



## CDU Hosts Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' Empowerment Congress featuring U.S. Representatives Bass and Barragán

Over 1,200 people came to the campus of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on Saturday, January 20, for the 27th Annual Empowerment Congress Summit, a civic event designed to “educate, engage and empower” the citizens of LA County. For that Saturday, CDU was transformed into a different kind of campus—one featuring not only inspirational remarks but also five different workshops on various ways communities can be transformed, plus a bus tour of Willowbrook and a resource fair with dozens of tables offering useful information on county and community services.

Speakers for the day included Los Angeles County Second District Supervisor and Empowerment Congress founder Mark Ridley-Thomas; as well as U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus; U.S. Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-44), whose congressional district includes Willowbrook; and Humboldt County Supervisor Virginia Bass, president of the California State Association of Counties.

CDU President and CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle offered opening welcome remarks, pointing to similarities in the goals of the Empowerment Congress and the mission of the University. “As a community-founded educational institution located in an under-resourced area, we recognize the importance of formally organized civic engagement as a means of effective positive change,” he said. “It was a similar dynamic that led to the creation of CDU in the wake of the Watts Revolt over five decades ago. We look forward to working with Empowerment Congress leadership and all participants to transform South Los Angeles and communities like it.”



*Dr. Carlisle gives opening remarks at the 2019 Empowerment Congress*

The Summit was started in 1992 as a way to enable individuals and communities to work together to take control over their futures. Commenting on the motivating spirit of this year’s event date, which was on weekend preceding the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, Supervisory Ridley-Thomas said: “Dr. King stands as a global giant, one who stirred our souls and sparked our conscience to not only dream big for ourselves but to act boldly to ensure a better tomorrow. By continuing to be steadfast in our efforts to spur not just change but transformative change, we will succeed in building communities of opportunity for all Angelenos.”





# President's Message

## ***Greetings!***

As in previous years, we had the privilege of participating in the 34th annual Kingdom Day Parade on January 21 to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who would have turned 90 this year. As we continue to navigate a national landscape increasingly fraught with threats to social justice and equity for all, we would be remiss if we did not take a moment to ask ourselves if we are living up to the vision and ideals laid out by the late humanitarian.

I'd like to think that at CDU, we are doing just that at every level, through our advocacy for greater access to healthcare for all—another cause of Dr. King's. We meet regularly with elected officials in Sacramento and Washington and work with them on legislation to advance that goal. Our curriculum, the "CDU Advantage," specifically includes "education in and for social justice and cultural diversity," so we train our students to be ambassadors for our mission. And we raise awareness in public forums, such as our upcoming President's Breakfast on February 19 at the Marina Del Rey Marriott. Although this year's topic is "Diversity in Higher Education: Race Matters," we will also discuss its implications for health professions education and how diversity among our students and at other universities can address health disparities in underserved communities.

As we reflect upon the life of Dr. King and the lessons he taught us at the outset of the Spring 2019 semester, I am heartened at the prospect of another rewarding year here at CDU. We have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to (including a new grand entrance and new student center!).

I remain committed to providing an atmosphere where students, faculty and staff can continue developing personally and professionally into the best versions of themselves possible.

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

# Campus Life

## CDU Receives Nearly \$200K in Support for Campus and Student Success



The University extends its sincerest thanks to **Dr. Ashis Mandal** for his recent \$40,000 gift to the University, as well **Dr. Fred Parrott** of the Real Men Cook Foundation and CDU board member **Marvin O'Quinn**, for their respective contributions of \$50,000 towards the endowment of medical student scholarships and general operations. CDU would also like to thank the **Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA)** for selecting the University as the recipient of \$20,000 in scholarship funds at the 2018 Los Angeles Healthcare Awards on November 30, 2018.

Lastly, the Auxiliary to the Charles R. Drew Medical Society presented a total of \$12,000 in scholarships to eight CDU students at their December 2018 meeting: Aubrey Kelly (COM), Kadarius Burgess (COM), Taylor Cole (COM), Yasmine Abbey (COM), Tristan Howard (COM), Richard Timmons-Vendryes (COM), Lauren Barnes (COSH) and Jazmyn Childress (SON).

