

July 2020

CDU News

**Community Forum
L.A. Care Scholars
...and more!**



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Greetings!

Though times are uncertain, our mission and dedication to training leaders in health that will go on to change the world for the better remains steadfast. The Fall 2020 semester is quickly approaching, and plans for re-opening the campus and bringing students back via a hybrid education model are well underway.

As we move ahead as an institution of higher learning during a pandemic, there will be some key changes to campus operations taking effect very soon. Due to the construction of the new MLK Child and Family Well-Being Center near Charles R. Drew University, and for the safety of all local residents, **the CDU testing site will move across the street to the MLK Medical Campus on August 4, 2020. The last day of testing at the CDU site will be August 2, and the relocation will take place on August 3.** This new location will be a walk-up only site, where residents will walk into the area to get a test. The nearest County drive-through site will be at the Forum in Inglewood.

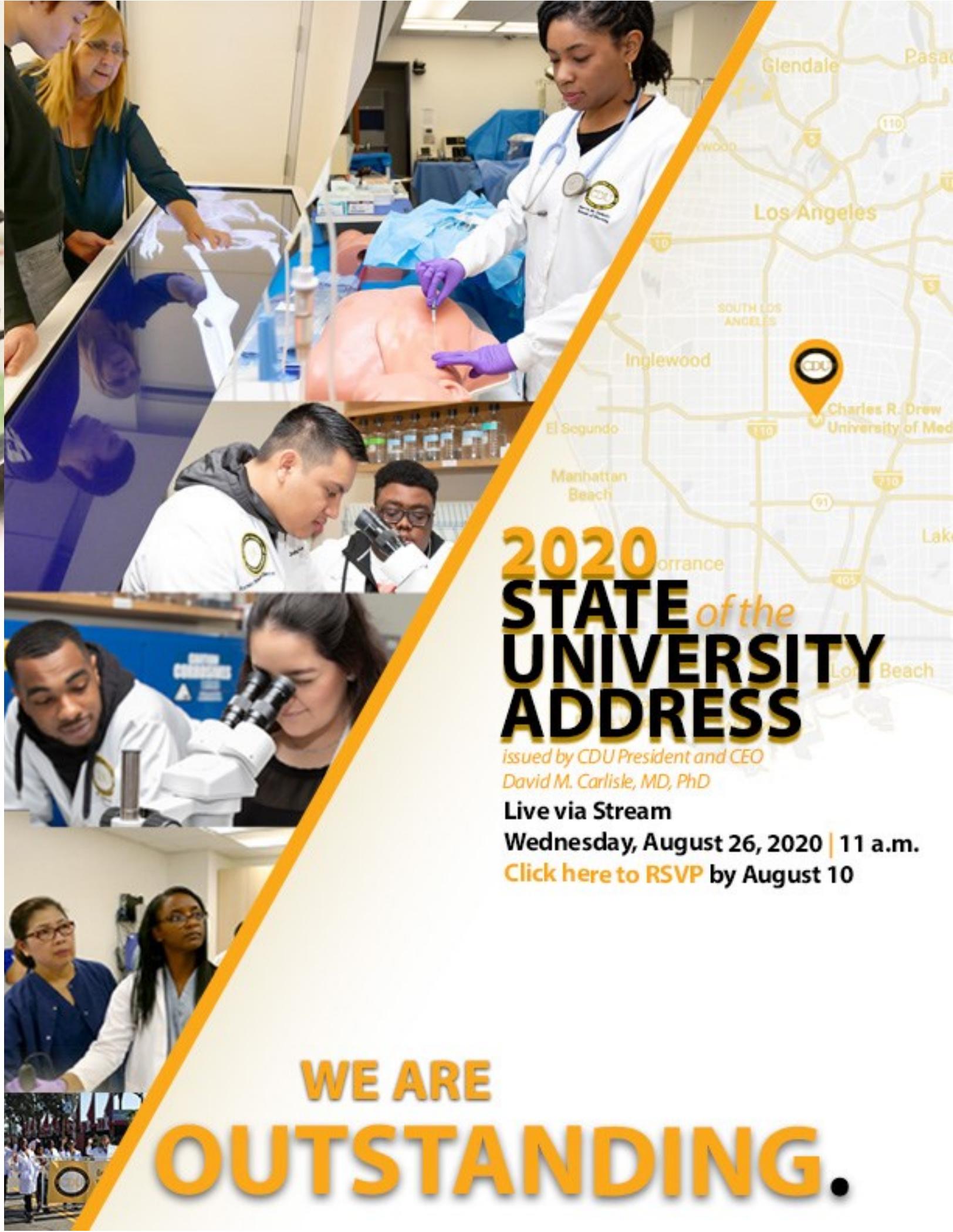
CDU is a partner in the new site at MLK, and our faculty will continue as part of the leadership team providing advice and assistance to LA County and MLKOPC. CDU faculty will continue as volunteers, however as the school year starts they will have less availability. Students will also continue to volunteer and we are proposing to have work-study students at the site as well. Finally, CDU will continue to lead on data management and reporting findings back to our community.

