



*January 2021*

# CDU News

Community Forum  
New Interim MMDSON Dean  
...and more!



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD | President & CEO

## ***Greetings!***

I hope that the winter break was restful and restorative for all students, staff and faculty. The year 2020 proved to be very difficult, but not insurmountable. We had one of the most successful years in the University's history, and we look forward to continuing that momentum moving forward into the new year.

Last year, I spoke of the importance of revisiting our goals, strategies and intentions – remembering what we want to accomplish, how we are going to do go about doing so, and why we want to accomplish those goals in the first place. Now more than ever, in an era that requires unprecedented amounts of adaptability and understanding, it is essential that you never forget your “why.”

Here at CDU, our “why” is straightforward: to improve health in any community, you need culturally appropriate care provided by people who reflect the communities they serve. Since 1966, we have strived diligently to develop the healthcare workforce of the future, one that matches the diverse population they'll be called upon to serve in the very near future as the nation's demographics continue to shift.

So, if you haven't already, take some time to yourself and get clear about your intentions moving forward. As we begin to emerge from times of uncertainty and turbulence, you deserve to move into the new year with as much clarity and vision as you can afford yourself.

I wish you all a successful Spring semester.

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It is with great pride that I announce the special guest for this year's President's Breakfast virtual policy discussion – prolific activist, author and civil rights **Angela Davis**.

On Monday, March 22, 2021, I will sit down with Ms. Davis via Zoom for a one-on-one conversation discussing the intersections on how to better leverage philanthropy in an era focused on racial equality and social justice.

I hope you'll be able to join for this most special conversation. For tickets and sponsorship information, please click [here](#), click the flyer on the next page or visit <https://www.cdrewu.edu/pb-leadershipseries>.



*Virtual*

# President's Breakfast & CDU Leadership Summit on Health Equity and Social Justice

## THE PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST

*The Intersection of Accountability and Social Justice:  
Leveraging Philanthropy in an Era Focused on Racial Equity*

Event Information

DATE:

MARCH 22, 2021

TIME:

9 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

*Join us...*

for a one to one conversation with **Dr. David Carlisle**, President & CEO, CDU and **Angela Davis**, Author, Educator and Activist.



ANGELA DAVIS



DR. DAVID M. CARLISLE

THE PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST  
IS PART OF THE VIRTUAL 2021 CDU LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
ON HEALTH EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

## New Interim MMDSON Dean; Dr. Breckenridge Heads to Provost's Office



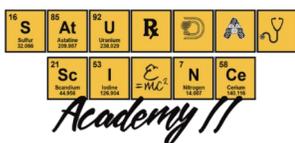
Dr. Barbara Ake assumed the position of Interim Dean of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON) effective January 4, 2021.

Dr. Ake received her Doctorate in Education (Health Care Education) from Nova Southeastern University, her BSN from University of Saskatchewan-Saskatoon and her RN from the Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Technology-Regina. Most recently, Dr. Ake served as Dean of the School of Nursing at Valencia College from 2018 to 2020. She has over 30 years of experience in health services and education, serving in several areas including clinical nursing, rehabilitative care, policy and process evaluation, education, research, administration and senior management.



Dr. Ake succeeds Dr. Diane Breckenridge, who now holds the position of Special Assistant to the Provost. In this capacity, Dr. Breckenridge will provide university leadership in concluding the process of establishing the Doctorate in Nurse Practitioner (DNP) and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) programs, as well as performing other duties as assigned by the Provost.

## Saturday Science Academy-II Holds Annual Junior White Coat



The Saturday Science Academy-II at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (SSA-II) held its 21st annual “Junior White Coat Ceremony” on Saturday, January 9, via Zoom. Nearly 250 K-12 students were recognized for their participation in this year’s Academy, and 31 students received their junior white coats.

“Although 2020 was a very difficult year, we still found an opportunity to provide our students and our community with a quality STEMM education,” said Eileen Forbes-Hill, Executive Director of Pipeline and School Partnership Programs.