As CDU continues to grow, contributions and major gifts from supporters such as board member O'Quinn, Dr. Parrott, Dr. Mandal, LACMA and the Charles R. Drew Medical Society are essential in ensuring we have the proper infrastructure to improve campus facilities and ensure student success.

## 2020 Democratic Presidential Candidate Keynotes 2019 President's Breakfast; Employee Discount Available



Julián Castro, President's Breakfast keynote speaker

Mark your calendars! CDU's fourth annual President's Breakfast will take place on February 19, 2019, at the Marina Del Ray Marriott and feature keynote speaker and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate, Julián Castro! This year's topic is *Diversity in Higher Education: Race Matters*, and includes a panel discussion featuring Wm. Jahmal Miller, MHA, MHL, of Blue Cross of California, Dr. Francisco Rodriguez of the LA Community College District, Marina S. Salinas of the LA Area Chamber of Commerce and Wendy Garen of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation.

This is an event you won't want to miss. Tickets start at \$175, with special discount pricing available for CDU employees. Visit the Office of Strategic Advancement, or Cobb 286, to learn more about employee discount pricing.

Click [here](#), or visit the CDU website to purchase regularly-priced tickets.

## CDU Community Participates in 34th Annual Kingdom Day Parade

The CDU community had the opportunity to march in the 34<sup>th</sup> annual Los Angeles Kingdom Day Parade on January 21, 2019. The Kingdom Day Parade is the largest and oldest celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the nation. The theme of this year's parade was "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Democracy" and commemorated Dr. King's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The parade started at 10 a.m. at Western Avenue and Martin Luther King (MLK) Boulevard and proceeded down MLK Boulevard to Crenshaw Boulevard, ending at Vernon Avenue in the Crenshaw district of Los Angeles. Click [here](#), or visit the CDU SmugMug website, to view photos from the event.



# Campus Life

## CDU Participates in 2018 World AIDS Day Activities via Dolls of Hope, National Names Project



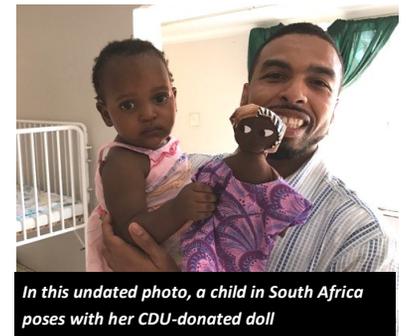
Dolls of Hope from Cynthia Davis' annual showcase

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Dolls of Hope initiative took place on December 15, 2018, at the Museum of African American Art in Los Angeles. Launched in 1998 by Cynthia Davis, MPH, as part of World AIDS Day activities at CDU, the Dolls of Hope initiative has strived to enhance community mobilization efforts by breaking the “silence of HIV/AIDS” in affected communities. Through the initiative, local volunteers make handmade cloth dolls that are distributed to agencies working with children, youth and women who have HIV/AIDS or are otherwise HIV/AIDS affected.

An avid doll enthusiast herself, Dr. Davis realized the therapeutic and community-building aspects of doll making and decided to utilize it as a medium for her advocacy. Early on, she incorporated basic HIV education into her sessions with volunteers. “When we first started the workshops, I brought in HIV-positive women who disclosed their status to the other women. That began to break down barriers and misconceptions [about the disease],” she said.

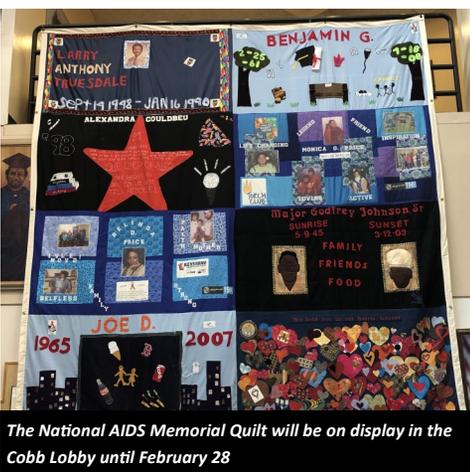
Since the initiative’s launch 20 years ago, over 6,000 dolls have been distributed in the United States and abroad, landing in countries throughout Africa, South and Central America, Asia and the Caribbean. The initiative also involves an exchange of dolls between the collaborating agencies – as dolls are distributed by CDU, each agency that receives a doll is asked to forward one or more dolls back to CDU, which are then showcased during the University’s annual World AIDS Day program.

