



ALUMNI NEWS

ISSUE FALL 2020

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Eva Severado, MS



Eva Severado is a graduate student in the Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology Master's program at the University of Southern California. She received her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from CDU in 2017. Eva's research dissertation focused on determining the effects of prenatal exposure to estrogenic compounds and plasticizers found in the environment or diet on male reproduction.

4 Questions

What did you value most about being a student at CDU?

"What I valued most about being a student at CDU is the immense support from the staff, faculty, and professors. Whether you wanted to initiate a University student organization, public transit assistance, letters of recommendation, hands on research experience, scholarships, tutoring, job securement or transition from CDU to another professional program, CDU contributes a lot. I had one of the best times in my life as an undergraduate student."

What is your greatest accomplishment to date?

My greatest accomplishment to date is being accepted to Howard University, UNC Chapel Hill North Carolina and Loma Linda University for the Doctor of Pharmacy incoming class of fall 2021. Another one of my greatest accomplishments was having the opportunity to live in the Middle East for one year and work as a science teacher in Ras Al Khaimah for middle and high school students.

Why did you decide to come back to work for CDU?

"Upon arrival back to the U.S. with a pandemic and unemployment levels on the rise, it was challenging to find employment for a short term before my doctoral program starts in August 2021. I reached out to Dr. May Ong, Dr. Wu and Dr. Vadgama to see if they had any positions available so I could gain employment. They were excited to give me this short-term opportunity. If you want to advance your research skills in the highest form, utilize your talent, and work in a well-balanced innovative environment, the Division of Cancer Research with Dr. Vadgama and Dr. Wu is your best option."

What is your favorite quote or mantra to live by?

"Listen more, talk less."

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

COHORT 2020-2021

The Alumni Mentorship Program 2020-2021 launched on October 1, 2020 with the mentorship reveal orientation. This year's cohort consists of thirteen mentors and fifteen mentees. The mentors and mentees attended a virtual retreat on October 10, 2020. The retreat consisted of sessions on Mentor and Mentee Professional Relationship by speaker Tiekko Wilson, educator and corporate trainer and Community Building and Development by Stephanie Castellanos, Founder of Foster America. The program administrators, Brittney Miller, Alumni Relations and Corporate Giving Manager, and Dr. Kaitlin Jackson-Ferriot, Interim Director of Student Services, outlined program expectations for the mentor and mentees and introduced a new element to the program: Community Service Project Presentation. The mentees will create a proposal for a community service project and will present their project to a panel of CDU corporate donors in the Spring.

ALUMNI MENTORS



Attallah Dillard, MSN
SON '16



Lori Martin, PA-C
COSH '00



Harry Kram, MD
COM Residency '88



Jennifer Ordonio, FNP
SON '18



Adrienne Martinez, PhD, MSN
SON '13



Ashanti Carter, MPH
COSH '14



Jemal Hussein, MBMS
COSH '18



Eduard Karapetyan, MBMS
COSH '19



Connell Bost, MD
COM '97



Tanesha Moss, MD
COM '15



Lyndon Gonzalez MD
COM '16, COSH -PA '09



Ashely Williams, MD
COM '19



Angela Weaver, MSN
SON '15

MOVING FORWARD IN A CHANGING WORLD

This year's event featured Dr. Carlisle in the setting of his home office, the place from where his weekly University Forum video conferences have emanated in recent months. The President's message was delivered with same passion, erudition and emphatic motivating spirit in a manner that the CDU community has come to appreciate and rely on. This year's address focused on how the University has continued to build a world-class institution by tapping into its advanced levels of knowledge and expertise in the fight to eradicate health care disparities and inspire other organizations to follow its lead.

It is by now a well-known fact that COVID-19 has affected people of color in numbers disproportionately representative of society as a whole. Dr. Carlisle surmised that the pandemic has a decidedly Black and Brown face by virtue of those most affected. That happenstance, coupled with the numerous protests of people struggling for social justice across the world, has created the need for a timely call to action. Given the current tenor of national public opinion, he forecast the possibility of a longer struggle for resolution.

