For decades, high school students interested in the health sciences have had a unique opportunity. Baylor College of Medicine partnered with the Houston Independent School District to establish a new kind of college preparatory school, the Michael E. DeBakey High School for Health Professions, in 1972. The success of this pipeline program has spread to other schools, many in south Texas, where programs at eight schools give students a valuable stepping stone on their paths to careers in health and science.

Some graduates come full circle. Dr. Ronald Cotton enrolled in DeBakey High School in 1994, and completed his B.S./M.D. at the University of Houston. After medical school, residency training and a fellowship in abdominal transplantation at Baylor, he joined Baylor’s DeBakey Department of Surgery in 2015. He never misses an opportunity to speak with high school students interested in a medical or science career.

Look in the Medical and Science section every Monday and visit bcm.edu to see how Baylor is achieving the amazing in our community.