

Mariama Gackou



We are incredibly proud to congratulate Mariama Gackou who was awarded her B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology on May 9, 2023 from Penn State University. Mariama was the recipient of a four-year scholarship from the R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund in 2019, along with a paid summer internship at Independence Blue Cross (IBC) that she has participated in for the last four years as a result of the partnership R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund has with IBC. Mariama plans to apply to a Master's Programs in Molecular Biology and Gene Theory, while pursuing her career goal to become a Research Technician.

While attending Penn State University, Mariama remained focused on her goals and stayed engaged in activities that helped her succeed in college. Despite having to make the transition to virtual learning during the height of the pandemic, and back to in-person learning sessions later, she overcame these challenges by forming/joining study groups, excelling academically, and accepting leadership responsibilities. She was engaged in campus extra-curriculum activities, as well as volunteer services, while maintaining a job she enjoyed.

The R.W. Sorrell Scholarship Fund puts a special emphasis on giving back and serving others. As a result of her college experience along with her internship, Mariama reports feeling more confident in her volunteer positions and more connected to those she services. Mariama has a bright future and we look forward to following her on her post college journey. ■