We should all be proud of the work we have done in hosting the COVID-19 testing site at CDU, as it has grown to be one of the highest volume testing sites in the county—and in an area where it is greatly needed. We have tested over 60,000 people since opening on April 8, and have been testing upward of 1,000 people daily since June. The unique protocol we created—taking same-day appointments and walk-ups, doing concentrated community outreach and referring those who needed additional health services—has enabled us to reach thousands of people who may not have been tested otherwise. The report we produced was a model for other testing sites to follow.

We are truly living in unprecedented times. But the pandemic, and its disproportionate effect upon communities of color—both in terms of health and finances—along with the drive for social justice in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, have all demonstrated just how vital the mission of CDU really is.

Thank you for your continued flexibility and commitment to CDU.

I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of CDU Community Faculty Member Robert Garcia, Esq., who passed away earlier this month at the age of 67. We will keep Mr. Garcia and his family in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.



2020 Orientation STATE of the UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

*issued by CDU President and CEO
David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD*

Live via Stream

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 | 11 a.m.

Click here to [RSVP](#) by August 10

WE ARE OUTSTANDING.

Updates to Parking Lot on 118th Street



The parking lot on 118th Street between Compton and Wilmington Avenues has recently undergone repaving, a project that was sponsored in full by Southern California Edison (SCE). The parking lot, which holds approximately 474 vehicles total, received 18 new stations dedicated to charging electric vehicles.

The repaving project took two months to complete and was managed by Armando Estrada, Director of Risk Management, Campus Safety and Facilities; and Dionisio Ong, Facilities Manager.

"The charging stations were a collaborative effort between SCE, [electric vehicle company] ChargePoint, Inc., and CDU. The project ran smoothly and almost unnoticed, and the benefit of adding more EV stations to our campus is incredible," said Estrada.

COM Welcomes Class of 2024 With Virtual White Coat Ceremony

"Despite all the bad that is going on in the world, it is important for us to take time to celebrate the good. And our [new] medical students are 'the good,'" said COM Dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith in her introductory remarks during the College of Medicine's annual White Coat Ceremony, which took place via Zoom on Friday, July 24. "This is a time for gratitude and celebration."

The white coat ceremony is a symbolic rite of passage for medical students across the nation. Dr. Kelsey Martin, dean of the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, noted the white coat's "profound and precious" significance, stating that it "is earned through scientific inquiry, moral courage, the practice of empathy and [a true] commitment to justice and health equity."

During the virtual ceremony, additional congratulatory remarks were offered by CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas; and keynote speaker Dr. Garth Graham, who serves as Vice-President and Chief Community Health Officer at CVS Health.

"This event is one of the highlights of our academic year at CDU," said Dr. Carlisle, marking the white coat ceremony as "the first real step our medical students [take] the pathway to becoming doctors. Once they have enrolled in medical school, they are virtually doctors except for the passage of time."

Sup. Mark Ridley-Thomas highlighted the current partnership between his office, the University and Los Angeles County which has provided COVID-19 testing to over 60,000 individuals during the most "devastating health crisis in recent history." He then went on to introduce the keynote speaker, Dr. Garth Graham, who has "been on the frontlines [advocating for] equitable outcomes and assuaging disproportionality in all healthcare inequities" for more than two decades.

In his remarks, Dr. Graham highlighted the diversity and significance of the class of 2024, as 28% of students are first-generation college students and 86% are from the state of California. All of the students, Dr. Graham said, "represent[ed] a vast array of experiences" and "the best of Los Angeles County [and] our country."

