



*September 2020*

# CDU News

**\$15 Million in Philanthropy  
Community Forum  
...and more!**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



## **Greetings!**

CDU is a good investment.

That's the message we can all take from the news this month of the \$15-million CDU received from Bloomberg Philanthropies, OSHPD, California Wellness Foundation, Northrop Grumman and Alpha Kappa Alpha Far Western Region.

When you add this sum to the four full-ride scholarships that LA Care Health Plans' Elevating the Safety Net has provided to our College of Medicine for the third consecutive year, and the fact that our Development team is on pace for a record-setting year, it is clear that funders, both public and private, believe in CDU and its mission of eliminating health disparities.

It's also a testament to the focus and hard work of our Strategic Advancement function, for developing relationships with these funders and for presenting our work and people in a compelling way – but that's not hard to do, considering the caliber of our talented student and faculty experts.

The media also continues to notice how special the University's work and mission are. With recent appearances in esteemed outlets such as the New York Times, CNN, Forbes, The Bakari Sellers Podcast and so many more, one thing is abundantly clear: **all eyes are**

**firmly on Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.** This month's newsletter is jam-packed with recent University developments and I'm excited to share our accomplishments with you.

It gives me a distinct sense of pride to be at the helm of a university at the forefront of making a difference in the evolution of healthcare as we know it today. On behalf of CDU management, I would like to thank the faculty, students and staff for all of your hard work and dedication that makes it possible to fulfill our mission each day.

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If you haven't already, I'd like to take this time to encourage you once again to [read the full Return to Campus plan here](#). It contains valuable guidance specific to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science that will allow departments to manage on-campus operations in a safer and more effective manner throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your continued flexibility, empathy and commitment to CDU.



# INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

All essential staff, faculty and students, who will be on campus are required to show proof of vaccination for the 2020-2021 flu season, unless contraindicated by medical conditions to help protect the campus community. The University vaccine requirement shall be implemented consistent with federal and state law related to medical exemptions for students, faculty and staff. Requests for disability and religious accommodations from faculty and staff will be evaluated consistent with the law and University policies and procedures. Staff, faculty and students telecommuting from home are strongly encouraged to obtain their flu shot.



## ON CAMPUS FLU SHOT CLINIC

Tuesday, October 20, 2020 • Thursday, October 29, 2020  
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Flu shots will be made available free of charge to all students, staff, faculty, family, and members of the community.



The influenza vaccine is now available to employees and students enrolled in the Aetna HMO or Aetna PPO plan. Vaccinations are free of charge and can be obtained through your Primary Care Physician or at one of these locations. Proof of membership is required.

**CVS PHARMACY • ALBERTSONS PHARMACY • PAVILLIONS PHARMACY • VONS PHARMACY**



The influenza vaccine will be available to all Kaiser Members free of charge, September 1, 2020, at a Kaiser location near you, through your Primary Care Physician or at a Kaiser Target Clinic. Proof of membership is required. To get information on the flu shot clinic nearest you, visit [www.kp.org/flu](http://www.kp.org/flu) or call Kaiser's recorded flu hotline anytime day or night at 1-866-706-6358.

# 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



*Continued on next page*

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



**The California Wellness Foundation** granted \$450,000 to CDU to support student scholarships, calling it “a long-term investment in a strong health care safety net.” The grant is a part of a larger \$11.3 million initiative to advance health equity in California during the COVID-19 pandemic, address racial disparities in pandemic response, and invest in racial justice for communities of color.



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 students per semester in \$500 disbursements. 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.



## 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.

# CDU Leaders Debunk Myths About Vaccines at Monthly Virtual Community Forum

CDU hosted its third virtual Community Forum via Microsoft Teams on Friday, September 25, featuring CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; Dr. Hector Llenderroz, Associate Program Director of the Family Medicine program; and Dr. Sharon Cobb, Director of the RN-BSN Program in the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. The interactive discussion, moderated by special assistant to the President Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, set out to debunk common myths in communities of color about vaccines, discuss the history of how those myths came to be, and why it's important to debunk those myths as the search for a vaccine that will effectively combat COVID-19 continues.