Meanwhile, amidst this upheaval, the world has discovered CDU as never before. **Eminence and Distinction** were words that President Carlisle used to demonstrate how far the University has come. It is an apt time for CDU to be recognized. As exemplar, he noted how the genesis and operation of the onsite COVID-19 testing facility has brought worldwide attention.

President Carlisle thanked the partners in the testing site effort, which has become a national model. The County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and Martin Luther King Community Hospital Outpatient Center were notably lauded. He offered a special shout out to 2nd District Supervisor Mark-Ridley Thomas for providing the necessary, continuous resource support to keep the work moving forward.

He thanked University leaders for their work, including COM Dean Deborah Prothrow-Stith, and site managers, Dr. Sheila Young and Dr. Jimmy Hara. Dr. Roberto Vargas was recognized for his leadership in the research effort. Volunteers manning the site day-to-day, as well as community outreach workers, were also saluted.

On the Advancement front, CDU raised over \$8 million—against a \$5.1-million goal—to advance new facility upgrades, CDU scholarships, student and career services, alumni engagement and other campus services. For fiscal year 2019-20 the Annual Mission Maker Campaign raised \$137,500, which exceeds the stated campaign goal of \$135,000.

CDU received two five-year, grants totaling \$6 million from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund two new Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) programs. The first went to COSH and will provide \$500,000 per year to students pursuing the Master of Public Health (MPH) in Urban Health Disparities program.

The second went to the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON) and will provide \$650,000 per year to support students in MMDSON's two-year Entry Level Master of Science in Nursing program.





President David Carlisle's 2020 State of the University Address:

MOVING FORWARD IN A CHANGING WORLD

(continued)



The MMDSON made its first appearance in the prestigious US News and World Report university rankings in 2019, at #189 for Best Graduate Nursing Schools. This year, they jumped 30 places to #159.

CDU's Research division received a five-year renewal of CDU's U54 Center for Accelerating Excellence in Translational Science (AXIS) grant, totaling \$18.76 Million from NIMHD. Since initial funding in 2009, the AXIS Center has supported CDU faculty with 18 pilot projects, and 15 vouchers for priority areas in Cancer, cardio-metabolic disease, HIV/AIDS and Community Outreach.

The new COSH Community Health Worker Academy within the Cynthia Davis Lifelong Learning Institute for Community Transformation received funding from two sources. The first was a two-year grant from the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development's reinvestment grants program from a partnership with Providence Health Services worth \$649,996, and the second was a two-year grant from Cedars-Sinai for \$243,245 to fund additional training modules.

For the third year in a row, four College of Medicine students received full-ride scholarships of over \$358,000 each from LA Care Health Plan's "Elevating the Safety Net" program. Those students and their undergraduate colleges are: Ope Akerele, Stanford; Kendra Arriaga Castellanos, UCLA; Bryce Bentley, UCLA; and Jahmil Lacey, Morehouse College.

President Carlisle described the new Independent Medical Education Program project as a long-desired objective now coming to fruition. He noted progress in all areas of project development, including the architects' work on the schematic design for the Health Professions Education Building, and planning of the upcoming fundraising

effort. He also lauded other campus projects including this year's new student center and the progress in constructing the APLA Health Building.

He announced this year's Outstanding Faculty awards that went to Dr. David Martins for Outstanding Professor; Dr. Sheila Young, for Outstanding Community Service; and Dr. Marlies Rosario, for Outstanding Teaching. He restated that the mission of the University remains as it was at its founding 54 years ago: to recruit and train people who look like the members of the community that they serve.

CDU is playing a vital role on the impact of workforce diversity, helping to hasten the increase of trained people of color within the ranks of physicians, registered nurses and other qualified professionals statewide. The University is now the number one ranked university nationally in faculty diversity and is poised to take on greater challenges to promote the changing mindset.

Dr. Carlisle reminded his audience that as recently a ten years ago, the University came very close to being shuttered. Now, it is anticipated that CDU may have an enrollment census of over 1,000 students during the Fall semester in its various departments and programs.

