



August 2019

CDU News



State of the University
New Grand Entrance
Welcome Week



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all students, staff and faculty back to campus for the Fall 2019 semester at CDU! I hope that the summer was filled with meaningful moments, whether you spent these past few months getting ahead on coursework or relaxing and recharging with your loved ones. I'm looking forward to an exciting new school year, and I hope you are, too.

You'll notice that there's been a major addition to our campus, in the form of our new grand entrance facing 120th Street. I had the distinct pleasure of opening the entrance to the public at this year's State of the University event, less than one year after we broke ground on the project last October. Not only does the entrance serve as the focal point of the University, but it is also an extension of the original design of the Cobb Building which was constructed in 1984. It is truly a special addition to the University that solidifies our presence within and our commitment to this community, and I thank all who were involved in the leadership and completion of this project, including Anderson Barker Architects and Vice President Carl McLaney.

I would also like to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to Wells Fargo, who recently granted the University \$90,000 to support education and health workforce diversity. I have spoken at length about the critical role CDU plays in addressing health professional shortages in California, and as we continue our evolution into a university of 2,000, contributions from partners such as Wells Fargo are essential in ensuring we have the proper infrastructure to continue training the healthcare workforce of tomorrow.

We are just under a month away from one of the biggest days in the CDU community – our annual concert fundraiser, Jazz at Drew, on Saturday, October 5. With performances from Will Downing, The Ohio Players, NEXT, Louie Cruz Beltran, the Lao Tizer Band featuring Eric Marienthal and Karen Briggs, as well as local artist Toni Scruggs, this year's event is sure to be another spectacular one. Get your tickets today at jazzatdrew.eventbrite.com, or visit the Jazz at Drew website (www.jazzatdrew.com) for more information.

Unfortunately, I must end on a somber note. Earlier this month, we lost a friend and esteemed colleague in Dr. Tracy Charles. Dr. Charles was an anesthesiologist who completed her residency in a dual appointment at CDU and the former Martin Luther King Hospital. She later became Director of Obstetric Anesthesia for 12 years at that same hospital in the 1990s. Dr. Tracy will be greatly missed by her CDU family. We will keep them in our prayers and wish them strength and courage during this difficult time.



David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD
President & CEO

Merryn M. Dymally
School of Nursing

COM Student Awarded Scholarship from Healthcare.com



Monica Renoj

COM student Monica Renoj was awarded the first-ever "26 Health Insurance Scholarship" worth \$500 from Healthcare.com, an enrollment hub for Americans interested in the ACA, short-term and Medicare health insurance plans. She was awarded the scholarship based on a personal essay detailing her experiences with health insurance as a young adult.

According to a press release from Healthcare.com, Monica was selected from dozens of competitive applicants across 10 states who applied online, and was chosen due to her essay, background and dedication to public health.

Monica's essay centered around dealing with difficult rules and deadlines after taking on the responsibility of acquiring health insurance for her family; and how health insurance could be made easier for people in their 20s. "Having completed the application for the Affordable Care Act myself, I believe that guidance from [a] patient representative can not only provide clarity for some of the terminology associated with insurance such as copays, deductible, in and out of network benefits but it will also give patients the confidence to manage their benefits and understand their plans restrictions," she stated in her essay.

MSBMS Class of 2019 Holds Public Thesis Defense Colloquium

Master's students in the Biomedical Sciences program held their thesis defense colloquium on August 19 and 20 to demonstrate their comprehension of facts and ideas related to their chosen subject matter. Topics discussed included the effects of different factors on populations affected by diabetes and the efficacy of community health workers and other health navigators in the delivery of care.

Additional photos from the presentations can be found [here](#), or on the CDU SmugMug website.



CDU Welcomes Students Back to Campus with a Plethora of Welcome Week Activities

The Division of Student Affairs hosted Welcome Week for new and returning students from August 26 - August 30. On August 26, students were welcomed to campus with an opening ceremony courtesy the Office of Enrollment Management and the Office of the President, followed by free lunch provided by Taco Guy Catering.

Other activities throughout the week included a Back to School BBQ, Campus Resource Day, the State of the University address, a spirit rally and a beach bonfire.



Karen Jackson, Director of Enrollment Management, welcomes students on August 26.



Students enjoyed free lunch from Taco Guy Catering on August 26.



STATE *of the* UNIVERSITY





CDU Opens New Grand Entrance at 2019 State of the University Address

CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle issued his eighth annual "State of the University" address on Wednesday, August 28, on the lawn in front of the Keck Building.