“Essentially, Dolls of Hope provides communities with an opportunity to compassionately reach out to HIV/AIDS-affected individuals and families as well as to inform community leaders and elected officials of their role in decreasing the stigma around the disease,” Dr. Davis said in a 2009 interview.



In this undated photo, a child in South Africa poses with her CDU-donated doll

In continuing 2018 World AIDS Day activities on campus, CDU is hosting the National AIDS Memorial Quilt in the Cobb Lobby from December 20, 2018, to February 28, 2019. The quilt was loaned to the University by the National Names Project based in Atlanta.



The National AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display in the Cobb Lobby until February 28

“The significance of having the quilt on display at CDU is multifaceted,” Dr. Davis explained. Throughout the University’s history, CDU has had staff who were HIV-positive and who have died as a result of the virus. “This quilt commemorates the lives of thousands of human beings who have died of HIV/AIDS in the U.S. and in Los Angeles County since the virus was initially identified in the early 1980s,” Dr. Davis said.

The quilt project was conceptualized in 1985 to honor and commemorate the lives of thousands of men, women and children who have died of HIV/AIDS and to help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. In nearly four decades, more than 50,000 individual 3”x 6” memorial panels have been sewn together by friends, moved ones and family members to preserve the powerful images and stories contained within The Quilt while expanding HIV/AIDS awareness and HIV prevention education efforts.

# Campus Life

## Updates from the Pipeline: Junior White Coat Ceremony; Project STRIDE Alum Presents at National Conference



Sen. Steven Bradford was a guest of note at the junior white coat ceremony on Jan. 26

On Saturday, January 26, CDU's Saturday Science Academy-II (SSA-II) issued 78 future health practitioners their first white coats at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Junior White Coat Ceremony in the King-Drew Medical Magnet High School gym. The annual ritual celebrates the students' completion of the program, which saw 90% of students improve their grades in STEM-related subjects in 2018.

The Academy, which has been a staple of Los Angeles' educational community since 1983, is open to all students but ultimately strives to motivate students of color to pursue degrees and careers in science, technology, engineering or math—STEM fields in which those populations have been traditionally underrepresented. SSA-II increased the number of students served by nearly 6% with 505 enrolled students in 2018, up from 478 in 2017.

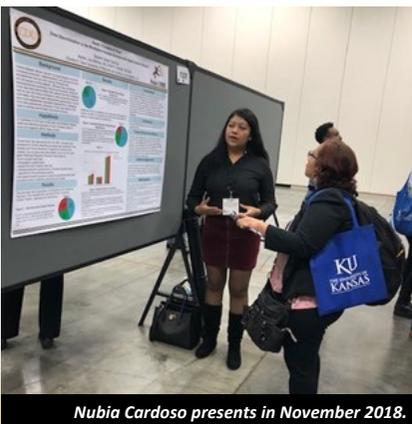
“For over 20 years, SSA-II has been preparing underserved PK-12 grade students for careers in STEM,” said Eileen Forbes-Hill, Executive Director of Pipeline and School Partnership Programs. “We will continue to be a beacon of hope for all young men and young ladies of the community who need academic support and have dreams of becoming health professional leaders.”

**Project STRIDE** alumna Nubia Cardoso, currently a student at the University of California-Irvine gave an oral presentation on minority physician burnout at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 17, 2018. Ms. Cardoso was mentored by Dr. Lisa Barkley and attended the meeting alongside Dolores Caffey-Fleming, Project STRIDE -II's program director.



Mrs. Dee Fleming and Nubia Cardoso

Ms. Cardoso's research and presentation investigated further into physician burnout, and how racial discrimination towards residents and attending physicians of color increases rates of burnout and affects career choices. She was one of 2000 presenters at the conference and received an award for her performance. She continues to work with Dr. Barkley on the manuscript, which they hope to publish soon.