He closed the address by stating that the University will continue to make a difference. He cited the comments of the late John Lewis in an interview conducted just prior to his recent death: "We must never give up or give in. Press on, motivate, inspire. Stay engaged. Don't lose hope." A mantra worth repeating in perpetuity.

CDU Selected to Develop Lincoln-Drew Elementary Site



The Board of Trustees of the Compton School District has selected the proposal submitted by CDU and our partners in the CDU/MLK Wellness Collaborative, LLC, Thomas Safran & Associates and Century Housing Corporation, as the one that “best fits the needs of the District” to develop the vacant 11-acre Lincoln Elementary School property, located at 1667 E. 118th St. (pictured left)

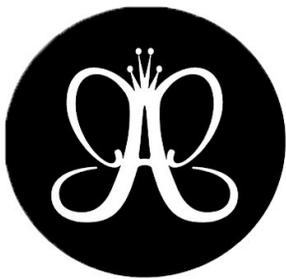
As a result, the University is entering into an “Exclusive Negotiating Agreement” with the District, which is the first phase of many subsequent steps toward our long-held plans to expand our campus. When fully built out according to our Master Plan, the former Lincoln Elementary School site will double the footprint of the CDU campus and has the potential to propel us well beyond our long-term goal of 2,000 students.

Development of the site, which envisions family housing, student housing, a gym/athletic field, office space, research space, small retail and restaurants, and several student/community facing services, will be a long-term project. The timing of any construction project is fluid, the University hopes to develop the site in approximately five phases over seven years.

“CDU is community-founded, so of course we will seek robust community input during the initial stages of the development process,” said CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle. “While this will expand our capacity and campus space, this project will also greatly benefit the neighborhoods around us— Compton, Watts, Willowbrook, and South Los Angeles— as we will have not only University programming but also affordable/workforce-family housing and buildings that will accommodate programs and services for the entire community.”

Thanks to all those who worked so diligently, and ultimately successfully, on the proposal including: our partners Thomas Safran & Associates and Century Housing Corporation; and our consultants Dan Rosenfeld/Community Partners, The Pinyon Group, Frederick Fisher and Partners, Hood Design Studio, and LA84 Foundation; and of course our University team: Crystal Knight, Gary Bonaccorso, Tiffany Grajeda, Kathleen Arakaki, Dr. Steve Michael, Angela Minniefield and Carl McLaney.

Beauty Industry Heavyweight Donates \$15,000 to CDU



Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) is a recipient of a \$15,000 grant from Anastasia Beverly Hills (ABH). The grant is a part of a \$1-million pledge made by ABH to fight against systemic racism, oppression and injustice in light of the civil unrest taking place throughout the nation as a result of the systemic and unjust treatment of African Americans.

The grant will support general University operations and community engagement efforts. Since beginning the pledge in June 2020, ABH has donated over a quarter of a million dollars to institutions such as the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Black Lives Matter, the Loveland Foundation and others.

“As founder of Anastasia Beverly Hills, it is my promise that the brand will remain a constant and vocal supporter of equality. We vow to use our platform and our privilege to amplify the voices of marginalized groups that deserve to be heard,” said founder Anastasia Soare. “We believe in Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science’s mission in fighting against health disparities among underserved, and fully support their commitment to community engagement.”

“We are deeply appreciative of Anastasia Beverly Hills’ for generous support and belief in our mission to educate diverse health professionals, as well as our vision to attain a world without health disparities,” said Angela Minniefield, Senior Vice President of Advancement, Strategic Development & External Affairs at CDU. “Special thanks to our Alumni Relations and Corporate Giving manager Brittney Miller for facilitating this partnership, and we look forward to continuing a meaningful relationship with ABH through its community engagement pillar.”

CDU Receives Over \$15 Million During the Month of September from Bloomberg, OSHPD and more

In the past month, CDU has been the recipient of over \$15 million in grants and philanthropy from top organizations such as Bloomberg Philanthropies, the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development ([OSHPD](#)), Northrup Grumman, and more.

