



# CDU News

## March 2019

### Future CDU Grads Maintain Tradition of Serving Underserved Communities on Match Day, Nearly Half Will Stay in L.A.

Twenty-two College of Medicine (COM) graduates joined their peers around the world when they learned where their paths would take them on Match Day, which took place on Friday, March 15. The top residency match for the class of 2019 were in primary care specialties, with 76% of students pursuing fields such as family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics. The remaining 24% will pursue sub-specialties such as emergency medicine, psychiatry and general surgery. Of all CDU students matched, 80% will complete their residencies in California, and nearly 50% will remain in Los Angeles County.

“A large percentage of our graduates have selected primary care specialties,” said COM dean Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD. “That is something that is extremely important to the state, as California is facing a serious shortage of primary care physicians. The shortage is even more acute in many underserved communities in L.A. County, so it’s also gratifying that so many of our students will stay local.”

CDU’s own residency programs in Psychiatry and Family Medicine welcomed a new cohort of future practitioners this year, with 14 slots in both programs being successfully filled (six for Psychiatry and eight for Family Medicine, respectively):

- **Family Medicine Residents:** Soraya Iman Boumediene, MD; John Joseph Corletto, MD; Felisha Janel Eugenio, MD; Issarekorn Glaewketgarn, MD; Jesse Gomez, MD, MPH; Ian Hao, MD; Lesly Victoria Martinez, MD, MBS, MPH; Won Seok Shin, MD
- **Psychiatry Residents:** Anum Baig, MD, MBA; Wyndy Bailey, MD; Anna Chen, MD; Viktoriya Figlina, DO; Jasmine Gray MD, MHS; John Isaac, MD, PhD, MA

Since the return of medical resident training to the University, and by extension the wider South Los Angeles community in July 2018, the programs have sought to turn out physicians who will practice in some of the most medically under-resourced communities of Los Angeles, including Service Planning Area (SPA) 6. The area continues to be federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area and/or a Medically Underserved Area by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration.

“Our first group of residents have already had an impact on the community, having served throughout SPA 6 and other communities in Los Angeles,” said Lisa Barkley, MD, director of the family medicine residency program. “We’re excited to continue growing and develop our program by welcoming our second group of residents.”

I’m very excited to have matched at CDU,” said Lesly Martinez, MD, an incoming resident in the Family Medicine training program. “The University’s mission statement resonates with me, and I look forward to completing my training here and giving back to the community.”

Match Day, considered to be a rite of passage for physicians-in-training, is the culmination of a process that begins in the fall when fourth-year medical students start applying to residency programs through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The NRMP expects this year’s Match to be the largest in history, exceeding the more than 43,000 applicants who registered for the 2018 Match and more than 33,000 positions offered last year.



# President's Message

## ***Greetings!***

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the Spring semester. From the Empowerment Congress in January to Match Day just a few weeks ago, it has been an action-packed year on our campus and we're showing no signs of slowing down yet.

Our seventh annual Legacy Leaders Spring Gala is quickly approaching, and this year we will honor Mr. Anthony Tiffith, CEO of Top Dawg Entertainment; Mr. Timothy Watkins, President/CEO of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee; and Dignity Health, our inaugural Corporate Honoree. We look forward to celebrating our honorees' contributions to the local community on April 18 at the Marina Del Rey Marriott, and we hope to see you there. If you haven't already, get your tickets [here](#), or on the CDU website.

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Earlier this month, I penned a piece in the Capitol Weekly titled, "Health Care Workforce Crisis: Need More Diversity, Access to Care," discussing the necessity of building a healthcare workforce that reflects the diversity of our population, and increased access to primary care.

In the article, I discuss the correlation of the health and satisfaction of California patients with the availability of access to high-quality primary care and healthcare providers who look and sound like them. Many studies show that patient compliance and health tends to be higher when working with providers who share their race, language, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religious views. These conditions mean that patients are more likely to go to the doctor on a regular basis, and are able to be diagnosed and treated for conditions before they worsen or become chronic.

Harkening back to last month's discussion at the President's Breakfast, we do ourselves a major disservice whenever we employ divisive tactics in any sector, particularly in academia and healthcare. In the words of keynote speaker, Julian Castro, if we want to compete competitively on any level in the 21st century, there is not a single person we can waste.

That's why the work we do here at CDU is so important. It's why the fact that 80% of our medical students have decided to remain in California to complete their residency training, and that nearly the same percentage will be pursuing

specialties in primary care, is such a big deal. We remain steadfast in our dedication to the principles upon which the University was founded in 1966, which is to recruit and train students from under-resourced communities of color to become healthcare professionals that will go out and provide culturally competent care and services to similar communities.

