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**Georgetown College and iLEAD Academy will accelerate
high school students' path to medical school**

Georgetown, KY (June 2, 2021) - Leaders of [Georgetown College](#) and [iLEAD Academy](#), announced today they are creating an accelerated, pre-medical school pathway for students in iLEAD's Biomedical Sciences program who choose to pursue Bachelor's degrees at Georgetown.

iLEAD Academy is a regional career academy where students from Carroll, Gallatin, Henry, Owen, and Trimble Counties prepare for careers in computer science, engineering, healthcare, and technical professions.

"I am excited to see this tremendous opportunity for the students at iLead Academy," said Commissioner of Education and Chief Learner Jason E. Glass. "This type of opportunity perfectly aligns with the Kentucky Department of Education's goal of giving our students a head start on their future careers while still in high school. This program will give students the opportunity to explore great career options and will help provide our communities with the much-needed medical professionals we will need in the future."

iLEAD students will receive priority admission to Georgetown's [Pre-College Academic Experience in Math and Science \(PAEMS\)](#) summer camp along with a \$10,000 scholarship opportunity for those who meet program qualifications.

With at least a 3.5 GPA, iLEAD students are guaranteed admission to the [Georgetown Health Scholars](#) program and a \$1,000 annual scholarship if GPA requirements are maintained. The Health Scholars program provides specialized advising, work-based learning, networking, and research opportunities for students interested in medicine, veterinary practice, physical therapy, healthcare administration, and other related fields.

iLEAD students with a 3.5 GPA or higher in science and math classes also are guaranteed an interview for admission into Georgetown's [Science Honors](#) program. This program paves the way for students' success in medical school with challenging academic and cultural experiences and opportunities to conduct scientific investigation and research at a high level.

Science Honors students take core classes with fellow science students and delve into scientific concepts with Honors Increments courses such as the ethics of stem cell research or exploration of the natural history of Kentucky.

Science Honors students each receive a \$4,000 fellowship to complete a 10-week research project during their sophomore or junior year and have worked with scientists from Johns Hopkins, Stanford, Duke, Vanderbilt, and many other top universities across the country. Students present research at regional or nation conferences attended by scientists across the U.S. or publish in leading journals in multiple fields of science.

iLEAD students will enroll in at least one science class their first semester and complete the requirements of health scholars and/or science honors program.

“Georgetown has a long tradition of successfully preparing students for health professions. Over 90% of their students who complete the application process, including an interview, get accepted to medical school so they are an ideal partner to expand opportunities for high school students interested in professional medical careers.” said iLEAD board chair and superintendent of Owen County Schools Dr. Rob Stafford.

“Georgetown College offers all students a championship-level education of the heart and mind,” says Georgetown College President Will Jones. “We’re thrilled about this partnership with iLEAD Academy, to be able to offer students the opportunity to study in our Health Sciences and Science Honors Programs of Distinctions. They will graduate fully prepared for their careers of service.”

iLEAD students work to graduate with an Associate of Science from Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) in Carrollton. Georgetown has committed to designing a model pathway making it possible for some students to graduate and move to medical or dental school in three years instead of taking four years of undergraduate classes.

Georgetown Science Faculty will co-design learning experiences with iLEAD teachers for students and visit iLEAD for group mentorship.

JCTC Carrollton Campus Director Heather Yocum said, “iLEAD students working on their Associate degrees at JCTC will enter Georgetown well-prepared for a rigorous pre-med degree plan. They will have a strong academic foundation, know how to meet college professors’ expectations, understand, resiliency to overcome challenges, and the confidence they need to pursue ambitious dreams.”

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