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**UAMS Public Health Student Dia Barber Awarded Scholarship  
from American College of Healthcare Executives**

LITTLE ROCK — Dia Barber, a Master of Health Administration student in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), has received the 2019 Albert W. Dent Graduate Student Scholarship from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The American College of Healthcare Executives established the scholarship in honor of Albert W. Dent, the first African American Fellow of ACHE. The scholarship provides financial aid to minority students in the final year of a full-time health care management graduate program.

Barber, of the Washington, D.C. area, will enter her second year in the MHA program in August. She is an administrative intern at Baptist Health Medical Center in Little Rock.

“It is a true honor to be selected as a recipient of this prestigious award,” said Barber. “I am grateful to my professors, mentors, and family for supporting me throughout my academic career as I prepare to serve as a future leader in health care.”

Barber was recommended for the scholarship by Richard Ault, M.H.S.A, director of the Master of Health Administration program, and Saleema Karim, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Health Policy and Management Department, both in the College of Public Health.

“This is a tremendous honor for Dia and one that is deserving of such an excellent student,” said Ault.

Barbers’ recommendation noted her depth of thought in making decisions, commitment and ability to work well with others. She is a highly sought after teammate for group projects.

“In addition to excellent academic work, Dia has availed herself of the many opportunities we can provide to enhance our students’ professional development,” Ault said. “Outstanding professionals are developed in many ways beyond the classroom, and Dia has recognized this and devoted significant time to the effort.”

“Dia is an exceptional student and one deserving of this award,” said Karim. “She is a remarkable individual who demonstrates unwavering commitment and dedication to her studies and her work. She is someone I truly admire.”

After graduation Barber wants to work in hospital operations.

“I hope to enter a leadership role in an organization that serves low-income communities and use a population health approach to drive initiatives to reduce health disparities,” Barber said.

UAMS is the state’s only health sciences university, with colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Health Professions and Public Health; a graduate school; hospital; a main campus in Little Rock; a Northwest Arkansas regional campus in Fayetteville; a statewide network of regional campuses; and seven institutes: the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute, Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, Psychiatric Research Institute, Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, Translational Research Institute and Institute for Digital Health & Innovation. It is the only adult Level 1 trauma center in the state. *U.S. News & World Report* named UAMS Medical Center the state’s Best Hospital; ranked its ear, nose and throat program among the top 50 nationwide; and named six areas as high performing — cancer, colon cancer surgery, heart failure, hip replacement, knee replacement and lung cancer surgery. UAMS has 2,727 students, 870 medical residents and five dental residents. It is the state’s largest public employer with more than 10,000 employees, including 1,200 physicians who provide care to patients at UAMS, its regional campuses, Arkansas Children’s Hospital, the VA Medical Center and Baptist Health. Visit [www.uams.edu](http://www.uams.edu) or [www.uamshealth.com](http://www.uamshealth.com). Find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) or [Instagram](#).

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