CDU’s local elected officials, including Congresswoman Nanette Barragán, Senator Steven Bradford, and Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair Mike Gipson, provided certificates of recognition to include in the virtual program and recognize students for their accomplishments.

CDU’s longest running pipeline program is a year-round program with three eight-week sessions during the school year and a four-week summer course. In 2020, 92% of students demonstrated measurable improvement of their understanding of STEMM-related curriculum, based on pre-session and post-session assessment tests.

## PA Student First in the Nation to Enter Yale’s REACH Program



David Ohnoki, a first-year student in the College of Science and Health’s Physician Assistant (PA) program, has been named one of the 2020-2021 scholars selected for Yale University’s REACH (Recognizing and Eliminating Disparities in Addiction through Culturally informed Healthcare) Program. The program provides training in culturally-informed care, specifically in the areas of behavioral health and medicine.

Mr. Ohnoki is the first PA student in the nation to be accepted into the program and will be one of the few trainees selected nationwide to engage in a year-long training program designed to supplement the education of medical students, residents, fellows and allied health professional trainees in ways that will improve health outcomes for racially and ethnically underrepresented minority patients with substance abuse issues.

“The first thing I thought of when I was accepted into the REACH program was my future patients and how this will allow me to be better prepared to serve them,” Mr. Ohnoki said. “And being the first PA student to be accepted and representing CDU—which is dually an HBGI and Hispanic-serving institution—brings me an immense amount of pride and joy.”

“This is a great achievement for Mr. Ohnoki, the CDU PA program, the PA profession as a whole,” said program director Dr. Lucy Kibe. “It demonstrates how CDU is leading the way in developing health professionals who will eliminate health disparities.”

# CDU Experts Discuss Impacts of COVID on Hospitals at Sixth Virtual Community Forum



CDU hosted its sixth virtual Community Forum via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, January 28, featuring CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle and Dr. Hector Flores, Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at the White Memorial Medical Center, as well as the Medical Director of the Family Care Specialists Medical Group. The interactive discussion, moderated by special assistant to the President Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, discussed COVID-19's continued impact on communities of color, particularly in light of recently reported hospital and staffing shortages across the nation.



Dr. Carlisle began the conversation by discussing several factors currently contributing to a delayed vaccination rollout in California, which currently ranks last in the U.S. in the percentage of supplied shots being used. "The geo-demographic complexities of California makes [distribution] more difficult," he said, going on to explain that the state's linguistic diversity and sheer geographic sprawl affected the government's ability to reach all populations with the vaccine equitably.



Dr. Flores discussed the virus' impact on hospitals, as half of U.S. states are suffering from massive staffing shortages caused by overwhelming numbers COVID-19 patients, combined with decreasing staff levels as nurses and doctors themselves fall sick or must quarantine after being exposed to infected individuals.

Additionally, Dr. Flores explained, COVID-19 has severely impacted health professionals' ability to perform elective surgeries, which are routine procedures of any kind that can be scheduled in advance. "The challenge is that the longer we wait to treat an elective case, it turns into an emergency case," he said. "That's what we want to avoid, but unfortunately, to maintain capacity we have to minimize the elective cases we take on."

"We have hardly been in this position in the history of medicine, but COVID-19 has put us here," Dr. Carlisle said, describing the severity of the shortages. "However, I am profoundly impressed by the agility that hospitals displayed when the shortages became apparent." He went on to describe the measures hospitals took to accommodate as many patients as possible, such as doubling up patients in rooms, working longer hours and learning to reuse PPE. "These measures demonstrated how healthcare can respond when faced with an overwhelming situation," he said.

The conversation concluded with a conversation on vaccine hesitancy in communities of color, as more of them receive doses of the vaccine. "We have an opportunity to think differently about how we engage the community with solutions that will benefit them and their families," Dr. Flores said. "We need to make sure that our education is understandable. [As health professionals], we tend to get so caught up in the 'medicalese' that we forget to communicate with our patients in ways that they can utilize the information."