The admissions process for the College of Medicine has been historically competitive, and this year was no different. The College of Medicine received 3,217 applications for 28 slots -- translating to an acceptance rate of less than one percent. This year's incoming students have joined the CDU community from esteemed higher education institutions across the nation such as Stanford University, Morehouse College and Cornell University, among others.

CDU Medical Students Receive Full Scholarships Worth Up to \$1.3 Million For Third Year in a Row From L.A. Care

For the third year in a row, four incoming students in the College of Medicine's Class of 2024 were honored and granted full medical scholarships totaling over \$1.3 million during L.A. Care's weeklong "Elevating The Safety Net" virtual celebration. Ope Akerele, Kendra Arriaga Castellanos, Bryce Bentley and Jahmil Lacey (*pictured below, left to right*) each received scholarships worth up to \$350,000 and were selected based on financial need as well as their expressed desire to serve vulnerable populations.

As part of the weeklong event, L.A. Care also hosted an Instagram Live interview session with scholarship winners on Wednesday, July 22, including CDU's Bryce Bentley. He spoke of his experiences growing up in South Los Angeles, and the significance of being able to pursue his medical career with the help of L.A. Care. "It's always been a dream of mine to be able to go to medical school and not have to worry about acquiring debt," he said.

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L.A. Care Health Plan's "Elevating the Safety Net" initiative launched in 2018 to recruit highly qualified primary physicians into the Los Angeles County "safety net," which seeks to offer access to care regardless of an individual's ability to pay. The scholarship program serves as a pipeline into the safety net.

"I cannot overstate the importance of these scholarships to our students and to CDU's ability to fulfill its mission, which is aligned with that of L.A. Care," said COM Dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith. "Graduating from medical school without debt is a gift that will keep on giving throughout the lives of the recipients, their families and the communities they will serve. With these leading edge scholarships, L.A. Care has helped us stay current with the trends toward making medical school more accessible to outstanding students."



COSH's Magee Elected Academic Senate President



The CDU community is pleased to congratulate Thomas Magee, PhD (*pictured left*), on his recent election as President of the Academic Senate at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) for the 2020 – 2022 term. He succeeds Omolola Ogunyemi, PhD, who served from 2018 to 2020.

Dr. Magee serves as an associate professor in the College of Science and Health's Department of Health and Life Sciences. He has had previous experience serving in the Academic Senate as a Senator and Vice President, as well as Faculty Affairs Committee Chair.

"I would like to thank my fellow faculty for the nomination and strong support [they have] shown me, and I look forward to serving your interests as Academic President," said Dr. Magee. "[In this role], my immediate goals are to improve faculty pay equity, benefits, promotions, as well as support for hybrid teaching and research. Together we can achieve these as well as promoting our vision of 'excellent health and wellness for all in a world without health disparities.'"

MMDSON Students Stay on Track With Service at CDU COVID-19 Testing Site



Since early April, both students and faculty members within the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON) have played active roles in the daily functions of the COVID-19 testing site. Nursing students have been able to complete clinical hours for their courses in community, psychiatric and pediatric health at the testing site. To facilitate this, MMDSON Dean Dr. Diane Breckenridge led a team of faculty members in developing the Nursing, Education, Research and Practice (NERP) model in response to Governor Gavin Newsom's call in March 2020 on health care practitioners, including nursing students, to join the healthcare workforce during the coronavirus pandemic.

Second-year Entry Level Master's (ELM) nursing students Melvina Akwaja, Anna Carlos, Shonna Pryor and Andrea Takayama recalled their experiences working at the site, which included fulfilling integral roles such as translators for Spanish-speaking members of the community, wayfinders, and self-test instructors.

"[Working and volunteering at] the CDU testing site has allowed me to complete my clinical objectives and keep my target graduation date for the ELM program," said Pryor.



"The beginning of the pandemic brought about fear and uncertainty, but it also made me realize that the healthcare field is where I want to be," said Takayama. "I have dedicated over 150 hours of my personal time volunteering at this site because I care about the community I serve. It is important to care about community, and I wholeheartedly know the CDU COVID-19 testing site has showed our community that we care about them."

