State of the University
Returning to Campus
Updates on Expansion
...and more!
Greetings!

As the school year begins for most of us across the nation and around the world, I thought this would be a good time to remind you about the importance of granting yourself grace and patience during these most unusual times. Working in a mostly virtual environment has taught us to extend grace and understanding to others as they navigate life and deadlines during COVID-19, and it’s important that we continue to offer ourselves those very same things.

Over the past month, we’ve witnessed the inevitable frustrations that parents, students and professionals alike have experienced as they’ve tried to adjust to virtual learning and virtual work. From broken links and slow internet, to trying to battle an overall sense of discouragement, we are all doing our very best to go about business as usual when circumstances are clearly unusual—and mostly succeeding. That in itself is a major feat, so when the occasional Zoom link is broken, take a breath and remember that we are all doing our best on any given day.

That’s all we can do.

We have been hard at work preparing a Return to Campus plan to ensure the safe return of a limited number of students, staff and faculty back to the CDU campus. There will be a more expansive feature on expectations included later in this edition, and I encourage you to read the full 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.

Though we have tried to be as thorough as possible in this plan, individual responsibility and commitment to abide by the University’s return to campus guidelines will be key to the success of our institutional efforts. It is imperative that everyone—students, faculty, and staff, vendors and visitors—take responsibility for their actions and adhere to the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health and LAC Department of Public Health, as well as the guidelines issued by CDU to protect themselves and others while helping to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and commitment to CDU.
CDU President and CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle issued the eighth annual State of the University Address on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. “Last year, I stood before you—in person—in front of a brand new Grand Entrance to CDU that was both a literal and symbolic gateway to an expanding campus and a bright future, though my message was one of caution… We had to ‘stay the course,’ Dr. Carlisle began, noting that the University was able to “stay the course” and overcame its financial challenge to finish the fiscal year over $1-million in the positive. “[D]espite the tumult in the world around us, [I can] declare that in so many ways “Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is outstanding!”

Calling summer enrollment, including medical students and residents, of nearly 900 and a projected Fall enrollment of over 1,000—both records—“outstanding, given the uncertainty the pandemic has thrust upon higher education,” Dr. Carlisle also detailed recently completed campus projects and future expansion plans. The University added a new grand entrance on 120th St. and a Student Center late last year. Currently under construction is a campus clinic building that will house both a Student Wellness Center and a health center with partner AIDS Project LA (APLA). Dr. Carlisle also noted that CDU, along with several community partners submitted the winning proposal to develop the vacant Lincoln Elementary School property on 118th St., across from the University. When fully developed, “that site will double the campus footprint,” he said. The property will also contain affordable single-family housing, retail and other community resources.

Dr. Carlisle cited CDU’s significant community engagement and leadership over the past year. The University, with partners LA County Second District Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Department of Health, LA County Fire Department and MLK Outpatient Center, hosted one of the highest-volume COVID-19 testing sites in the county, providing tests to over 75,000 individuals between April and August. CDU also issued an influential study based on the experience of the testing site that demonstrated the disproportionate impact of the pandemic upon low-income communities of color and explained the unique outreach protocol CDU employed that enabled the site to reach so many people.

The University’s residency programs, filled 14 slots—six in Psychiatry and eight in Family Medicine, which Dr. Carlisle explained means that “CDU, in just three years, has added 42 new doctors into South Los Angeles—long a federally designated health professional shortage area.”

In light of the heightened media attention that CDU has received during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Carlisle observed that this is a role that CDU has fulfilled since its inception. “It took a global health catastrophe and statistics that we had long cited coming to mainstream awareness to bring reporters’ microphones and cameras to our campus, asking us questions about things we’d been talking about and fighting for since our founding 54 years ago,” he said. “In short, it has been a year that has demonstrated that the need for CDU, our voice and work in this world—not just in Los Angeles or California, but the world—is greater than ever. Yes, the world has recognized CDU, and it is now our time to be recognized as “outstanding.”

Dr. Carlisle closed with a quote from the late Congressman and civil rights pioneer John Lewis and said that CDU will continue to “recruit, educate and train the diverse health workforce of the future, that our population demands,” and “continue to raise our voice and take a leadership role in the drive for health equity and social justice.”