Bloomberg Philanthropies

On September 3, the University received a \$7.7-million award from **Bloomberg Philanthropies**. This is the largest private gift ever presented to CDU, and will allow the University to provide scholarships of up to \$100,000 to nearly 50% of medical students currently enrolled and receiving financial aid over the next four years. The grant will be used to help provide emergency bridge support for medical students who face hardships, support for students to attend professional conferences with their faculty and peers, personal counseling and advising and mentorship activities, and much more.

CDU received this grant as part of the first investment of Bloomberg Philanthropies' Greenwood Initiative, an effort to accelerate the pace of Black wealth accumulation and address systemic underinvestment in Black communities. Their total investment is \$100-million, shared among the nation's four Historically Black Medical Colleges. In addition to CDU, that includes Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC, Meharry Medical College in Nashville and Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

As Mike Bloomberg himself so succinctly said at the time the award was announced: "More Black doctors will mean more Black lives saved and fewer health problems that limit economic opportunity. But right now, the burden of student debt and lack of financial aid means that the shortage of Black doctors could get even worse."

With the current median medical school debt standing at \$200,000, many medical students—but particularly those from communities of color—graduate with tremendous student debt.

"The prospect of paying for medical school itself can deter many Black and other students of color from reaching for the dream of attending medical school and becoming a physician," said CDU President and CEO, Dr. David Carlisle. "But even for those who do attend, graduating with hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt makes it difficult to establish and sustain a medical practice. Thus, the award from Bloomberg Philanthropies makes it possible for more students of color to achieve their dream of becoming physicians, many of whom then return to practice in communities of color from which they came."

In September 21, CDU received \$7.2 million in funding from the California **Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development ([OSHPD](#))**, as part of an effort to help further build the pipeline of public mental health professionals throughout the state.

CDU's College of Medicine will receive \$5,491,295 to create new Psychiatry residency positions, while the University's Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing will receive \$1,690,500 to fund additional Public Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner slots.



The grants are being funded through the Workforce Education and Training program as part of the Mental Health Services Act, which is intended to address the shortage of mental health practitioners in the public mental health system.

“We are extremely grateful to (OSHPD) for this funding,” said Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD, Dean of the College of Medicine at CDU. “Psychiatric and mental health services are some of the most needed yet most difficult to access health care services in under-resourced communities. So, this award will help us put more psychiatrists directly into medically underserved areas where these services are in high demand.”

“This grant will help us continue to recruit and train Public Mental Health Nurse Practitioners, most of who we draw from communities of color and who are also underrepresented in the health professions,” said Diane Breckenridge, PhD, MSN, RN, ANEF, Dean of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. “This will also help us create the diverse health workforce our population needs to address a critical



CDU also thanks **Northrop Grumman** for their generous gift of \$25,000 to support CDU's longstanding Saturday Science Academy-II program.

The **Far Western Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®** gifted CDU with a \$20,000 gift to provide scholarships to deserving students attending the university. The donation will fund the Alpha Kappa Alpha: Dare to Be Different - Dixon Scholarship Fund, which will provide two scholarships of \$1,000 annually. Eligibility for the scholarship will be based on financial need, residency (students must reside within one of nine states representing Alpha Kappa Alpha's Far Western Region) and community service.



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Drew C.A.R.E.S. Selects New Director



LaShonda Spencer, MD (*pictured left*) joins Charles R. Drew University as the Director of Drew Center for AIDS Research Education and Services (Drew CARES) and Professor of Pediatrics, with an appointment in Internal Medicine. Dr. Spencer is board-certified in Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine. She has served as Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV since 2016.

In addition to her role at Drew C.A.R.E.S., Dr. Spencer will be providing primary HIV care and HIV prevention (PrEP) treatment to pediatric/ adolescent and adult patients at the CDU OASIS Clinic, with a specialty in youth and women living with HIV/AIDS. Her research interests and grant awards involve areas such as antiretroviral treatment efficacy in target populations, Evidence informed interventions in people living with

HIV/AIDS, as well as HIV prevention studies.

