# HEALTHMATTERS

## Medical Student Earns Prestigious Award

## Honored for excellence, minority outreach

Portland, a second-year student at the UC Davis School of Medicine, has been honored with a prestigious 2010 Minority Scholars Award by the American Medical Association Foundation.

students nationwide to receive the award, which is accompanied by a \$10,000 scholarship.

The annual award recognizes academic excellence, a strong commitment to improving minority health and outstanding promise of a future career in medicine.

"Omar Washington is an exceptional student who has fostered efforts to increase diversity in the physician workforce at the local and national levels and to deliver preventive health care to the medically underserved in our community," said

Omar Washington of northeast and dean of the School of Medicine. "He exemplifies our school's commitment to diversity and social justice, and we are proud to have him as a member of our student body."

Washington received his undergraduate degree in microbiology at Washington is one of only 13 Portland State University in Portland, Ore., and entered the School of Medicine in 2008. He is an active member of the Student National Medical Association, the oldest and largest student organization for medical students of color in the country. He also serves as the regional liaison to the Minority Association of Pre-medical Students.

Washington mentors several undergraduates from disadvantaged backgrounds interested in pursuing careers in medicine. He also organizes seminars and events for students from throughout the region to Claire Pomeroy, vice chancellor for help prepare them for medical school. human health sciences at UC Davis Recognizing the importance of early ties.



Omar Washington

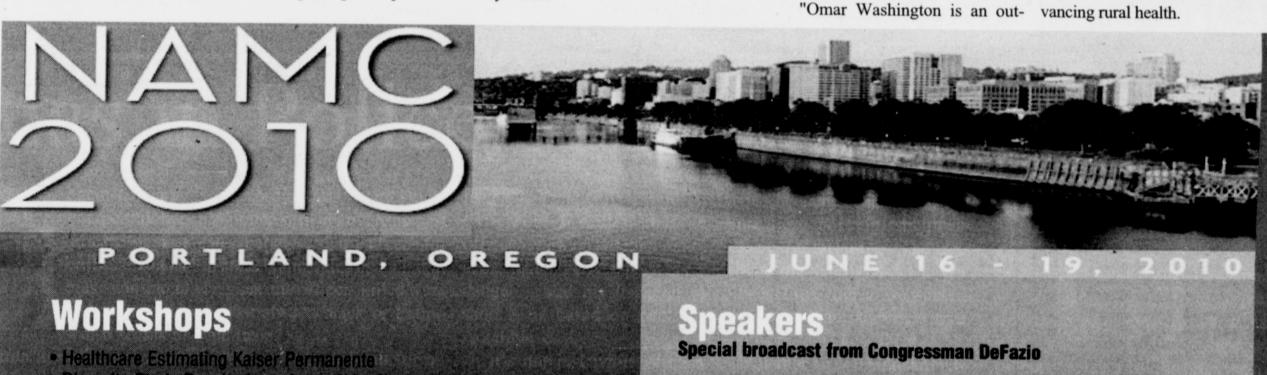
outreach, he works extensively with elementary and high-school students, partnering with African-American churches and sports organizations to combine academic information with community activi-

to support, encourage and assist them in their individual journeys," Washington wrote in his application for the award. "Upon completing my medical degree, I hope to work at an academic institution where I can continue to help guide young, programs for disadvantaged youth, to encourage them to seek careers in patient populations." medicine."

Washington also serves as coventive health services to a historihood, and partners with leaders in Through annual events like the Ulezi Family Health Faire, clinic staff offer blood-pressure screenings and health education, and help build relationships with community orgaeducation and health.

"My goal is to excite students to standing medical student with the possibilities in health care and strong leadership and interpersonal skills," said Darin Latimore, director of Medical Student Diversity at UC Davis School of Medicine. "His calm, mature approach to addressing health-care concerns helps build consensus in the community and fosters our overall efforts to deliver eager medical students and host compassionate, culturally sensitive care that meets the needs of diverse

The UC Davis School of Medicine is among the nation's leading medical director of the Imani Clinic, a free schools, recognized for its specialtycommunity clinic that offers pre- and primary-care programs. The school offers fully accredited master's cally African-American neighbor- degree programs in public health and in informatics, and its combined M.D.the community to foster health. Ph.D. program is training the next generation of physician-scientists to conduct high-impact research and translate discoveries into better clinical care. Along with being a recognized leader in medical research, the nizations dedicated to advancing school is committed to serving underserved communities and ad-



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