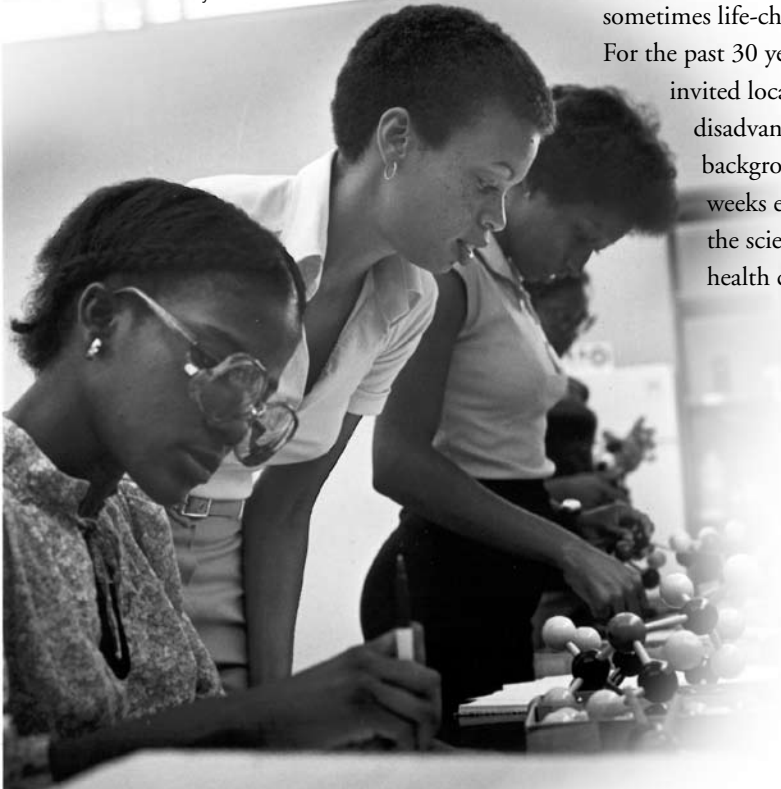


# Snapshots

## Thirty years of opportunity: Horizons in Medicine inspires generations of health care professionals



above: 2008 Horizons in Medicine class.  
below: Horizons in Medicine student Doreen Young, medical student Cheryl Madison and HIM student Linda Winston work together in an early HIM class.



Since its creation in 1978, the Horizons in Medicine program has given nearly 600 high school students a unique and sometimes life-changing opportunity. For the past 30 years, the program has invited local students, mostly from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds, to spend six weeks each summer learning the science and practice of health care.

The intensive, full-time program consists of classes and lab activities in the morning to explore medical subjects such as anatomy, biochemistry, and physiology. In the afternoon, students apply their knowledge through clinical experiences in a hospital, physician's office, clinic, or other health care site. The students also participate in weekly special activities such as tours of local medical facilities, presentations by health care professionals, and training in first aid and CPR. At the end of the program, students must present a group research paper or project.

In addition to receiving a nominal wage for their clinical work, students who complete the program are eligible for a one-year tuition scholarship to Wright State, and one student per year receives a four-year scholarship.

The first-hand experience and financial support have encouraged many Horizons graduates to pursue careers in medicine. Over the years, every one of the program's alumni graduated from high school, nearly 80 percent earned a college degree (85 percent in a health-related major), and 8 percent went on to complete medical school and become practicing physicians.

Several — including Alonzo Patterson III, M.D., a member of the charter Horizons class — have come full circle by returning to Wright State as faculty. Patterson is a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and former assistant dean for minority affairs with the medical school.