

CDU Community Learns More About Belize at Monthly “Global Health Disparities” Discussion Series



In collaboration with the Urban Health Institute, the Office of International Affairs held its monthly “Diplomats on Global Health Disparities” Series on March 28 in the Cobb Lounge. This month’s presentation featured an overview of the country of Belize from the Honorable Roland Yorke, Consul General for Belize in Los Angeles. In his role as Consul General, he has aggressively pursued policies and programs that have led to improving the quality of life, not only for Belizeans, but also for the overall Afro Latino/Caribbean communities for the last nine years.

The Hon. Consul Yorke was joined by colleagues Janice B. Longobardi, RN, BSN, PHN, and Paul G. Longobardi, PhD to co-present a current analysis of the needs of Belize’s population and determinants of health services before proposing ways CDU can collaborate with the nation to improve health conditions.



L to R: Janice B. Longobardi, RN, BSN, PHN; Paul G. Longobardi, PhD; and Hon. Consul General Roland Yorke.

The country’s health sector, which is led by the Ministry of Health (MOH), is challenged by increasing incidents of cancer, diabetes, gun violence and mental health disorders. Belize has taken strides toward improving health services and conditions in the country, such as expanding the Belize Health Information Systems, which aids the MOH in providing health care services to citizens in the quickest and most efficient way possible; forming partnerships with local institutions to fund training of nurses, nurse practitioners and midwives; as well as improving the organization of mental health services. Belize also leverages its relationships abroad, training Belizean medical personnel in Taiwan and El Salvador and renewing cooperation agreements in public health with Cuba.

The training and educational needs remain great for Belize, and the Hon. Consul Yorke’s presentation encouraged the CDU community to consider ways to collaborate with the nation, which is located in Central America and has a diaspora of over 75,000 Belizeans living on the west coast of the United States.