"I do believe that we will overcome much of this hesitancy, because there is no message better than seeing someone else you know who's taken the vaccine and doing well." Dr. Carlisle said. "I can sit here as a health expert and advocate, but I don't begin to approach the reliability that people place on the messages coming from the people closest to them. Therefore, we need to focus on getting the vaccine out to communities where they're needed the most. If we want to decrease COVID-19 and its impact on our state, we need to focus on the communities that have been most impacted."

## The Golden Year: CDU's PA Program Celebrates 50 Years

The year 2021 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CDU's Physician Assistant Program, which began as MEDEX in 1971 at the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (now "CDU"). The program, inspired by the MEDEX curriculum launched at Duke University in 1967, was designed to train former military personnel and corpsmen to become physician assistants to alleviate the workloads of primary care physicians and general practitioners.

Stewarded by former CDU deans M. Alfred Haynes, MD, and Mitchell Spellman, MD, it was the first physician assistant training program to be approved in the State of California, followed by Stanford University in 1972. As early as the 1970s, CDU officials resolved to address what was becoming an increasing shortage of healthcare workers in the state, and when its MEDEX program was in danger of being shut down from lack of government support in August 1971, Dr. Haynes definitively asserted: "That won't help California."

Legislative support for the program eventually came in the form of the "Duffy Bill," named after state assemblyman Gordon Duffy, in 1972 – 18 months *after* it was introduced in February 1971. The bill authorized the state's Medical Examination Board to adopt standards and approve new physician assistant programs. However, both the Board and California's new MEDEX programs dealt with many challenges in their early stages, as the former sought to strike a balance of protecting the interest of the public and its health while also ensuring there was an expedient, yet thorough licensing process for members of this new profession.

Initially, physician assistants could only perform a very limited number of tasks under the direct supervision of a physician and with the expressed permission of the patient each time they sought treatment. These provisions were very restrictive, and many inaugural graduates found themselves being arrested for performing duties beyond what was initially prescribed, or practicing medicine without a license. These limitations also caused many physicians to question the usefulness of PAs in their offices and made them reluctant to hire them.

CDU officials were integral in making these concerns known to the Board, citing a need for streamlining the licensing process while also expanding the number of tasks that physician assistants were legally able to perform and eliminating the need for repeated patient consent. CDU officials also urged the Board to redefine the term "supervision" to truly alleviate physicians' workloads and allow PAs to do their work without unnecessary obstacles. The limitations were eventually modified to be less restrictive in 1975 and the practitioners were fully able to embrace their roles as physician assistants.

In the years since, the Physician Assistant program at CDU has been credited with successfully challenging the public's expectation of the role played by physician assistants by proving their merit as integral members of the health professional community.