"Staying the course" was the recurring theme throughout Dr. Carlisle's remarks as he began by acknowledging that the University faced an unexpected, but not insurmountable, challenge: CDU had ended the previous fiscal year with a \$1.8 million deficit. However, he assured those in attendance that the appropriate measures were being taken to "make certain [the University doesn't] carry this debt into the future and that it does not happen again." He committed to resolving the budget deficit by the end of the current fiscal year, and reiterated his commitment to ensuring CDU's growth overall. "When we convene next year, I have no doubt that I will be able to report that the state of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science will be stronger than ever," he stated.

Noting that the University had experienced "many more high points and accomplishments over the past year than setbacks," Dr. Carlisle detailed the University's highlights, such as increased fundraising and philanthropy, a 30% increase in undergraduate enrollment for the fall semester and program rankings within nationally renowned publications such as the U.S. News & World Report. Dr. Carlisle also issued updates on plans for the University's four-year medical education program and upcoming plans for new programs of study, such as Psychology.

During his address, Dr. Carlisle also granted the first-ever CDU Champion Medals to the legislators who were integral in helping CDU secure \$7.5 million in appropriations for FY2019-2020 in the state's budget. "This year, we received a state budget augmentation that we have not received since we embarked on establishing the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing," said Dr. Carlisle. "This would not have been possible without champions in our State Capital and here at the local level." Awardees included Senator Steven Bradford, Senator Holly Mitchell, Assemblymember Mike Gipson (accepted by Chris Wilson on his behalf), Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (accepted by Claudia Gutierrez on his behalf) and Senator Richard Roth (not in attendance).

Dr. Carlisle concluded the State of the University address with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for CDU's new grand entrance to the public. "Last year, we ended this address by putting shovels in the ground to symbolize that we were sinking our roots even deeper into the South Los Angeles community from which we came and to which we are so committed," he stated. "The next logical step after you break ground for a project is to build on it, and that's what we've done this year. We've built on this ground, and we've completed our new entrance."

Photos from the event, including the ribbon cutting ceremony, can be found [here](#) or on the CDU SmugMug website.

College of Science and Health Takes Direct Aim at Legitimizing Community Health Workers As Medical Professionals With New Academy



As part of a recent two-year grant from Cedars-Sinai, a team of professionals led by COSH dean Dr. Hector Balcazar is working to develop a Community Health Worker Academy within the newly developed Cynthia Davis Lifelong Learning Institute for Community Transformation. The academy will bring state-of-the-art training opportunities to community health workers (CHWs) in order to further legitimize them as vital parts of the healthcare system.

CHWs are individuals chosen by community members or organizations to provide basic health and medical care to their community. In a health care system often described as “fragmented,” these individuals often help link people to pertinent health care information and services, ultimately improving the quality and cultural competence of service.

“The fact that CDU is at the forefront of this academy is paramount in the sense that we are embracing training and legitimizing of the CHW workforce,” said Dr. Balcazar. “We could begin to develop training methodologies and eventually have CHWs begin to take classes at CDU.”

Many major healthcare service providers already have CHWs on their staff, however, there is no official credentialing for CHWs, nor are there widely-adopted workforce structure levels. Dr. Balcazar explained that this was a larger goal of the Academy, to “get a consensus of the skills, responsibilities and competencies of CHWs that the entire nation can ascribe to” and to “[develop] methodologies of training so CHWs can be hired in clinics.”

This vital workforce can serve multiple healthcare systems to help reach and manage the health care needs of children and adults in underserved communities throughout Los Angeles. If CHWs are adequately training and credentialed, larger healthcare systems could potentially develop a career path for entry-level CHWs to develop their skills and provide additional career growth opportunities.

“The ultimate goal of the academy is to create opportunities for developing curricula, as well as defining opportunities anchored in transformative approaches that help us better understand the needs of CHWs,” said Dr. Balcazar.

2019 Undergraduate Cancer Research Training Cohort Concludes Intensive Summer Program with Poster Presentations

The 2019 Undergraduate Cancer Research Training Program (UCRTP) students presented their work at a poster session on August 9 in the LSRNE Lobby. The session was the culmination of a 8-12 week program that saw 15 participants engage in hypothesis-driven oncology research projects, paired with mentors from CDU and UCLA, to strengthen their hands-on research skills and deepen their understanding of the biology of cancer.

This year's cohort included trainees from such institutions including CDU, UCLA, New York University, Stanford University, Morehouse College and others. The goal of the program is to ensure that each student acquires the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to become a proficient researcher in cancer and health disparities. Photos from the presentations can be viewed here, or on the CDU SmugMug website. This year's participants were Antonio Almanzan (Brown University), Sandy Andres (University of Southern California), Francesca Badar (Boston University), Jessica Chuyajarnsook (CDU), Jessica De Anda (UCLA), Gabriela Gomez (CDU), Chloe Harris (Stanford University), Moses Hinton (CDU), Mareda Michael (New York University), Ogechukwu Okafor (University of Houston), Adenike Olagbegi (Emory University), Oscar Rosales (Tufts University), Cielo Sanchez (CDU), Peter Uyanne (Morehouse College) and Jason Wong (UCLA).