"The CDU testing site represents equality, social justice, opportunity, wellness and care for the community it serves," said Akwaja. "The most rewarding [part of working at the testing site] for me was [conducting] community outreach. I was privileged to lead a team of my colleagues in educating the community about the testing site's availability."

At the CDU COVID-19 testing site, I served as a data entry staff member, as well as a drive-up check-in staff member," said Carlos. "My duties also included answering any questions regarding the testing process and providing a sense of reassurance [to test takers]."

"I am proud that CDU and the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing were able to quickly coordinate our nursing students' volunteer and clinical hours in ways that would both satisfy their graduation requirements and allow them to serve their community during these trying times," said Dr. Breckenridge. "I would like to thank the MMDSON leadership team members who were integral in developing our new NERP education model, as well as all MMDSON faculty members who have supervised and supported our students' work at the testing site for seven days a week since April 2020."

CDU Leaders Discuss COVID-19's Effects on Latinx Communities at Monthly Virtual Community Forum



CDU hosted its monthly virtual Community Forum via Teams on Wednesday, July 29, featuring CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; Dr. Hector Balcazar, Dean of the College of Science and Health; and Dr. Delia Santana, Assistant Director of the Entry Level Master's Nursing Program and Director of Clinical Education in the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing. The interactive discussion, moderated by special assistant to the President Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, centered on the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on Latinx communities.

Drew Ivie cited a key finding in the [CDU COVID-19 Testing Site Data Report](#) stating the Latinx community was the largest group tested at the CDU testing site, with a total of 70.7%. Of that number, 12.4% of individuals tested positive for COVID-19.

Dr. Balcazar described a “cascade of factors” that contribute to the Latinx community's vulnerability to negative health outcomes and higher instances of COVID-19, such as negative social determinants of health, higher chances of exposure to the virus due to many in the community working “frontline” jobs, as well as concerns regarding an individual's immigration status, which can affect their decision to get tested. Further, Dr. Balcazar noted, many individuals who work on the frontlines and cannot afford time off fear that a positive test result will result in them losing their jobs, which also deters them from seeking testing and treatment.

Dr. Santana echoed this point, noting the true fears around getting tested, especially for immigrant populations. “Latinx persons should be informed that getting tested or receiving treatment [for] COVID-19 will not affect their immigration status, that their medical information will remain private and not be shared with immigration officials,” she said. Dr. Santana also advocated for transparency and noted the importance of notifying individuals of the resources available to them, such as unemployment and short-term medical homes. “This is information that when shared in culturally acceptable ways will decrease fears and stress surrounding testing and treatment for COVID-19,” she said.

Dr. Carlisle favored a public health approach in combatting COVID-19 across the spectrum, citing the efforts of New York City, one of the epicenters of the disease at the start of the pandemic, as a successful example in driving down COVID-19 instance rates. “That's an encouraging [trajectory] because we can implement those same measures here in California and Los Angeles County to effectively combat COVID-19,” he said.



Access Matters:

CDU, L.A. County Officials Join Supervisor Ridley-Thomas for Discussion on Report Findings

CDU officials joined L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas for a virtual townhall to discuss the findings in the recently released CDU COVID-19 Testing Site Report on Wednesday, July 1 via Facebook Live. Participants included CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle; Dr. Roberto Vargas, COM Assistant Dean and lead researcher for the report; Dr. Sheila Young, CDU COVID-19 testing site director; and Dr. Erika Uribe, Language Access and Inclusion Director at the L.A. County Department of Health Services.

“The same social and economic determinants that have driven health disparities for generations, such as lack of access to food and housing, education and health services, have undoubtedly exacerbated inequitable access to prevention, treatment and testing resources for COVID-19,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

“CDU has demonstrated how these outreach efforts partnerships can broaden the reach for highly-impacted communities,” Dr. Flores Uribe said, noting that other County testing sites have implemented procedures from CDU, such as allowing walk-up testing, in order to increase access to testing in similarly affected communities.

Watch the full townhall discussion [here](#).

Haynes Series Explores Global Effects of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence

This month's Haynes Lecture Series took place via Zoom on Wednesday, July 15, and featured a panel discussion on the harmful effects of gender-based violence, and how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted domestic violence rates around the world. The panel discussion, moderated by Office of International Affairs director Dr. Lejeune Lockett, was preceded by a screening of *The Long Road Home*, a short film by Zambian filmmaker Kasuba Mukuka that follows the journey of a young woman trying to escape from her abusive husband without help from her community.