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CDU, APLA and Elected Officials Tour Upcoming Facility

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas accompanied CDU and APLA officials on a tour of the upcoming CDU/APLA Wellness Center, located at the intersection of 120th Street and Healthy Way, on Wednesday, October 28. Plans for the 10,000 square-foot facility were formalized with a signed agreement between the two organizations in February 2019, and officials held a groundbreaking ceremony for the building last December.

Upon the building's completion, the University's Wellness Center will provide urgent care, mental health counseling and wellness programs to CDU students, faculty and staff, while the APLA clinic will provide primary medical care, dental care and behavioral health services to Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 residents through a Federally Qualified Health Center ("FQHC") model.



Local Leaders Participate in CDU Voter Education Panel

CDU's Office of Strategic Advancement, Division of Student Affairs and Office of Pipeline Programs collaborated to present a Voter Education Panel via Zoom on Monday, October 19. The event, sponsored by SoCalGas and civicallyME, sought to educate attendees on the importance of voter participation. Featured panelists were Norchelle Brown, MSW, Policy Assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives; Denise Campos, Public Affairs Manager at SoCal Gas; Gary Hardie, Jr., President of the Lynwood Unified School District's Board of Education; and Brandon "Stix" Salaam-Bailey, local rapper and ambassador of the Los Angeles Football Club and the Los Angeles Clippers. Pipeline Programs' Anthony Reyes and rising senior Jasmin Whitlow (COSH) served as moderators.

With the past headlines in the news about prohibitively long voting lines and potential tampering with mail-in ballots, Mr. Hardie encouraged attendees to persist, prepare and continue to vote early. "It's incumbent upon us, because of the ongoing pandemic, that we vote early," he said. "The election doesn't *start* on November 3, it *ends* then. We should take opportunity to vote early and down the entire ballot, not just for president and vice president."

Mr. Salaam-Bailey concurred, noting that while voting for presidential candidates was an essential part of this election cycle, just as much emphasis needed to be placed on voting at the municipal level because that level is where change is most directly, profoundly and immediately felt. "[Local officials, such

as councilmembers] affect specific areas within the cities and counties that we live in," he said.

The panelists also discussed barriers that Black and Brown communities face in voting, citing the most recent and overt instance of tampering in which a ballot box in nearby Baldwin Park was deliberately set on fire. "In that regard, if you see something, please say something," said Ms. Campos. She also spoke of registering with various voter protection groups to prevent ballot tampering and "ensure that minority communities are not disenfranchised."

Ms. Brown brought up the pivotal roles that propaganda and "clickbait" have played in politics recently, as social media has increasingly become the sole source of information for many individuals. "People don't click to read full articles anymore, they believe what they see in headlines," Brown stated, further explaining that many citizens stay home and do not civically engage due to the mistrust generated by false, yet convincing information circulating online. "With that in mind, I would encourage everyone to do their research [on the causes that matter to them], and to combat misinformation when they see it," she said.

"This election [will be] one of the most pivotal we've had in quite some time. There is so much at stake," said Mr. Hardie. "In a four year period, where many people have been frustrated by the policies that have done harm to many of our communities, we have an election where we can beat back those policies in the most loud and resounding way possible – and that's at the ballot box," he concluded.

THE MERVYN M. DYMALLY SCHOOL OF NURSING CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

This year marks the ten year anniversary of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. Named after the esteemed California State Assemblyman, Mervyn M. Dymally, the school continues to excel in graduating nursing professionals from BSN to the FNP program. The enrollment of CDU's School of Nursing has increased from 12 students enrolled in 2010 to now, 503 students enrolled within the college. Dean Breckenridge, who joined the University in 2018, stated she is proud to see how far the nursing school has come and will continue to train and develop the future health leaders of tomorrow.

Alum, Belinda Addo, FNP, Class of 2016, stated, "Without CDU and the School of Nursing, I would not be where I am today. The professors, University administrators, and fellow classmates have given me an education to serve my community with the best quality care; bar none, impeccable."



