



## Abiola Owens, *LU '23*

My time here at Leadership U was a great experience. When it all began at Summer Week, I was intimidated to work with all these new people I had never met before. However, little by little, I came out of my box and made so many new friends through all the creative activities we did. Working with my peers throughout the entire program, I learned many new valuable skills that will last me a lifetime. I learned how to be a better leader and public speaker. I learned how to communicate and cooperate in a large group, even when things didn't always go as planned. Implementing our service project, Here for You, was a great opportunity to learn more about proper planning and execution, step out of my comfort zone, and help youth in need in our community. Researching and spreading awareness about underprivileged youth in Howard County connected me to a part of the community I had never been able to fully see and understand before. I truly appreciate the experience, opportunities, and friends this program has given me.