(L to R) Drs. Roberto Vargas, Eleby Washington, III, Jay Vagdama, Harold Freeman, Ludlow Creary, Keosha Partlow, Nina Harawa and Steve Michael on August 21.

Architect of Patient Navigation Delivery System Speaks at Haynes Lecture Series

This month's M. Alfred Haynes lecture presentation took place on August 21 in the Keck Auditorium and featured Harold Freeman, MD, who discussed the history and development of patient navigation in the United States. Dr. Freeman is one of the nation's most notable oncologists on the subject of poverty and care, and is the founder of the Harold P. Freeman Patient Navigation Institute. His previous posts include a tenure as National President of the American Cancer Society (ACS) from 1988-1989 and Director of Surgery at Harlem Hospital from 1974-1999.

During his time at Harlem Hospital Center, Dr. Freeman encountered a staggering number of patients from underserved communities who were being diagnosed with late-stage cancer. In response, he set up free weekend screening centers, which increased the rate of early detections but highlighted another problem: there was no clear path to treatment, as patients were not often educated on these matters.

Dr. Freeman noticed this inequity, and would soon leverage his position as ACS president to conduct national hearings on cancer in poor communities,

which ultimately led to the publication of 1989's "Report to the Nation on Cancer in the Poor." The report detailed the most critical issues that impoverished individuals affected by cancer and other illnesses face, such as barriers in both seeking and affording care; experiencing greater pain and suffering than non-impovertised individuals; and being provided with cancer education that is culturally insensitive and oftentimes irrelevant.

Dr. Freeman took these findings and established the nation's first Patient Navigation Program at Harlem Hospital Center in 1990. Patient navigation is a community-based intervention model designed to promote access to timely diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other chronic diseases by eliminating barriers to care in a system that is often complex and fragmented.

A study followed 606 poor women with breast cancer who were treated at Harlem Hospital from 1964-1986, and showed that only 6% of those patients were diagnosed early, while 49% of them presented with late-stage cancer. Their 5-year survival rate was estimated at 39%. In the years following the implementation

of the Patient Navigation Program, a follow-up study was conducted – this time with a sample of 325 breast cancer patients being treated at Harlem Hospital. This study found that 41% of those cases were detected early, while the number of patients who presented with late stage cancer was halved to 21%. This group's 5-year survival rate skyrocketed to 70%. It was clear that the positive outcomes were due to the community's increased access to free breast examinations and patient navigation, which led to early diagnosis and treatment.

Since the model's introduction in the 1990s, it has been applied across the entire health care continuum, including prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship to the end of life. It has also become a nationally recognized health care delivery model, as evidenced by the signing of the Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Law (2005) by President George Bush, as well as the inclusion of certain patient navigation requirements in the Affordable Care Act.



Safety Reminder

CDU has seen an uptick in the amount of phishing emails sent to CDU email accounts. Phishing emails can attempt to target your financial information, gain control of your computer and your local network resources. As the University continues to invest in resources to keep the CDU community safe online, we ask all staff, students and faculty to exercise caution when opening all emails, and to be especially wary of opening messages from unknown senders. Should you receive suspicious spam or phishing emails, be sure to:

- **Never** respond to the message
- **Never** click any links or attachments
- **Never** provide any personal information about yourself, your family or your employer

If you believe you may have inadvertently revealed sensitive information such as your University email and password, you should update your credentials immediately. If you have additional questions, comments or concerns, please contact the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@cdrewu.edu or ext. 4990.

Drew C.A.R.E.S. Partners With Transgender Service Organization to Offer Expanded Resources to Transgender Community

The Unique Woman's Coalition (UWC), the first Los Angeles-based organization for and led by transgender people of color, in partnership with Drew C.A.R.E.S., CDU's HIV/AIDS research cluster, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its first physical office space on Friday, August 16. The partnership enables UWC to offer an array of services including, but not limited to, health education and HIV testing and mental health services. It also enables UWC access to research data and funding opportunities to expand organizational reach. The UWC's new office is located in Building M.

"We're excited about this partnership because it gives our students an opportunity to learn how to learn to care for transgender patients," said David Lee, CDU community faculty member and PATH PrEP project director at OASIS Clinic.