# Legacy of

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

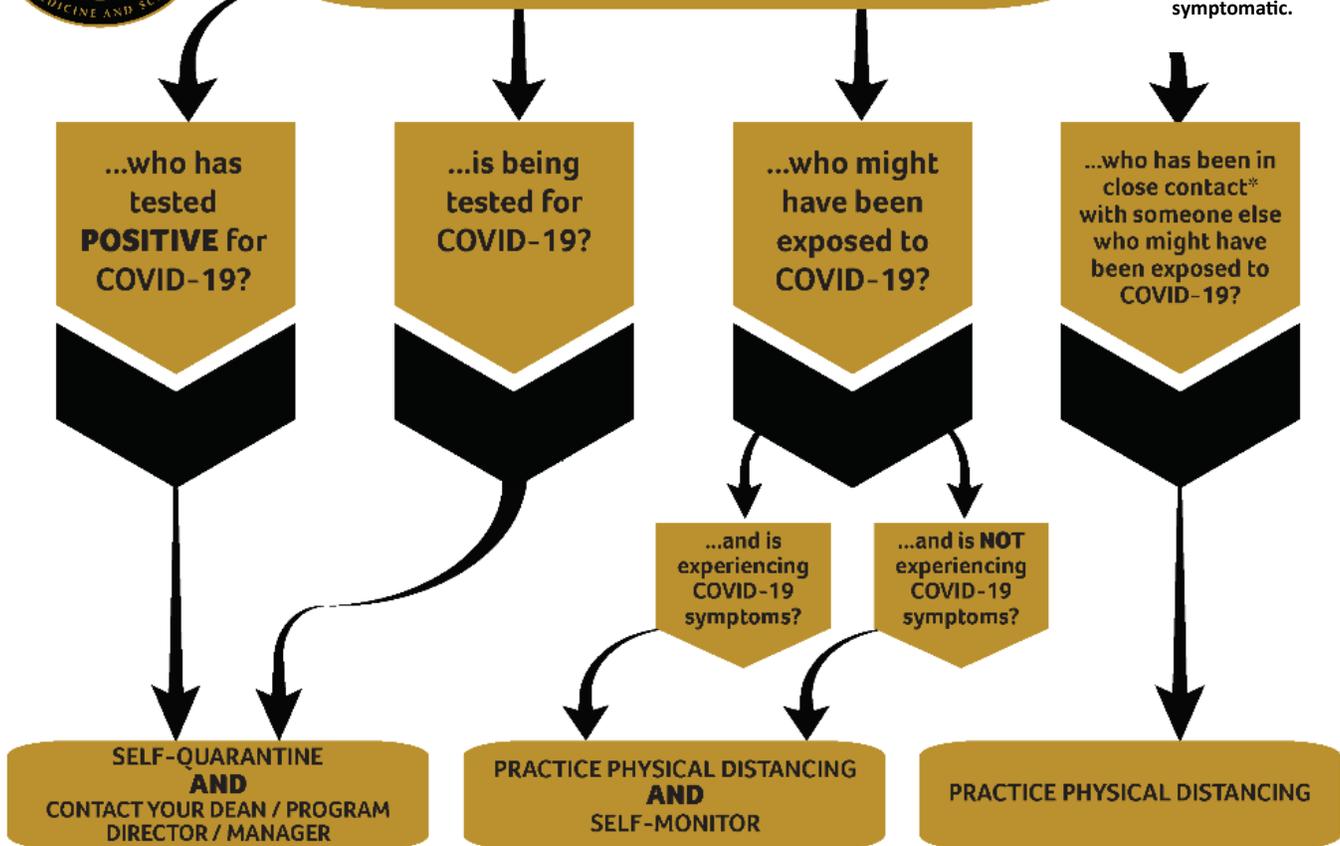
*Special thanks to Robin Schiff*



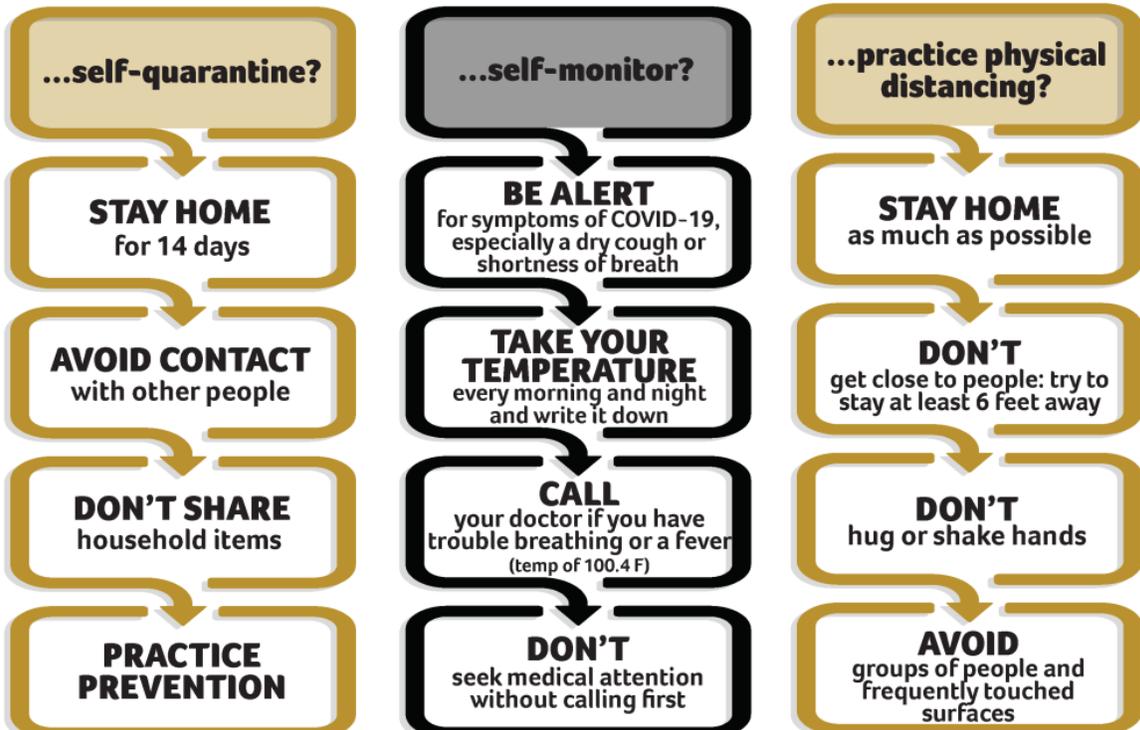
# COVID-19: What to do if... I've been in close contact with someone...

## What is Close Contact?

People who have been within six (6) feet of for at least 15 minutes within the 48 hours before symptom onset and while symptomatic.



## COVID-19: HOW DO I...





# *In The News*

## **Los Angeles Times OC**

[UC Irvine first to study 'pharmacy deserts' in California](#)  
(1/7/2021)

## **PharmacyTimes**

[Communities in Greatest Need of Pharmacy Access Are Identified in Los Angeles County](#) (1/7/2021)

## **EURWeb**

[In Dr. King's Honor, California Black Doctors Call for Urgent Action During COVID-19 Crisis](#) (1/12/2021)

## **ACIOP**

[Promoting the Use of the National Library of Medicine Resources Virtually Through Outreach](#) (1/12/2021)

## **EurekAlert**

[Black and Hispanic Californians face health discrimination; less trusting of clinicians](#) (1/12/2021)

## **Los Angeles Sentinel**

[Make It Plain Townhall Addresses Concerns of the Black Community](#) (1/14/2021)

## **TD Ameritrade**

[Black and Hispanic communities say doctors and hospitals treat them differently to their white counterparts](#) (1/14/2021)

## **MedicalNewsToday**

[Medical mistrust linked to race/ethnicity and discrimination](#) (1/15/2021)

## **Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco**

[New Chair and Membership Appointments Announced for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Economic Advisory Council](#) (1/15/2021)

## **KCRW**

[PHOTOS: How LA countered a volatile president, from Trump's inauguration to insurrection](#) (1/20/2021)

## **AAMC**

[Doctors forge ahead to allay fears about COVID-19 vaccines](#) (1/21/2021)

## **Men's Health**

['African Gene Theory' Is a Myth, and It's Harming Black Men's Heart Health](#) (1/24/2021)

## **My American Nurse**

[Medical Mistrust Linked to Race, Discrimination](#) (1/26/2021)

## **Emory University News Center**

[MLK Scholars program continues King's legacy of service, leadership](#) (1/26/2021)

## **Our Weekly**

[Compton College hosting virtual Black History Month celebration](#) (1/27/2021)

## **Forbes**

[CVS Health Foundation, UNCF Team Up On Scholarships For Black And Latinx Students In Health Care](#) (1/29/2021)



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