Panelists began the conversation by debunking common myths surrounding vaccines, such as them being the cause of developmental disabilities and completely ineffective against viruses. These myths, commonly started by individuals against vaccinations known as 'anti-vaxxers,' contribute to what Dr. Carlisle described as a "major regression in our efforts to combat diseases of all kinds."

In the African American community, whose mistrust in medicine is more historically rooted, many cite the well-known Tuskegee Experiment as the source of their uncertainty. However, Dr. Carlisle explained, Tuskegee only served to exacerbate the community's initial concerns, which stemmed from centuries of existing systemic inequities and medical racism. "In today's healthcare environment, we see that the persistence of distrust continues," he said.

Dr. Carlisle discussed how a lack of diversity in recent COVID-19 vaccine trials affects both treatment and trust in communities of color. "A brand-new medical technology – a vaccine – is being developed. It has to work, and it has to work safely for *all* populations in the United States," Dr. Carlisle explained. "There have been examples of medicines that work for one group of individuals, but not another. We need to know the answers to those questions for *all* groups in the U.S., especially the groups that have been hard-hit by COVID-19. If various populations do not trust the system to test the vaccine safely, then we cannot get the information we need to know to apply this new technology [equitably]."

Dr. Cobb discussed the role that the nurse, who spends more time with a patient than any other provider and is usually the individual responsible for administering vaccines, can have in educating the public about the COVID-19 vaccine. "Healthcare systems need to ensure that there is continuous training of nurses as more information about the COVID-19 vaccine becomes available," she said. Further, she advocated for a transparent approach that would facilitate trust. "It's important that nurses are engaging their patients in a [two-way] dialogue about any potential fears and barriers they might perceive in getting vaccinated. "

Dr. Llenderroz also advocated for a transparent and culturally-sensitive approach in communicating the effectiveness of vaccines to the Latinx community while also remaining considerate of their values, concerns and potential circumstances. "Many patients [of mine] end up bringing a history of using herbal or home remedies," he said. "I have taught and implored residents to ask questions and learn the names of these remedies. That way, you can reach out to them by being able to 'speak the lingo,' and they'll be more likely to open up to you."

He also discussed the importance of *familismo*, which roughly translates to "family first" in Latinx culture, and how it can potentially play a role in encouraging members of that community to participate in vaccination trials. "You are stepping ahead to make a potential sacrifice-- in a controlled setting-- so that you can help your family and community learn about the effects of the vaccine," he explained.