Established in 1997 by Chela Demuir, The Unique Woman's Coalition seeks to enhance and add to the quality of life of transgender people of color by creating safe spaces and platforms to elevate and empower their voices and narratives. The UWC curates several programs and events throughout the year, including TransGiving Dinner, Our Honors Awards, Trans-Unity Pride and Chela & the #GirlsNextDoor, an internet talk show.



UWC founder Chela Demuir (left) gives remarks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 16.



Dr. Michael and Dr. Carlisle with The Links, Inc. leadership on August 22.

CDU Signs MOU With Nationally Renowned Service Organization to Expand STEAM Education

CDU signed a memorandum of understanding with The Links, Incorporated on Thursday, August 22, in the Cobb Board Room. The Links, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

Some goals and aspirations of The Links, Incorporated include closing the achievement gap between Pre-K and college to ensure youth preparedness for a global workforce, developing training modules for Pre-K to college level mentoring programs, ascertaining high levels of support for local youth, expanding STEM education and promoting the integration of the arts, as well as promoting and supporting HBCUs and HBGIs to ensure their sustainability.

"We are here today because, much like our CDU counterparts, we realize that together we can prepare our children for their futures," said Pamela Perkins Dwyer, president of The Links, Inc.

"I am looking forward to the expanded relationship with The Links, Inc. because our missions are harmonious," said CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle. "I am certain that when we join forces, the sky will be the limit."

2019 JAZZ AT DREW

GREAT MUSIC
for a
GREATER MISSION

Fundraiser
to benefit
scholarships
and pipeline
programs.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
12 NOON - 9 P.M.



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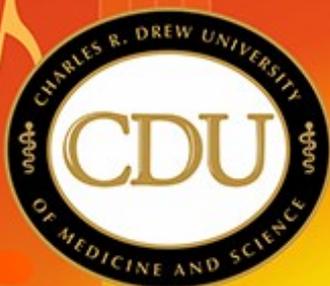
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NEXT



LAO TIZER BAND f/ Karen Briggs & Eric Marienthal



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Legacy of CDU

“Legacy of CDU” offers readers an intimate look into the rich history of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

*Special Thanks to
University Archivist Robin Schiff*

Pioneers in Urban-Based Research

In 1981, the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (now “CDU”) was selected to be the site of the nation’s first Comprehensive Epilepsy Program (CEP) based in an urban, inner-city setting. The program, funded by the National Institutes of Health, was created to encourage clinical research on all aspects of epilepsy, including prevention, diagnosis and more effective management.

Research and education took place at the VA Hospital, Harbor/UCLA General Hospital and the UCLA Medical Center, however, the bulk of patient care activity was centered at the King/Drew Medical Center. Dr. George E. Locke, then director of Neurosurgery at the former King- Drew Medical Center, was director of the program and led a team of co- investigators that included Drs. Victor Smart- Abbey, Kenesaw Mannings, M. Alfred Haynes and Wilbur Jordan.

Epilepsy is a common disorder, affecting more than two million Americans at the time of the program’s launch in the 1980s. Very little was understood about the disorder in inner-city communities at that time, and Dr. Locke echoed this sentiment in a 1981 interview with the Los Angeles Sentinel, describing the program’s arrival in South Los Angeles as “primarily an effort to improve the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, to educate people of the inner city about epilepsy and to make seizure clinics available to the people of Southcentral Los Angeles.”

CDU was considered and selected out of a group of other urban-based institutions, such as Columbia University of New York’s School of Medicine and the University of Michigan- Detroit. When CDU was selected, it joined other CEP’s around the country including University of Virginia, the Medical School of Georgia (now “Medical College of Georgia”), the University of Washington and the University of Minnesota.



In The News

Culver City Crossroads

[Stay Awake – Heidi Duckler Dance](#)
(8/16/2019)

Native News Online

[GRAND PERFORMANCES
AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF NATIVE
AMERICAN WOMEN](#) (8/20/2019)

Sheen Magazine

[Areva Martin & The Special Needs
Network](#) (8/21/2019)

Los Angeles Sentinel

[Heidi Duckler Dance Brings
Inspiring Dance to Mlk Hospital](#)
(8/22/2019)

Compton Herald

[Legislator Mike A. Gipson presides
over bust unveiling of the late
Mervyn M. Dymally at State Capitol](#)
(8/22/2019)

National Institute of Health

[NIH funds eleven Research Centers
in Minority Institutions](#)
(8/23/2019)

Physician's Weekly

[Higher education doesn't protect
equally against secondhand smoke](#)
(8/30/2019)

CDU Event Calendar

9/21: Discover CDU

10/4: CDU Homecoming Gala

10/5: Jazz at Drew

10/25: Halloween Block Party

11/1: Veteran's Day

[Click for more Calendar Items](#)

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