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Student wins scholarship, paid medical internships

It's scholarship season, but one new award has a unique twist — it includes four summers of paid internships at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in Lake Nona. The first winner of the STEM Pipeline Program — which includes a four-year, \$5,000-per-year scholarship toward a career in the science, technology, engineering or math fields — is Kirk McCall II of Timber Creek High School.

The award — sponsored by the research institute, the United Negro College Fund, physicians' law firm Akerman Senterfitt and the Central Florida Medical Society — aims to increase the number of blacks and other minorities in science-related fields.

McCall, who plans to attend medical school to become a surgeon, was presented with his award at a ceremony Wednesday that included Jennifer Carroll, Florida's lieutenant governor, as a speaker.

He will attend Xavier University in New Orleans to double major in biology and music (he plays saxophone). He hopes to attend medical school at the University of Miami.

His interest in a STEM-related career dates back to AP biology and chemistry classes at Timber Creek High School. He became interested in medicine after a family friend was paralyzed in a car accident.

Lauren Roth