CDU RECOGNIZES FIRST GENERATION DAY

CDU celebrated First Generation Day on November 9, 2020. This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Jasmine Escalera, career coach for STEM professionals, discussed the challenges within her career journey as a first generation college student as well as a doctorate professional in pharmacology from Yale University. "There were many times where I felt I did not belong, I am a girl from the hood and did not see any representation of my background in these academic spaces." Dr. Escalera provided valuable tips to our students on how to combat imposter syndrome and more importantly, to continue on the journey.

The event was held virtually through zoom and was sponsored by Wells Fargo.



Dr. Jasmine Escalera, Keynote Speaker

Student Government Produces INNOVATIVE VIRTUAL CAMPUS TOUR

In this era when schools and colleges are looking for unique ways to attract attention and generate interest, CDU's undergraduate student government leadership has produced a video-based virtual tour that highlights campus programs and buildings in a brief and effective format.

The tour will draw a young viewership of school-age peers - and their parents - looking for a university destination, and science and medicine-minded K-12 students interested in attending the University's Pipeline Programs.

The tour was produced in the now-familiar style that the viewing public has come to appreciate in music videos, Facebook Live!, Instagram and Twitter videos, and other concise and effective media postings. It features the student leaders as personal guides taking us through the various buildings and programs where they attend classes, study and socialize.

The tour offers an interesting exposure to the medical training environment, replete with the equipment associated with the specific discipline in question. There is also a showcasing of the new Student Center.



As such, the tour is a valuable overview of what students can expect to see when they attend campus whether on a day tour, at an initial interview, or an entrance orientation. The students' approach is friendly and inviting. The production gives a nod to the COVID-19 era as each tour guide is masked, and all convey the sentiment of looking forward to the time when the viewer can participate in campus activities in person.

The unique attributes of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing, the College of Science and Health, and the College of Medicine are on display in an eye-catching style featuring a pulsing soundtrack, quick-cut edits, and the narrators who fill in the information teased by the pretty pictures. The students take great pride in the University as evidenced by the enthusiasm and interest that they convey throughout the tour. Collectively, they are very personable ambassadors.



YouTube
**STUDENT GOVERNMENT
CAMPUS TOUR:**
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kMbbfkpH3xc&feature=emb_title

IN MEMORIAM

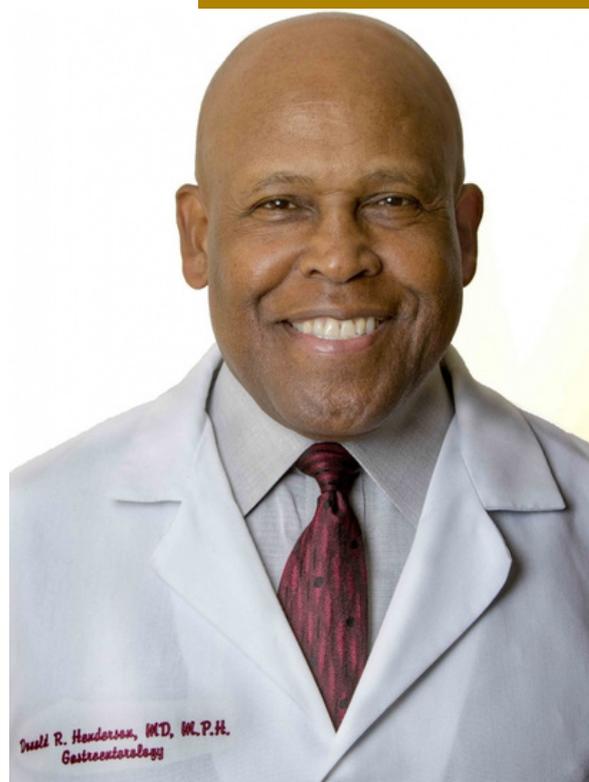
We are saddened by the recent passing member of the CDU family, Dr. Donald R. Henderson. Dr. Donald R. Henderson as a Gastroenterologist in Los Angeles for over 40 years. Dr. Henderson as a beacon in the community and provided the best quality care to his patients and community.