The full address can be accessed here.
Returning to Campus: What to Expect

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and the surrounding community is our utmost priority. We are committed to applying the highest standards of public health, proven scientific data and personal safety to our return to campus. It is imperative that everyone—students, faculty, and staff, vendors and visitors—take responsibility for their actions and adhere to the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), California Department of Public Health and LAC Department of Public Health, as well as the guidelines issued by CDU to protect themselves and others while helping to contain the spread of COVID-19. As our knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve and as mandates and guidelines from LACDPH, CDPH, and CDU are amended, our policies and procedures, which can be found here, will be updated and communicated. Here is what we know and what you can expect at the start of the Fall semester on August 29:

A COVID-19 Compliance Task Force has been appointed and is responsible for establishing and enforcing all COVID-19 safety protocols and ensuring that staff and students receive education about COVID-19.

CDU requires all faculty, staff, students, vendors and visitors to self-screen each day for symptoms of COVID-19 before coming onto any University property or going to class. The daily self-screening check will be sent from CDU Daily Health Screening. If the screening is successful, the system will generate a green badge (on your phone, or downloadable) that you will use to gain entry. If the screening is unsuccessful, you will receive a red notification that you are unable to come to campus and our Campus Nursing Officer will be notified. You will also need to notify your Program Director or Supervisor that you will be absent.

Temperature checking will be required for students, faculty, staff, vendors and guests seeking entry to a CDU building.

Regular testing for COVID-19 will be part of our public health strategy. This includes clinical testing for symptomatic and exposed students, faculty and staff on campuses. Testing will be required for students, staff and faculty coming to campus every 14 days.

Proof of influenza vaccination will be required for all students, staff, and faculty who come to campus 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.

Labs, Simulations, and Research held or conducted in person will be limited in size so that students and researchers can maintain 6 feet of physical distance.

Physical distancing will be required on campus. Additionally, pedestrian traffic flow will be reconfigured to prevent close contact between individuals. Signage to remind you of physical distancing requirements will be prominent on campus. Large social gatherings will be strictly prohibited.

Face coverings will be required on campus (indoors and outdoors) with the exception of single person offices to help protect the CDU community and the general public. In most cases, this means cloth face coverings, in specialized settings these may be more specialized masks (that will be supplied by the University). Cloth face coverings, if not disposable, must be washed daily.

Hand Hygiene: Frequent handwashing is one of the most important actions individuals can take in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Handwashing should occur after touching anything in a public area, common areas (i.e. lounges or meeting rooms), after using the restroom, prior to eating, and after touching one’s face or blowing one’s nose.

Coughing/Sneezing Hygiene: Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you do not have tissues, the CDC recommends you cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow, not into your hands. Throw tissue in the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
Isolation and quarantine procedures will be available and required. When the inevitable cases of COVID-19 occur, individuals who are exposed will be required to quarantine for 14 days and those who are ill will be required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days and sometimes longer. Students, Staff and Faculty with high risk medical conditions, such as underlying medical conditions (e.g., immunocompromised, pregnancy, diabetes, heart or lung conditions) should discuss their health with their current provider. There will be accommodations that individuals may need or request due to being at higher risk for COVID-19. CDU students and employees should work with the Campus Nursing Officer (nurseofficer@cdrewu.edu or (323) 568-3332 to triage their requests.

Most courses will be available through online instruction as there is no didactic instruction on campus. The exception is simulation or laboratory instruction for medical, nursing, PA and Rad Tech students per the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) guidelines. CDU Faculty have been working all summer to create exciting opportunities for remote learning and engagement. You will be able to continue your progress toward degree while remaining geographically remote.

Student life will be different this fall but student support will not diminish. CDU will continue to provide essential student services to all our students remotely. The University and CDUSG are currently working on a number of initiatives, activities and events to keep students engaged and thriving — intellectually, socially and emotionally. Through the CDU Welcome Week, students will make connections to peers through programs designed to support student needs and build relationships. Details can be found here: https://www.cdrewu.edu/students

Health Sciences Library: Although currently closed to on-campus users, the Library is providing electronic access to library resources. The library will continue to make every effort to continue library services, resources, and to provide research support to our students, faculty, and staff. At this time, library services to the community are currently unavailable. For updated information regarding the library, or to access the library’s resources please go to: https://library.cdrewu.edu.