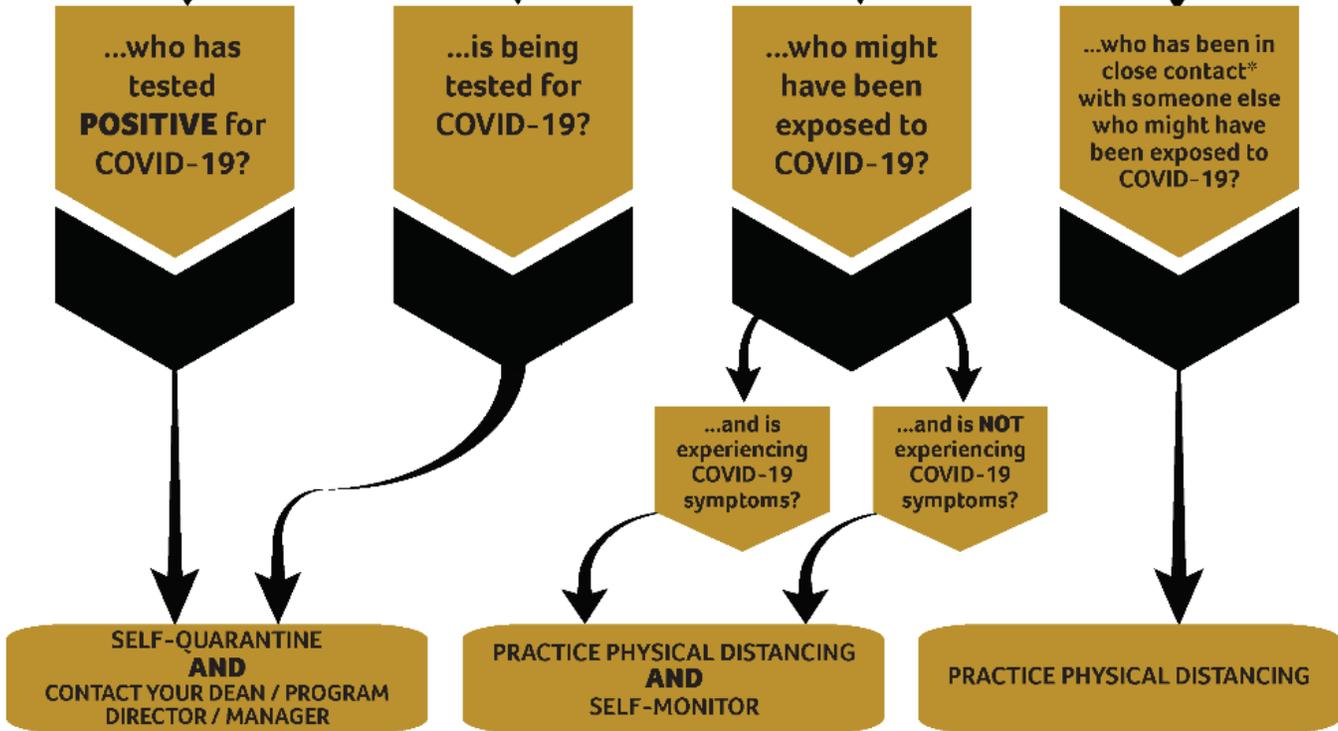
All panelists acknowledged that while vaccines are not perfect, they are the best protection we have to prevent death from disease, especially COVID-19, which is currently the second leading cause of death in Los Angeles County. "One of the definitions of vaccines is that they're not 100% effective," Dr. Carlisle explained. "There are a variety of reasons for this. But when you take something that is 75%, or even 50% effective, and apply that to a population, the virus has fewer and fewer places to go to cause infection."



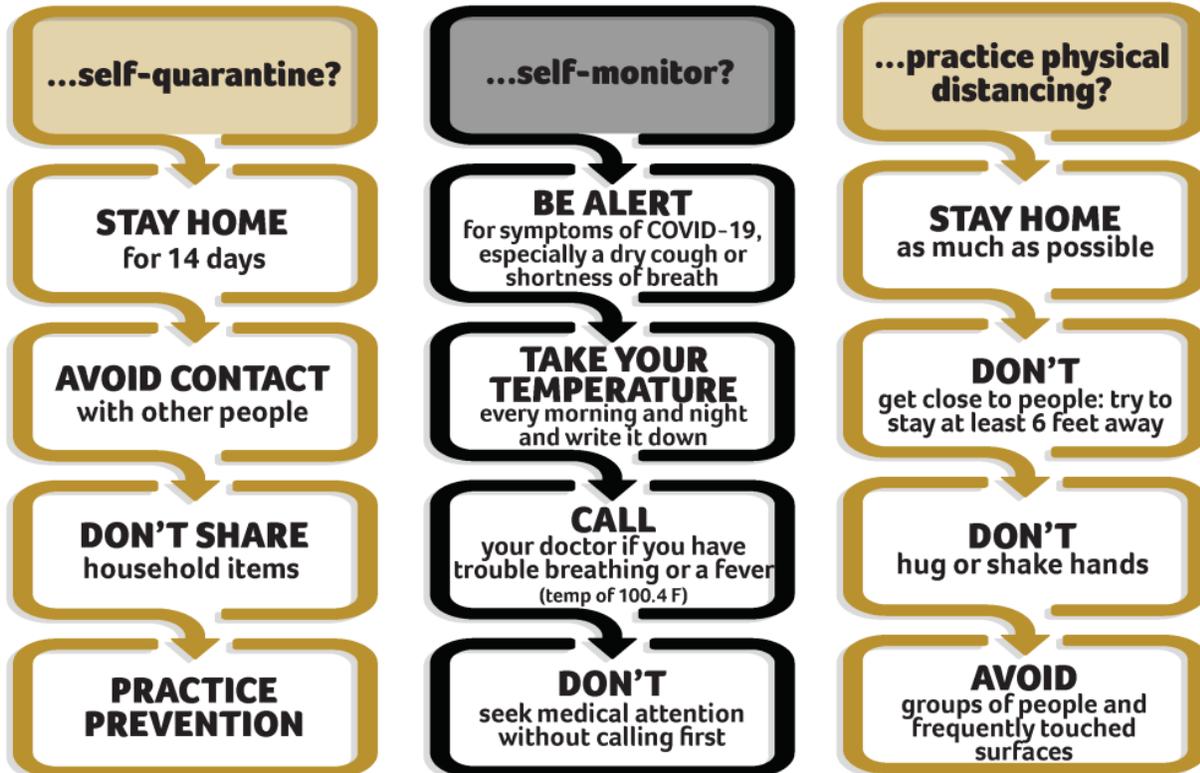
# COVID-19: What to do if... I've been in close contact with someone...