Dr. Henderson earned his undergraduate degree from Howard University and his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Florida. Dr. Henderson completed his Master's in Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Dr. Henderson created a dynamic and robust practice in Los Angeles and served as occasional contributor to the LA Sentinel.

He leaves behind a strong legacy in dedication to his family, patients and community.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests consideration of a donation to Donald R. Henderson Memorial Fund for CDU. To donate, text DHMF to 44321.



2020 American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) Exam Results

The Radiologic Technology Department reported an all class pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (AART) for the Class of 2020.

The department led by program director and alum, Eugene Hasson, happily reported all candidates have received a 100% pass rate on the exam for all twenty examinees.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work my students put in preparation for the exam; this shows their readiness for the field and resilient ability to conquer any challenge," as exclaimed by Mr. Hasson.



CDU Joins Other Leading Black Medical Schools and Health Professional Associations In Sending a “Love Letter to Black America”

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Charles R. Drew University has been working in a partnership comprised of all of our historically Black medical schools, the National Medical Association, the Cobb Institute/NMA, the National Black Nurses Association, The National Urban League and blackdoctor.org to address the challenges presented by COVID, and to enhance participation in vaccine clinical trials and vaccine acceptance.

Today this partnership is launching a campaign called “Love Letter to Black America, from America’s Black Doctors and Nurses.” This initiative is designed to begin a national conversation speaking directly to our community. We will communicate our love for our community and the commitment of Black health professionals to providing the Black community with trustworthy expertise and scientifically factual information with which they can reliably make personally appropriate health decisions. You are encouraged to watch the love letter video by clicking this link. You can find more information about this initiative on the Black Coalition Against COVID’s website here, where we also encourage you to add your signature to the love letter here.

Please feel free to share this message with your professional and personal networks via email and/or social media. You may want to personalize your email message by including why you are committed to protecting the health and safety of our community.

To make social media formats as convenient as possible, below is some sample social media language that you can copy and paste. Be sure to include the hashtag #ILoveUs and to also tag our organization/institution along with @BCAgainstCOVID on Twitter and Instagram. You can also tag BCAC19 on Facebook. Please use the #ILoveUs hashtag if you plan to share on LinkedIn.

For CDU, use the hashtag #cdrewu, and our social media handles, available at the bottom of every page on the CDU website.

Thank you.

Dr. David M. Carlisle
President and CEO

NOTE FROM THE ALUMNI RELATIONS AND CORPORATE GIVING MANAGER

This year has had many unexpected and heartbreaking outcomes. As we saw the world turn upside down with the pandemic of the COVID-19 virus and the loss of over 200,000 lives and the racial uprisings of the summer with the death of Ahmaud Aubery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, this has been a year of extreme loss and sadness. We extend our condolences to families affected by COVID-19.

As the world continues to adapt to the new normal, CDU continues to move forward during these tumultuous times. The University continues to implement a hybrid model for our students with the majority of classes being conducted online; CDU staff and faculty continue to work remotely.

Without a doubt, this year's Thanksgiving feels different but nonetheless, we express our gratitude for our alumni who are on the frontlines of this pandemic; we are proud of you!

As we move into the new year, we have exciting things on the horizon including the 50th year anniversary of the PA program and launching the CDU Leadership Summit in Health Equity and Social Justice including the kick off event of the President's Breakfast on February 18, 2021; stay tuned for more information!

Thank you for all you do to help CDU on its continued path of progress, and have an enjoyable, safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,

Brittney Miller
Alumni Relations and Corporate Giving Manager



HUMBLE BRAG

BY BRAYN RICE

Please keep us informed of any new career accomplishments and activities. We would love to showcase the achievements of our alumni community! Send all updates to CDUAlumniAssociation@cdrewu.edu

Stay Connected!

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Instagram: [@cdrewualumni](https://www.instagram.com/cdrewualumni)