Gender-based violence, also known as domestic violence and intimate partner violence, can include acts such as physical and sexual assault, forced marriage, denial of resources and opportunities, and emotional abuse. Though many survivors of gender-based violence tend to be women, Dr. Lockett noted that men can be also be victims. "Both men and women can commit gender-based violence, but studies show that men are more reluctant to report being victims due to feelings of shame or humiliation that could undermine their masculinity," she said. "Overall, 70% of ever-married women and 40% of ever-married men have experienced some form of domestic violence in the last year."

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a significant effect on the number of domestic violence incidents reported around the globe. "COVID-19 is a global emergency, and typically in emergencies there is an increase in domestic partner violence," Dr. Lockett explained. "With social isolation, increased stress, being restricted from services and economic pressures, create conditions for an exponential increase in intimate partner violence."

Following Dr. Lockett's presentation, attendees were able to view *The Long Road Home*. Following the film's

screening, there was a panel discussion featuring Rahn Bailey, MD, Assistant Dean For Clinical Education at CDU and Chief Medical Officer for Kedren Health Systems, Inc.; Yasmin Tarver, Director of Client Programming at Jenessee Center, a non-profit domestic violence prevention and intervention program; Shari Farmer, Field Deputy for the L.A. County District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services; and Kasuba Mukuka, writer and director of the film.

Dr. Lockett explained the connection between the film, which is based in Zambia, and the University: CDU has project based in the country that provides HIV care and support services for girls aged 15-24, most of whom have experienced some form of domestic violence. Zambia has one of the highest domestic violence rates in the world, and cites domestic violence as one of the key factors for HIV infection.

Ms. Tarver reiterated the point that domestic violence can happen to anyone. "Many people think that this kind of abuse solely includes physical violence, but it is much broader in scope and can appear in many forms, such as physical, emotional, spiritual and financial abuse," she said. When abuse is that deep-rooted and complex, it can "make it difficult to leave a situation, even though [an individual is] being hurt and unable to have peace in their homes."

Ms. Mukuka explained while the movie was fictional, it was inspired by real events that took place in Zambia. When she learned that a close family member had been hiding their abuse for years, she felt compelled to speak to more women around Zambia about their experiences. "I couldn't believe that this was happening to people and people did not talk about it," she said. "I wanted to do something that would give voices to these survivors of domestic violence, and to get people talking."



SharePoint as a Resource during COVID-19

CDU set up a password-protected SharePoint website to facilitate Business Continuity and establish a communications clearinghouse for University departments, faculty and staff, and can be accessed [here](#). **The portal is for faculty and staff only, and only via log-in.**

Reminder!

If you have any technical problems with the site or your page, please contact the CDU Help Desk at (323) 563-4990.



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*

Answering the Call: CDU’s Olympic Heroes

On July 27, 1996, CDU emergency medicine residents Andrew Khan, DO, and David Loya, MD, were two of the first responders at the scene of the bombing that took place in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Summer Olympics. Drs. Loya and Khan, who also served as Emergency Medicine physicians at the former King-Drew Hospital at the time, were among 12 physicians chosen from 400 applicants to work the Games that year.

At the time of the blast, which left 111 injured and two dead, the two men were initially two blocks away concluding another celebration. When the bomb detonated, they both sprang into action and ran to the scene on foot with bags full of basic medical supplies. Ultimately, Drs. Loya and Khan treated about a dozen patients each at the scene, with most suffering from severe shrapnel injuries.

Dr. Loya acknowledged the fear that he and his colleague felt as they neared the scene, figuring that "the little bomb might be a way of gathering a bunch of people to then set off a bigger bomb." However, in the face of their fear, Drs. Loya and Khan remembered to rely on their training. "You do this at the hospital all the time," Dr. Loya said in a 1996 interview. "But in this situation, I felt like I was making a unique contribution. There was no one else who could do it."

As a result of their heroism, they received numerous accolades including citations from then-Mayor Richard Riordan, City of Los Angeles and then-County Superintendent Yvonne Brathwaite Burke as well as recognition from President Bill Clinton.

The Next Steps: Thank You For Your Support

With your generous support, we have been able to reach those who are most in need of testing and education in light of this global pandemic. Continue reading to learn more about next steps in the fight against COVID-19 in South Los Angeles.