## 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...



# Phishing Test Exercise Highlights CDU's Recent Efforts in Strengthening Cyber Security

CDU has seen an uptick in the amount of suspicious activity in the form of malicious phone calls and emails sent to the University community, potentially to gain access to financial or otherwise personal information. The Information Technology (IT) Department has been hard at work strengthening the University's online security infrastructure and educating the CDU community on the importance of cybersecurity, and performed a phishing simulation test on Friday, September 4.

The email claimed that CDU would be changing its payroll processes and prompted employees to click a link and enter personal information. "While most staff and faculty identified the email as suspicious and reported it to their supervisor or to IT, a significant percentage of employees clicked on the link and provided their CDU user name and password," said Aaron Weathersby, Chief Technology Officer. "Fortunately, as this was a simulation, no data was exposed, and staff were alerted to the fact it was a simulation after entering their credentials."

"It looked official, so I clicked through to it," said an employee who wished to remain anonymous. "As soon as I realized what I had done, I immediately changed my password."

"Friday's simulation test was not meant to deceive anyone, but instead to serve as a baseline for the University as we attempt to improve our security and also as a training opportunity for individuals who clicked on [the links within the email]," said Aaron Weathersby, Chief Technology Officer. "We will be requiring those staff who fell for the simulation opportunities to complete additional cyber security training on how to identify fake and malicious email."

As the University continues to invest in resources to keep the CDU community safe both online and off, we ask all staff, students and faculty to exercise caution when opening all emails and to report any suspicious interactions (phones calls or emails) to IT. Should you receive a suspicious email, never respond to the message, never click any links or attachments and 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](mailto:helpdesk@cdrewu.edu) or ext. 4990.

## TOP 5 RED FLAGS

WEB LINKS LEAD TO UNFAMILIAR SITES (HOVER OVER THEM TO CHECK!)



THERE'S AN ATTACHMENT YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING

YOU NOTICE POOR SPELLING AND GRAMMAR THROUGHOUT



IT ASKS FOR PERSONAL INFO (PASSWORDS, BANK INFORMATION, ETC.)

THE SENDER DOESN'T ADDRESS YOU BY NAME



*(Infographic Credit: Optimal Networks)*



# 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*

## **Four Decades of International Health and Service**

In 1980, CDU launched the Program on International Health and Development. Funded at \$1.25 million for five years by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Program was specifically organized to increase CDU’s networking in African nations through administrative and technological support, education, research and other areas.

Today, CDU’s Office of International Affairs, led by Dr. Lejeune Lockett, has expanded its range of countries served, having established long-term partnerships with organizations such as PEPFAR and the U.S. Department of Defense to establish HIV/AIDS prevention programs for research, training, outreach, and technical assistance with militaries in Angola, Rwanda, Jamaica and Belize. The office also has facilitated partnerships with organizations such as Healing Hearts Across Borders and the Cuban School of Public Health to encourage study in Mexico and Cuba, respectively.

Most recently, CDU’s Office of International Affairs has engaged in a collaborative effort in the African country of Zambia to provide care and support services for girls aged 15-24 impacted by HIV/AIDS.

