Healthy Teen Scholars
by: Haneen Abudayyeh, Kristin Aquino, Kristely Bastien, Katie Baumann, Katherine Brady, Anne Elshoff, Monika Juzumaite, Yonathan Kefelegn, Abigail Pepin, Courtney Shay, Ariel Sherman

**INTRODUCTION**

The Healthy Teen Scholars Learning Community focused solely on Dunbar High School this year, where our team participated in helping establish a Red Cross Club. Dunbar is a newly renovated, beautiful high school with a lot of great resources—best of whom was our Club Sponsor, Ms. Megan Patterson, a teacher at Dunbar. The school mainly serves students of color from the surrounding area with 97% being Black/African American.

**STARTER PROJECT: WHAT WE DID**

1. **Awareness**
   - The team and students get their walking shoes on so together we can “Walk to End HIV”.

2. **Leadership**
   - Ebony and Shawnee engage students at the Health Career Fair.

3. **Professional Development**
   - Megan wields a gigantic knife while preparing food at Eating with the Unhoused.

4. **Community Engagement**
   - Students wait for donors to provide them snacks and drinks at the Red Cross Blood Drive.

**STARTER PROJECT: HOW WE DID IT**

- We got to know our community through various ways, such as going to a community event and talking with students at non-school activities.
- We checked in as a team and interacted outside of meetings through activities, such as a team building course and potlucks, which helped us to work more cohesively together.
- We used the students’ input and suggestions to drive our plans.
- We attempted to foster shared leadership between ISCOPES and Dunbar students through cultivating leadership skills in the core members of the Red Cross Club.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Agree upon a mission statement for the team and for the club from the beginning.
2. Plan ahead! Plan as far out as you can, and subdivide larger events into more manageable roles—maybe 2-3 co-leads for each big event.
3. Be flexible, because no matter how many great plans you have, they will change. Have a solid Plan B, and maybe even a Plan C sometimes.
4. Maintain open and appropriate communication. Establish what is preferred with your teammates, coaches, leadership team, students, peers, and appropriate connections at Dunbar as soon as possible.
5. Build relationships with your coaches, teammates, and students. It’s a lot more fun as friends!
6. Be open and honest with your teammates about what you can and cannot do. Give it 100%!

**TAKEAWAYS**

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

GW ISCOPES Leadership Team (Semira, Lauren, Donna, Angie, Adnan), Megan Patterson, Shawnee Collier, Joelle Simpson, students of the Red Cross Club, GW Milken Institute School of Public Health and School of Medicine and Health Sciences