Nubia Cardoso presents in November 2018.

Project STRIDE is a 10-week summer health science immersion program that exposes underserved 11th grade students to clinical research. 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. As a Project STRIDE student, Ms. Cardoso was engaged in the Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval process, produced and distributed a REDcap survey and began a draft of a manuscript for her research.

# Campus Life

## University Welcomes First Lady of Zambia to Campus



CDU Provost Dr. Steve Michael with Her Excellency, Mrs. Esther Lungu

Her Excellency, Mrs. Esther Lungu, First Lady of Zambia, visited the CDU campus on Monday, January 28 to explore possible areas of collaboration between the University and her foundation, the Ester Lungu Foundation Trust. The various focuses of her foundation include but are not limited to (1) empowering women with an emphasis on education and entrepreneurship (2) maternal, child and neonatal care (3) water and sanitation, and (4) aid for the disabled.

She was accompanied by a group of approximately 15 including the Hon. Consul General Robert Sichinga, who has previously spoken at CDU, as well as other government officials and staff.

Following a campus tour, Mrs. Lungu participated in a discussion with key members of CDU leadership to discuss ways to further strengthen the relationship between CDU and Zambia.

## Advocates of Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Headline Haynes Lecture Series

This month's M. Alfred Haynes lecture presentation took place on January 24 in the Cobb Lobby and featured Mary E. Brown, President/CEO of Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California; Ellen Rothman, MD, Chief Medical Officer at the Martin Luther King Jr. Outpatient Center; and Judith Baker, DrPH, MHS, Director of Public Health at the Center for Inherited Blood Disorders. They discussed health equity in Los Angeles as it relates to sickle cell disease (SCD), and how innovations in systems and the delivery of care can increase equity for SCD-affected people in the county.

SCD a painful, rare and progressively debilitating blood disorder that is not widely understood. In her presentation, Mary Brown labelled the current dilemma of SCD in the U.S. as "dismal, unacceptable and a national embarrassment," because the treatable disease has gone largely unaddressed due to "massive societal indifference at all levels."

She observed that approximately 51% of California adults affected by the disease live in Los Angeles, and experience worse health outcomes compared to other diseases and have fewer health resources such as dedicated clinics and an adequate amount of health professionals who are knowledgeable about the disease. "This lack of equity is a nationally recognized disparity," Brown stated.

Ms. Brown later introduced Dr. Ellen Rothman, who heads the Adult Sickle Cell Clinic at the Martin Luther King Jr., Outpatient Center. She discussed how the clinic seeks to address health equity issues faced by SCD-affected adults in the area by providing access to an array of services to accommodate their physical, mental and social needs. Prior to the clinic's establishment in

2016, there was no public clinic that offered specific and coordinated services to SCD-affected adults in Los Angeles County.

Dr. Rothman highlighted the difficulties that SCD-affected people face in receiving adequate care as they transition from childhood to adulthood, citing the perceptions that many healthcare workers may have towards treating chronically sick children (usually regarded as "special," as described by Dr. Rothman) versus treating chronically sick adults ("a dime a dozen," and therefore less of a priority). Dr. Rothman concluded her presentation by advocating for strength in numbers – collaborating with other community-based health organizations to increase efficacy in the delivery of care.

Dr. Judith Baker's presentation centered upon key innovations at the systems level to advance health equity for SCD-affected people in Los Angeles. As a key leader of the Pacific Sickle Cell Regional Collaborative, Dr. Baker advocated for regionalization, or the organization of health care delivery systems within geographical regions throughout the United States, to synergize and strengthen clinical care for rare disorders.

Thirteen states have joined the Collaborative since its first expansion in 2014, with the goal of ensuring that SCD-affected individuals receive quality care no matter where they live. Regionalization, Dr. Baker argued, advances health equity for those suffering rare disorders like SCD because the practice helps to identify an individual's geographic needs, provides access to regional centers of expertise and provider networks, and allows providers within any given region to share clinical expertise.