# Internal Medicine Residency Program Receives Initial Accreditation

The Accreditation Council For Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the organization responsible for accrediting all U.S. graduate medical training programs, has granted initial accreditation to the College of Medicine's (COM) upcoming residency program in Internal Medicine, effective September 11, 2020.

The Internal Medicine residency is scheduled to begin reviewing match applications soon to begin selecting the first cohort of eight residents that will begin July 2021. The program is approved to enroll a total of 24 Internal Medicine residents by July 2023. The residents will complete many of their clinical rotations at the VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHS), which provides comprehensive healthcare services to more than 50,000 veterans and serves as CDU's primary clinical partner site for the Internal Medicine residency program.

"The Long Beach VA is known for its rich clinical experiences as well as a robust patient population volume that provides exposure to a wide range of illness and diseases," said Theodore C. Friedman, MD, PhD, Chairman of the Internal Medicine Department at CDU. "With the visionary leadership of our program director, Arnel Joaquin, MD, and substantial partnership from Long Beach VA leadership and outstanding faculty, we are confident that our residents will receive high quality training and clinical experiences."

The University has two other residency programs, in Family Medicine and Psychiatry, which both began in July 2018.

"In just three years, CDU has added 42 new physicians to South Los Angeles, which has long been a federally designated health professional shortage area," said COM Dean Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD. "Our residents have made a significant impact on the community and we're excited to continue expanding our programs in residency education, which will further increase CDU's ability to serve South Los Angeles."

## Haynes Series Covers the Legacy of George Simkins, Jr., DDS

The Urban Health Institute presented another installment of the M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series on Thursday, September 24, 2020 via Zoom. This month's presentation covered the life and legacy of the late Dr. George C. Simkins, Jr., a dentist, civil rights activist and integral figure in the *Simkins v. Moses G. Cone Memorial Hospital (1963)* case, which is considered by many to be as significant in regards to medicine as the *Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)* decision was to education and civil rights.

Presenters for this month's presentation included George C. Simkins III, Dr. Simkins' son and Television Documentary Producer for Voice of America; Jeanne Simkins Hollis, Esq., Dr. Simkins' daughter and President/CEO of Multi-Energy Group, LLC; and Eleby Washington, III, MD, Professor and Chairman of Orthopedic Surgery at CDU.

In the early 1960s, only nine hospitals existed for African Americans in North Carolina, and most were overcrowded and offered inadequate healthcare. Although most hospitals in the state were privately operated, some accepted state and federal funds, which implicated possible government

discrimination. Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital was one of the hospitals that received state and federal funds, and when Dr. Simkins learned that one of his patients had been denied admittance to Cone, he decided to pursue legal action against the hospital.

Local district courts initially decided in the hospital's favor, contending that the hospitals were indeed private institutions and that they could discriminate as they saw fit. This prompted Dr. Simkins to appeal the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals, and in 1963 the courts overruled the previous decision, finding that the hospital's discrimination had violated Black patients' rights to the equal protection and due process of law as guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution.

In 1964, a year after the *Simkins v. Cone* decision, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which officially prohibited private discrimination in public places. "It's important to understand how you can make a difference, and this is one of the cases where [my father] made a difference," said Mrs. Simkins Hollis.



# *In The News*

**The New York Times**  
[Michael Bloomberg to Give \\$100 Million to Historically Black Medical Schools \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Black Enterprise**  
[MIKE BLOOMBERG DONATES \\$100 MILLION TO HBCU MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO CREATE MORE BLACK DOCTORS \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**BET**  
[Historically Black Medical Schools Get \\$100 Million Endowment From Michael Bloomberg \(9/4/2020\)](#)

**Complex**  
[Michael Bloomberg to Donate \\$100 Million to Medical Students at Four HBCUs \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Beckers Hospital Review**  
[Bloomberg donates \\$100M to historically Black medical schools \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**CBS News**  
[Mike Bloomberg gives \\$100 million to Black medical students \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**CNN Business**  
[Michael Bloomberg is giving \\$100](#)