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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Before closing, I'd like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of an individual who believed in the betterment of his community and providing opportunities to those less fortunate, Nipsey Hussle. The rapper and community legend was tragically gunned down on March 31, in a neighborhood just minutes away from CDU. As we've seen from the outpouring of grief across the globe in recent days, his impact spanned far beyond the music industry - but the loss of Nipsey Hussle is felt most deeply and profoundly in South Los Angeles, and the neighborhoods he worked so diligently to uplift and improve.

There's been chaos and confusion throughout the city as the dust begins to settle from this tragedy. There have been calls from various elected officials for residents not to resort to violence as they process their grief, and I tend to agree. History has shown us that violence in our community is not the answer - let us continue Nipsey's vision of improving the communities we come from. I think that's what he would have wanted.

We send our sincere condolences and prayers to his family through these trying times.

David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD  
President & CEO

# Campus Life

## CDU Expands Access To Med-STEM Education with Green Dot MOU Signing



From left: Dr. David Carlisle, GPSDC's Ms. Leilani Abulon and Dr. Cristina de Jesus, and Dr. Steve Michael.

CDU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Green Dot Public Schools California (GPSDC, "Green Dot") on Tuesday, March 5. Aspects of this partnership will include, but are not limited to: the establishment of joint educational programs by the two institutions that will aid college preparation, as well as increase access and the likelihood of success for Green Dot students and graduates; targeted admission programs that guarantee priority admission to CDU for all qualified graduates of Green Dot public schools; and a framework for student exchange and collaboration among faculty and staff of CDU and Green Dot schools.

Additionally, CDU and Green Dot will collaborate to market annual hiring fairs to place qualified CDU graduates as teachers in Green Dot and establish concurrent enrollment coursework that provides college credits to Green Dot high school students taking A-G aligned coursework, which represents the basic level of academic preparation that high school students should achieve to undertake university work.

"Green Dot schools and CDU are connected in our approach of building relationships, providing a rigorous curriculum and engaging the communities we serve," said Leilani Abulon, Vice President of Curriculum and Programs at GPSDC. "We are proud to partner and increase access to the many programs here [at CDU]... we very much look forward to serving our students together."

The initiative is one of many pipeline programs spearheaded by CDU, as the University has entered into similar arrangements with other school districts and institutions in Los Angeles County.

## Career and Internship Fair Connects CDU Students, Alumni to Prospective Employment Opportunities

On March 14, the CDU Alumni Relations Unit and the Division of Student Affairs collaborated to host the Career and Internship Fair on the Cobb Lawn. CDU students and alumni were encouraged to bring updated resumes, as various organizations such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Cedars-Sinai and the Peace Corps were on campus to give more information about careers in health as well as conduct on-site interviews.

"I'm very hopeful that positive things will result from me attending today's career fair, and I'm appreciative to CDU for providing this opportunity," said Kaitlyn Forde, a student in the College of Science and Health's Nutrition Science and Food Systems program.

Career fairs are beneficial for both employers and students, as students gain the opportunity to network with a wide variety of employers and industries while local, regional and national organizations have the potential to recruit fresh young professionals to fill internship positions, as well as part-time and/or full-time employment opportunities.



# Campus Life

## Dyed, Fried and Laid to the Side: CDU Community Faculty Member Advocates for the Health of Black Women at Haynes Lecture Series



Janette Robinson-Flint (second from left) poses with King-Drew HS students.

Janette Robinson-Flint, Executive Director of Black Women For Wellness and a community faculty member at CDU, was this month's presenting lecturer for the M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series on March 26 in the Keck Auditorium. Robinson-Flint's presentation, entitled "Overexposed and Unprotected: The Health Status of Black Women and Girls," discussed the correlation of personal care product use, specifically hair care products, with poor health outcomes in Black women due to the chemicals present within them. Black Women For Wellness (BWWLA) is a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles that aims to expand healthcare access, reduce toxic chemicals that are prevalent in the Black hair care community and build political advocacy in California and beyond.

Robinson-Flint attributed these developments to the prevailing consensus in society that European beauty standards, such as light skin and straight hair, are the ideal. These standards, she argued, reinforce centuries of structural racism and the peril of trying to live up to these ideals extend far beyond economics and financials: Black women have reported declines in their physical, mental and emotional health as a result of trying to alter their physical appearance.

On any given day, the average person uses up to 26 personal care products on their body that cumulatively include roughly 180 chemicals. Black women spend \$8 billion annually on beauty products (80% more than other racial/ethnic groups), and studies have shown that women who use these products tend to have higher levels of chemicals in their bodies which lead to negative health outcomes including but not limited to uterine fibroids, pre-term birth, early puberty and breast cancer. She attributed this troubling trend to the lack of information available to consumers about alternative and safer products, as well as a potential lack of access to said alternatives.