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science would like to express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Kimberly Ancheta; Assemblymember Mike Gipson and BizFed; and Dine 911 for their generous donation of food, water and other essential supplies to the workers stationed at the testing site.



Following three months of valuable service in its current location, **the CDU testing site will move across the street to the MLK Medical Campus on August 4, 2020. The last day of testing at CDU will be August 2, and the new site will re-open as a walk-up only location on August 3.** Residents who want to be tested for COVID-19 are encouraged to first call their doctor or call 2-1-1 to be connected to a provider. Visit <http://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/> to make an appointment at the MLK site or any of the other County-operated testing sites or to access additional resources.



We are sensitive to effects that this situation has had on individuals and their families, and we are grateful for the outpouring of support that we've seen from individual community members, CBOs, foundations and the business community in response to COVID-19. Even while social distancing, people have stepped up and shown human kindness to help others overcome this pandemic. With your help, we have been able to reach those who are most in need of testing, and we've also been able to provide thousands of meals to our students, staff and faculty volunteers at the site which also include LA County Fire and LA County MLK Outpatient Center staff.



We hope you will continue as an advocate and supporter of our role as pioneers in testing in medically under-resourced communities, as well as leaders in educating future health workers that will serve in similar communities with excellence and compassion. Like other private higher education institutions, we need support to meet the significant and mounting expenses that we have and will incur to continue providing an excellent and high quality education experience for our students online and to continue business operations remotely.



Monetary gifts can be given via text by sending "**CDREWU**" to **44321**.



Please stay tuned to CDU's COVID-19 efforts at: <https://www.cdrewu.edu/updates-covid-19>.



In The News



Hispanic Executive

[2020 Best of the Boardroom](#) (7/1/2020)

KCRW

[COVID-19 numbers are up again — to levels not seen since April](#)
(7/1/2020)

World Economic Forum

[This is the toll that everyday racism takes on black men in America](#)
(7/2/2020)

Los Angeles Sentinel

[CDU Report Highlights Needs for Underserved Communities During COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (7/2/2020)

Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

[First Of Its Kind Virtual Town Hall Addresses COVID-19 Racial Disparities](#) (7/2/2020)

Picante

[PROPOSITION 21! – CALIFORNIA RENT CONTROL BALLOT MEASURE NOW HEADS TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER AS CAMPAIGN ROLLS OUT 200+ ENDORSEMENT](#)
(7/2/2020)

Reel Urban News

[Dr. Sheila Young: Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science COVID-19 Testing Site Report](#) (7/7/2020)

Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

[MAYOR GARCETTI ENCOURAGES VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES TO GET TESTED FOR COVID-19](#) (7/8/2020)

LA Watts Times

[Los Angeles has escalated to 'Level Orange,' COVID-19 reaching Severe Spikes in Younger Demographics; Anthony Anderson Joins Mayor Garcetti in supporting Testing Site Staff](#) (7/9/2020)

Diverse Issues in Higher Education

[An Urgent Mission](#) (7/9/2020)

The Crisis Magazine

[Nation's four Black medical schools battle COVID-19](#) (7/9/2020)

Men's Health

[Hormone Hacking Is the Weight-Loss Secret You Don't Know](#)
(7/10/2020)

Diverse Issues in Higher Education

[Charles R. Drew U of Medicine and Science Trains Doctors to Tackle Healthcare Disparities](#) (7/17/2020)

BET

[Despite Wealth and Success, Discrimination And Depression Affect Black Men and Boys](#) (7/22/2020)

Associated Press

[California moves past NY, now tops in nation for virus cases](#)
(7/22/2020)

Black News Channel

[CDU's Dr. Rahn Bailey on Black News Channel talking about bi-polar disorder](#) (7/22/2020)

CNN

[CA Leads U.S. in Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, More than 440,000](#)
(7/25/2020)

Daily Breeze

[An anti-racist agenda for a more equitable LA County: Mark Ridley-Thomas](#) (7/28/2020)

ABC 7

[Ask the doctor: Submit your coronavirus questions](#) (7/28/2020)

Los Angeles Sentinel

[L.A. Care Announces New Group of Elevating the Safety Net Scholars](#)
(7/30/2020)



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