[million to help graduates of historically Black med schools pay off their loans \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**AfroTech**  
[Black Doctors Matter: Mike Bloomberg Donates \\$100M to HBCU Medical Schools \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**MSN**  
[Bloomberg donates \\$100M to HBCU's to help increase number of black doctors in US \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Fierce Healthcare**  
[Bloomberg commits \\$100M to historically Black medical schools amid COVID-19 pressures \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**The Hill**  
[Michael Bloomberg's philanthropy is giving \\$100 million to historically Black medical school \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Forbes**  
[Bloomberg Pledges \\$100 Million To Four HBCUs To Boost Number Of Black Doctors \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**My News LA**  
[LA's Drew University Receives \\$7.7M](#)

[Donation from Bloomberg \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**University Business**  
[Black medical schools receive \\$100M gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Inside Higher Education**  
[Bloomberg Donates \\$100M to Black Med Schools \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**CNN**  
[Michael Bloomberg is giving \\$100 million to help graduates of historically Black med schools pay off their loans \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Bloomberg Philanthropies**  
[Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Bloomberg Philanthropies Commits \\$100 Million to Help Increase Number of Black Doctors in U.S. \(9/3/2020\)](#)

**Revolt TV**  
[Michael Bloomberg donates \\$100 million to four historically Black medical schools \(9/4/2020\)](#)

**Upworthy**  
[Michael Bloomberg gives \\$100 million to help historically Black med](#)



# *In The News*

**NBC News**

[NBC News - 11 p.m. segment](#)  
(9/4/2020)

**The Washington Post**

[Howard University announces \\$32.8 million gift that will 'produce more Black doctors'](#) (9/4/2020)

**Philanthropy News Digest**

[Bloomberg commits \\$100 million to historically Black medical schools](#)  
(9/4/2020)

**ABC News**

[Mike Bloomberg wants to solve America's Black doctor shortage](#)  
(9/6/2020)

**Chronicle of Philanthropy**

[4 Historically Black Medical Schools Share \\$100 Million From Bloomberg Philanthropies \(Grants Roundup\)](#)  
(9/8/2020)

**LA Watts Times**

[Bloomberg Philanthropies Strives to Increase Black Physicians by Donating to Historically Black Medical Schools; Charles R. Drew University is a recent recipient of \\$7 million in donations.](#) (9/10/2020)

**Los Angeles Sentinel**

[Bloomberg Philanthropies Strives to Increase Black Physicians by Donating to Historically Black Medical Schools](#) (9/10/2020)

**The Bakari Sellers Podcast**

[HBCU Presidents Dr. Wayne Frederick and Dr. David Carlisle on a COVID-19 Vaccine and Health Issues Facing the Black Community](#)  
(9/10/2020)

**The New York Times**

[Opinion | We Need to Recruit More Black Americans in Vaccine Trials - The New York Times](#) (9/11/2020)

**KCRW**

[Six months into the pandemic, numbers are improving in LA, but the danger is still here](#) (9/14/2020)

**Pride Publishing Group**

[Meharry Medical College receives historic \\$34M gift from Bloomberg Philanthropies](#) (9/17/2020)

**HBCU Campaign Fund**

[Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Far Western Region Gifts \\$20,000 to](#)

**Charles R. Drew University of**

**Medicine and Science** (9/20/2020)

**Digital Journal**

[Elevating the Next Generation of Black, Latinx, and Native Physician Leaders; ElevateMeD hosts second annual "Explosion of a Dream" Virtual Fundraiser](#) (9/21/2020)

**POZ**

[AIDS Walk Los Angeles Goes Digital and Raises \\$974,058](#) (9/21/2020)

**The Center for the Study of Racism, Social Justice and Health**

[The Collisions Between COVID-19 And Structural Racism](#) (9/21/2020)

**LA Weekly**

['HANDS ACROSS WATTS' PROGRAM PROVIDES ON-SITE TUTORING FOR YOUTH AMID PANDEMIC](#)  
(9/22/2020)

**The Bulletin**

[Medically underserved LA communities get big boost with mental health services grant](#)  
(9/24/2020)



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For more information, email  
[advancement@cdrewu.edu](mailto:advancement@cdrewu.edu)

To submit a story, email  
[chantelcarter@cdrewu.edu](mailto:chantelcarter@cdrewu.edu)