"This is not a problem that we can shop our way out of," urged Robinson-Flint. She advocated for solutions such as a culture shift from European beauty standards, better policy, training, education/awareness of consumers and holding elected officials accountable.

On the policy front, BWWLA is working with state legislators to pass and enact the CA Toxic Fragrance Chemicals Right to Know Act of 2019 (also known as SB574), which will require manufacturers to fully disclose hazardous ingredients in fragrance and flavors used in cosmetics and personal care products.



## COM Class of 2019 Holds Annual Research Colloquium

The College of Medicine's (COM) Class of 2019 held their research colloquium on March 1 in the Keck Auditorium to demonstrate their comprehension of facts and ideas related to their chosen subject matter. Topics discussed included expanding access to reproductive health services, a review of diversity in the field of academic general surgery and how to improve the health care quality of homeless populations.

Additional photos from the presentations can be found [here](#), on or on the CDU SmugMug website.

# Campus Life

## Updates on Forthcoming Grand Entrance Project, Student Center

Immediately following the State of the University Address on October 9, 2018, key members of the CDU Board of Trustees, Executive Management Team and local officials officially broke ground on the site that will serve as the University's grand entrance facing 120<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as a dedicated student services facility.

CDU is working with construction firm CSA Architects for the student center and Anderson Barker Architects for the grand entrance facing 120<sup>th</sup> Street. The targeted completion dates for the Grand Entrance and Student Center are in July and August 2019, respectively.

The projects, which mark the University's first large-scale construction project since the completion of the Life Sciences Research and Nursing Education Building in 2010, will cost approximately \$6 million.

"The strategic plan outlined by CDU leadership in 2016 focuses on growing CDU's vision, mission, impact and student enrollment," said Carl McLaney, Vice President of Finance. "In order to do this, the University must build the requisite infrastructure to sustain the CDU strategic vision. This includes investment in administrative processes and systems in addition to the CDU physical plant."



## Highlights for the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing

Each month, CDU News will highlight various school and faculty accomplishments around campus. This month, we highlight the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON):

For the first time in the University's history, [MMDSON charted on the U.S. News & World Report's "Best Nursing Schools: Master's" list](#), ranking at #189. The School of Nursing's listing means it joins a class of universities such as Mount St. Mary's, University of California-Irvine and Arizona State University.

"The ranking of MMDSON in the U.S. News and World Report is a direct outcome of the implementation of the five year Strategic Plan initiated in 2016," said CDU Provost Dr. Steve Michael, who has worked diligently alongside Dr. Carlisle and CDU administration to cultivate a University focused on growth and providing quality education. "The challenge before us is to improve on the relevant ranking criteria to ensure our continued ascension up the ranking scale."

"Forty percent of voting for this ranking took place in the Fall 2018 semester by nursing school deans all over the country," said MMDSON dean Dr. Diane Breckenridge.

"My vision for the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing at CDU is to inform deans throughout the nation about how special our School of Nursing is."



On the faculty front, on March 7, MMDSON and Kaiser Permanente hosted the Nursing Faculty Development Consortium featuring Dr. Beverly Malone, Executive Director of the National League for Nursing. Dr. Malone, along with Dr. Breckenridge and Ms. Miyo Minato (pictured upper left), discussed what it means to strive for excellence and how to reach your goals. Affiliates with CDU attended this event to further network with faculty members and members of clinical facilities.

# Founding Mothers of CDU



In honor of Women's History Month, CDU is proud to honor the lives and legacies of five female trailblazers who were vital to the establishment of CDU and expanded medical services in South Los Angeles following the Watts Rebellion: Nola Carter, Caffie Greene, Mary Henry, Lillian Mobley and Johnnie Tillmon (collectively known as “the Mothers”).

After the 1965 Watts Rebellion, the McCone Commission report found that inadequate healthcare was a major factor for the civil unrest. All motivated by their love and concern for their community, Mothers Carter, Greene, Henry, Mobley and Tillman aligned to fight for a hospital and more extensive medical services for the citizens of South Los Angeles. The result was Martin Luther King Hospital and the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (later known as CDU), which opened doors for African Americans and other minorities to train in healthcare.

Although the Mothers were primarily regarded as prominent Los Angeles civil rights activists throughout their lives, their influence spanned far beyond the Southland:

- Mother Carter worked with the Neighborhood Adult Participation Program (NAPP), providing social services for homeless youths and later served as director of its Florence-Firestone Center until 1982. Shortly thereafter, she began working with the South Central Multipurpose Senior Citizen's Center (now the Lillian Mobley Multipurpose Center) as a volunteer providing needs for senior citizens.
- Mother Greene worked for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, helping to organize a local committee to build the Watts Health Foundation, which sponsored community health clinics.
- Mother Henry served on President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty task force, which created the national Head Start program.
- Mother Mobley was elected a delegate to the 1980 National Democratic Convention. One year later, she served as a delegate to the State Conference on Aging. She also served on CDU's Board of Trustees.
- Mother Tillmon became the first person to chair the National Welfare Rights Organization and later served as executive director, fighting for the welfare rights of people, particularly women and children.