# 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 Project Archivist Robin Schiff*

## **Establishing an Enterprise: The Beginning of Research at CDU**

In 1973, the Office of Research was established to organize the assignment of research activities at CDU (then the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School) and provide a focus for encouraging faculty participation in laboratory activities.

Initial components of the department included the biomedical science program, which was developed to increase the number of faculty members and student researchers of color engaged in biomedical research; the Grants and Contracts Office, which acquired and developed external funds to assist in fulfilling the mission of the School; two research laboratories where principal investigators and their technicians conducted research through the support of grants such as the Biomedical Research Support Grant; and the vivarium, where animal research took place.

Today, CDU’s Department of Research and Health Affairs is led by Dr. Jay Vagdama and conducts ongoing research on conditions disproportionately affecting under-resourced communities of color, such as diabetes, hypertension, cancer, chronic kidney diseases and HIV/AIDs.

# Campus Life

## Faculty Highlights: College of Medicine

Each month, CDU News will highlight various faculty accomplishments around campus. This month, we begin with the College of Medicine:

Dr. Denese Shervington, Psychiatry Department Chair, published her new book, *Healing is the Revolution*, in November 2018.

Dr. Lisa Barkley, Family Medicine Residency Director, published her book *Promoting Health Equity Among Racially and Ethnically Diverse Adolescents: A Practical Guide*, this month.

Dr. Eleby Washington succeeded Dr. Arthur Fleming as Chair of the Faculty Executive Board committee for the 2019-2020 academic year.

## CDU Pride: Raffle Winner Selected



Stephanie Freeman

Stephanie Freeman, Human Resources is this month's Staff Management Council (SMC) raffle winner! She won a \$20 gift card to the campus cafe. There was no staff member of the month nominated for the month of January.

The SMC was created in 2014 to unite staff and help advance the Mission of the University. Those interested in joining the SMC are encouraged to reach out to April Miller at (323) 563-5823 or AprilMiller@cdrewu.edu.

## CDU in the News: January 2019

### LA Sentinel

[CPR Foundation Sponsors 'Sistahs, Can We Talk' Conference](#)  
(1/2/2019)

### LA Sentinel

[LOS ANGELES LINKS CELEBRATE 66<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COTILLION](#)  
(1/3/2019)

### Dundalk Eagle

[Henrietta Lacks Women's Health: Cervical and Other Cancers Community Engagement Program](#)  
(1/15/2019)

### LA Sentinel

[Gloria Gray Elected First African American Woman to Chair MWD Board](#) (1/17/2019)

### LA Watts Times

[Gloria Gray Elected First African American to Chair MWD Board](#)  
(1/17/2019)

### LA Sentinel

[Empowerment Congress Focuses on Transforming Communities](#)  
(1/24/2019)

### Our Weekly

[Empowerment Conference inspires community on civic engagement](#)  
(1/24/2019)

### LA Watts Times

[Empowerment Congress Focuses on Transforming Communities](#)  
(1/24/2019)

### Health News Today

[Endocrinologist Behrouz Salehian, MD Provides Services for the Greater Los Angeles, CA Area](#)  
(1/24/2019)

### Wave Newspapers

[Ridley-Thomas Hosts Annual Empowerment Congress Summit](#)  
(1/25/2019)

### LA Sentinel

[L.A. Care Awards \\$3.6 Million for Physician Recruitment](#)  
(1/25/2019)

### New York Post

[How gym junkies kick the habit and feel better than ever](#) (1/29/2019)

## CDU Event Calendar

**2/1:** 1st Annual Smoking Cessation Day

**2/7:** Basic Life Support Class

**2/9:** HIV/STI Workshop

**2/18:** Develop@CDU: Session 3

**2/18:** President's Day (Campus Closed)

**2/19:** President's Breakfast

**2/23:** Discover CDU

**2/25:** Develop@CDU: Session 4

[Click for more Calendar Items](#)

View photos from this month's events and more at [cdrewu.smugmug.com](http://cdrewu.smugmug.com)

CDU News is published monthly by the Office of Strategic Advancement (OSA).

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