Healthy Teen Scholars: Our Journey Together

Who We Are
Welcome to the Healthy Teen Scholars (HTS) Learning Community! We are a group of health graduate students at GW committed to public service. This year we met with Dunbar High School students through weekly Red Cross Club meetings where we led discussions on health topics and careers in health. The club was supervised by Ms. Megan Patterson, a dedicated biology teacher at Dunbar. Here are some highlights from this year’s journey!

Dunbar High School
- Dunbar is America’s first black public high school, and has a rich history as a high-achieving academic institution
- In recent years, Dunbar has struggled with academic performance
- In 2015, 65% of Dunbar students graduated on time

Our Four Pillars Guide Our Activities

Community Engagement
Events: Eating with the Unhoused, Women’s Collective, Project Downtown

Professional Development
Event: Health Career Fair
Skills: Public speaking, communication, elevator pitch, professionalism

Public Health Education & Awareness
Event: Dunbar Health Fair
Topics: Nutrition & exercise, STI/HIV prevention & management, contraception, mental health

Leadership Building
Event: Minority Health Conference
Skills: Joint decision making, student input and ideas

What We’ve Learned
The Dunbar students have been the fuel to our HTS fire. They taught us that they are not statistics, tasks, or activities. They are people. They brought us together in ways that didn’t seem imaginable months ago. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, and curiosity has pushed us all to strengthen our commitment to public service.

Recommendations
- Consider your community’s needs
- Plan ahead
- Always be flexible
- Communicate
- Don’t be afraid to delegate
- Maintain accountability
- Be present and open-minded
- Have fun!

Acknowledgements
Thank you to the ISCOPES Leadership Team (Semira, Donna, and Angie) and to advocates, community partners, and key stakeholders (Megan Patterson, Shawnee Callier, Joelle Simpson, Tonie Thibeaux). Most importantly, thanks to our Red Cross Club students at Dunbar High School.