The very existence of CDU is a testament to the leadership and courage of these five individuals. We are pleased to honor their lives and legacies this Women's History Month and for many more to come.

## 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*

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7th Annual  
**LEGACY LEADERS**  
*Spring*  
**Gala**



**Thursday, April 18, 2019**

Reception 6:00 p.m. | Dinner 7:00 p.m.

**Marina del Rey Marriott**

4100 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, California 90292

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

RSVP by April 8, 2019

[www.cdrewu.edu/springgala](http://www.cdrewu.edu/springgala)

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# Campus Life

## Dr. Carlisle Speaks at West Angeles C.O.G.I.C.

On September 11, 2018, CDU signed a unique memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement with West Angeles Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.) that solidified our commitment to educating West Angeles parishioners on careers in medicine and health. Fast forward to 2019, and both organizations have begun to initiate the terms of the agreement as key CDU representatives such as President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle, Provost Dr. Steve Michael, Chief Enrollment Management Officer Karen Jackson and other senior leaders of the University joined the West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. congregation on Sunday, March 10, to promote the University to West Angeles' parishioners.



"CDU is an ideal training ground for the young people of West Angeles who aspire to pursue careers as doctors, physician assistants and other careers in health and science," said Dr. Carlisle in his remarks to parishioners during service. "Young people need to go to a place where they are not only well-trained, but also embraced by people who know their journeys and understand them."

The MOU, which was the first to be established between the University and a religious organization, will establish scholarship initiatives for the parishioners that enroll at CDU and conduct workshops regarding federal and state financial aid eligibility requirements. In return, West Angeles leadership will promote and recommend CDU pipeline and college programs to the congregation.

## Leadership Updates Within Staff Management Council

The Staff Management Council (SMC) has recently undergone leadership changes, with April Walter-Brown, Office of Sponsored Programs, and Brittney Miller, Office of Strategic Advancement, serving as co-chairs of the entity. In their roles, they will attend Senior Leadership Group Meetings to advocate for staff and elevate concerns when appropriate.

Other members of SMC include Vernon Davis, Shamyia Floyd, Crystal Knight, Melanie Rodriguez and Jessica Sandoval. The committee will be tasked with proposing and planning morale building activities for staff and making recommendations relative to all new staff policies and procedures by administration.

The SMC was created in 2014 to unite staff and help advance the mission of the University. The entity is charged with building school spirit, addressing staff concerns and shaping the future of CDU. Those interested in joining SMC are encouraged to reach out to April Walter-Brown at (323) 563-5944 or AprilWalterBrown@cdrewu.edu or Brittney Miller at brittneymiller@cdrewu.edu or (323) 357-3681.

## CDU Event Calendar

- 4/15:** Opportunity Scholars Public Health Academy
- 4/18:** Legacy Leaders Spring Gala
- 4/26:** RN-BSN White Coat Ceremony
- 4/27:** Pre-PA Conference

[Click for more Calendar Items](#)

## CDU in the News March 2019

### UCLA Fielding School of Public Health

[The E. Richard Brown Symposium on Universal Health Care in California](#) (3/2/2019)

### The Compton Bulletin

[First Latino to Chair Charles Drew University Board](#) (3/6/2019)

### BusinessWire

[Atdalem Global Education Becomes First Higher Education Organization to Accept HBCU Caucus Partnership Challenge](#) (3/7/2019)

### Science Magazine

[The war on 'prediabetes' could be a boon for pharma—but is it good medicine?](#) (3/7/2019)

### Guru Observer

[Artis Woodward, MD, Anesthesiologist with his Private Practice](#) (3/9/2019)

### KFI AM

[The Truth about Healthcare in Los Angeles with Dr. David Carlisle, President and CEO of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science \(AUDIO\)](#) (3/11/2019)

### SCV News

[March 12: LA County Board of Supervisors Meeting](#) (3/12/2019)

### Medical Health News

[Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine](#) (3/13/2019)

### UCLA Newsroom

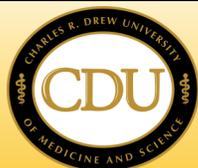
[Medical students open the envelopes to their futures on Match Day](#) (3/15/2019)

### Los Angeles Sentinel

[Nearly 80% of CDU's College of Medicine Class of 2019 Will Train—and Likely Practice—in California](#) (3/21/2019)

### Capitol Weekly

[Health care workforce crisis: Need more diversity, access to care](#) (3/22/2019)



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