Laboratory Research: Guidelines developed by the Office of the Vice President of Research and Health Affairs and Academic Reopening Task Force have been developed to help laboratory research personnel to ensure appropriate physical distancing and acquire supplies for research operations. Standards for safety and safe work practices will rigorously monitored.

Community Engagement: The University as a community founded institution is committed to continuing efforts to educate, engage and be a resource to the community. While in person access to CDU campus facilities is restricted at this time, the following programs and services are available: CDU Pipeline Programs; and Zoom trainings on utilization of online meetings and teaching platforms will be available. For more information contact: EileenForbesHill@cdrewu.edu or 323-563-5800.

Updates to Come

The health, safety, and well-being of our community is the highest priority of the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. The University will continue to provide updates and asks CDU students, faculty, staff, vendors, visitors and the general community to remain flexible, patient, and empathetic as we implement our COVID-19 Return to Campus plan. Visit https://www.cdrewu.edu/updates-covid-19 for current information.

LAC-DPH mandates reporting of COVID-19 cases. To notify the University about a positive case of COVID19 or exposure to a positive case or to arrange for testing due to exposure or symptoms, call the CDU Campus Nursing Officer at (323) 568-3332 or email to: nurseofficer@cdrewu.edu.
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: What to do if...
I’ve been in close contact with someone...

...who has tested POSITIVE for COVID-19?
SELF-QUARANTINE AND CONTACT YOUR DEAN / PROGRAM DIRECTOR / MANAGER

...is being tested for COVID-19?
PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND SELF-MONITOR

...who might have been exposed to COVID-19?
PRACTICE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

...who has been in close contact with someone else who might have been exposed to COVID-19?

...and is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?

...and is NOT experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?

COVID-19: HOW DO I...

...self-quarantine?
STAY HOME for 14 days
AVOID CONTACT with other people
DON’T SHARE household items
PRACTICE PREVENTION
WASH HANDS
USE SOAP
WEAR MASK
AVOID HANDSHAKES
AVOID FACE
AVOID CROWDS
DISINFECT

...self-monitor?
BE ALERT for symptoms of COVID-19, especially a dry cough or shortness of breath
TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE every morning and night and write it down
CALL your doctor if you have trouble breathing or a fever (temp of 100.4°F)
DON’T seek medical attention without calling first

...practice physical distancing?
STAY HOME as much as possible
DON’T get close to people: try to stay at least 6 feet away
DON’T hug or shake hands
AVOID groups of people and frequently touched surfaces

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, 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 Corporative Giving manager Brittney Miller for facilitating this partnership, and we look forward to continuing a meaningful relationship with ABH through its community engagement pillar.”
COSH Welcomes PA’s Class of 2022 With Virtual White Coat Ceremony

The Charles R. Drew University PA Program welcomed the Class of 2022 with a series of virtual orientation activities to introduce the new students to the CDU community and familiarize them with the University’s array of resources, including the Fourth annual “Straight Outta Drew” panel, held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 12. The event was moderated by program director Dr. Lucy Kibe and featured panelists Cynthia Davis, MPH, longtime professor at CDU; Felica Jones, Executive Director of Health African American Families-II; Natalie Houser, MPAP, PA-C, author of The Compton Diagnosis, which details her journey to becoming a medical professional as a native of Compton; Deborah Wafer, PA, RNP, medical scientist at Gilead Sciences; and Mr. Timothy Watkins, CEO of Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WCLAC).

The panelists centered on the history of service planning area (SPA) 6, such as the social and economic challenges of providing healthcare within the community. Additionally, panelists discussed how the new students were able to get involved in making a difference in eliminating health disparities within the community.

In regards to SPA 6, all panelists stressed that it was particularly important to learn the nuances of the community they serve, and not to underestimate members of the community who may not have formal education due to various socioeconomic determinants. “There are brilliant members of the community who may not be as articulate [as students and researchers], but their brains are powerful, as well as their passion,” said Ms. Jones.

The PA students’ orientation concluded later that week on Friday, August 14, with a virtual white coat ceremony. Of 4,000 applicants, only 26 applicants were accepted into this year’s class, translating to an acceptance rate of less than seven percent.

