson Bonyo was surrounded by poverty. He decided at a young age that he wanted to make a difference for others, and decided that medicine was the way for him to achieve that goal. Dr. Bonyo enrolled in the Summer Scholars program at the Center of Excellence (COE) at the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OUCOM). In addition to a stipend, the program provided six weeks of rigorous coursework, including clinical experience and seminars on case-based problem solving, time management and study skills, and cultural competency, designed to simulate the schedule of a first year medical student. This gave Dr. Bonyo a reality check about what medical school would be like, but also made him realize that he could ultimately achieve his goal. Dr. Bonyo graduated from OUCOM in 1998. He currently has a private family medicine practice in Akron, Ohio, mostly serving poor and uninsured patients in low income, inner city areas. Additionally, Dr. Bonyo started a non-profit, Care Kenya, to help improve the lives and health care of people living in Kenya.



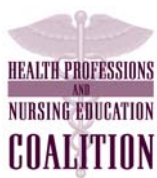
*“The Summer Scholars program at OUCOM truly made it possible for me to practice medicine. I would not be a physician right now if not for my involvement with this program.”*

### About the Program

- The Health Careers Opportunity Program and COE are authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together, they function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The OUCOM Summer Scholars program provides students with an introduction to osteopathic medicine. The program teaches students the basics of biomedical sciences and research methods, and allows them to become familiar with problem-based learning using case studies, small group discussions, lectures, labs, independent study, use of computers and pre-clinical observations. Additionally, the program helps with interviewing skills.
- The OUCOM Summer Scholars program strives to build cultural competency by allowing students to work as part of a team with other pre-medical students from diverse backgrounds.
- For more information on the OUCOM COE, please go to: <http://www.oucom.ohiou.edu/coe-mm>.

### The Effect of Funding Cuts . . .

- If funding for the Summer Scholars program is lost, many minority students would lose the opportunity to get additional preparation and gain additional skills needed for medical school.
- The OUCOM COE program is the only COE program offered at an osteopathic medical school. The program’s mission is to help produce a culturally and ethically diverse physician workforce. Without this program, there would be fewer minority applicants to such schools, resulting in less diversity among the student body.



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