Pipeline Goes Virtual: Project-STRIDE Research Symposium

Due to the current pandemic, CDU’s long-standing Project-STRIDE pipeline program was conducted virtually this year. The eight-week summer health science immersion program exposes local area 11th grade students to clinical research and additional personal growth opportunities. During the program, students work full-time with a mentor on an assigned research project that exposes them to critical methodologies and principals of biomedical and clinical research. Students also participated in workshops focused on writing personal statements, college/program application assistance, SAT preparation and leadership.

This year, ten rising seniors from King/Drew Medical Magnet High School, the California Academy of Math and Science, Notre Dame High School and Alliance Academy participated in the program under the mentorship of program director Dolores “Dee” Caffey-Fleming, MS, MPH. Two undergraduate students from UCLA and UC San Diego also participated in the program by way of the Project STRIDE-II program, which extends additional research and development opportunities to undergraduate students who previously participated in the program in high school.

The program culminated with a Virtual Research Symposium on July 31, 2020, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Students showcased their research via PowerPoint Presentation with various members of the community logging in to show their support. Students presented on topics such as misinformation in the media during the COVID-19 pandemic, demographic changes in Watts and the effects of racism on the mental health of African Americans.

“This Virtual Research Symposium highlights the need to train and to adapt to the technologically dependent world we are present in,” said Mrs. Fleming. “It also demonstrates that though it may be difficult, with the support of our CDU community, anything is possible. I’d like to thank the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for supporting our program, and our CDU research mentors who dedicated their time to our pipeline students under these circumstances.”
The Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON) officially started classes on August 23, 2010. At the time of its launch, it was the first comprehensive nursing school to open in California in 25 years, and the first of its kind in South Los Angeles. It is named in honor of renowned California Assemblyman, former State Senator, Lieutenant Governor, and U.S. Congressman, Mervyn M. Dymally, PhD.

"For decades, this university has served our community with pride - I know the work of this school shall continue to improve the health status of our poor and underserved constituents," Dr. Dymally said at the surprise naming ceremony held at the 17th annual Jazz at Drew concert in 2007.

The MMDSON was a key component of a major growth initiative launched by the University at the start of the last decade. The nursing school continues to address critical nursing shortages within the state. At the time of its opening, California consistently ranked 49th or 50th nationwide in the number of registered nurses per capita, with 30% fewer nurses than the national average. “The school being named after Congressman Dymally is a fitting testament to his legacy and steadfast advocacy for improving access to both healthcare and education for under-resourced communities of color,” said CDU President and CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle.

MMDSON currently offers three graduate nursing programs: Entry Level Masters, Nursing; MSN, Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner; and MSN, Nursing – Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner; one undergraduate program, RN to BS, Nursing; and two certificate programs: Post-Masters Certificate, Family Nurse Practitioner and Post-Masters Certificate, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner.

In the Fall 2020 semester, the MMDSON welcomed 153 new students to the CDU family, bringing its total enrollment to over 400. "[In alignment with our continued growth initiative outlined in the CDU Strategic Plan], our goal is to increase the number of nursing students to 500 by the end of the 2020-2021 school year," said MMDSON Dean Dr. Diane Breckenridge. Additionally, she has goals of increasing MMDSON enrollment over 1,000 by 2024. "As this growth occurs, more space, faculty and simulation equipment will be needed to sustain the excellent impact on student success and graduating culturally competent nurses into the workforce."
CalMatters
Rx for health care inequities: More health professionals of color

Gulf News
US counts 61,262 COVID-19 Cases in 24 Hours

CNN
Here's the latest coronavirus update from California

NBCNews.com
A bill would spend $1 billion on diversifying medical schools to close the racial health gap

California Health Care Foundation
The Health Care System Has the Black Community in a Choke Hold

Spectrum News
Inside the Issues

The Chronicle of Higher Education
Colleges With the Greatest Racial and Ethnic Diversity Among Faculty Members, Fall 2018

The Harvard Gazette
A SPARK of an idea

EIN Presswire
Governor Newsom Announces Appointments 8.17.2020

Dallas Weekly
Black men face high discrimination and depression, even as their education and incomes rise

After the Lockdown: Black in L.A.
After the Lockdown: Black in L.A.

Times of San Diego
Opinion: To Treat Health Care Inequity, Train More Doctors and Nurses of Color

Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Stepping Up As a Safety Net