On October 7, 2013, approximately 400 students, faculty, alumni, community members, health professionals and supporters came to CDU to hear President David M. Carlisle deliver his second State of the University of Address. In his remarks, titled “Believe in CDU”, Dr. Carlisle announced the new strategic plan, the university’s role in training health care professionals in underserved areas in light of the Affordable Care Act and the many reasons to believe in CDU. “It’s easy to believe in a private university with a very public mission—to educate our community today for a healthier tomorrow,” said Dr. Carlisle.

Some of the highlights included:

- A new strategic plan and vision: The strategic plan introduces a new vision statement, “Excellent health and wellness for all persons, peoples and communities, in a world without health disparities.”
- Commitment to primary care: 44% of last year’s College of Medicine graduating class matched into primary care specialties. In 2015, CDU will reintroduce the Physician Assistant Master’s program.
- Significant increase in student scholarships: The University was able to award $360,500 in scholarships to 60 students for the 2012-2013 school year. This amount represents an increase of more than $300,000 over the previous year.
- Pioneering new community approaches: Dr. Theodore Friedman introduced group medical appointments to treat a larger number of patients efficiently. Dr. Nina Harawa initiated MAALES — Men of African American Legacy Empowering Self—a successful, culturally tailored HIV prevention program targeted at bisexual African American men.
- Outstanding student community work: A student-driven initiative engaged 300 pre-and post-partum, Spanish speaking women in Los Angeles providing dietary education and support prior to delivery and nutritional and health monitoring for first 6 months of their babies’ lives.

“I was most impressed with Dr. Carlisle's statement of the University’s current strong financial footing. Drew's fiscal state and the positive accreditation status for all programs finally indicate a bright future for the University in achieving it’s Mission,” stated CDU alumnus Theodore Miller, MD ‘78.

While the state implements health care reform, CDU continues to train primary care physicians, advanced practice nurses, and other allied health professionals to meet new demand in underserved areas. The University will continue to align degree requirements in the context of
Alumni were on campus to attend the Charles R. Drew University and National Medical Fellowships Alumni & Friends Reception, “A Shared Mission”, on November 7th. The event was an opportunity to acknowledge the partnership between CDU and NMF. “CDU is fortunate to have NMF as an academic partner. Both organizations seek to improve access to care by training professionals who are diverse in background, in perspective, and to eliminate the disparities that persists in the provision of care” remarked Dr. Carlisle. CDU alumni who received an NMF scholarships were also recognized including Drs. Luis Ontiveros, ’06, Dana Scott, ’05, Arnold Savage, ’80 and Francisco Correa, ’00. “CDU is committed to a great cause. There is no better cause when it comes to healing mind and body of those seriously underserved”, stated Dr. Correa.

Over 100 alumni, faculty and friends visited CDU’s exhibit booth and attended the Annual Reception for Alumni, Faculty and Friends at the 2013 National Medical Association (NMA) Annual Convention and Scientific Symposium in Toronto, Ontario, Canada (July). It’s like a reunion”, stated alumnus Dr. Duane Washington. “This is where I get to see everybody.”
Alumni Spotlight

MAJ Carla M. Harris, PA-C, ‘94 (College of Science and Health) - Officer in Charge and Lead Provider, Ft. Dix, NJ, U.S. Army -Specialties: Orthopedics (Trauma/Surgery)

Carla Harris’ lifelong passion was to be in the military, but her parents insisted on a college education. After initially studying pre-med, she switched her major to focus on architecture. However, soon her interest in the medical field beckoned again and she enrolled at CDU. “My training at CDU was phenomenal,” says Harris. “It really prepared me for what I do now.” At CDU she trained at the King/Drew Medical Center as a Physician Assistant. “While working as a PA in Ortho Trauma, I saw some pretty serious injuries—similar to what I would have seen if I was doing field work in the military. I got so much experience working alongside the doctors and residents. If I were stationed in Iraq, I wouldn’t have been shocked.”

Harris also feels that CDU’s mission also assisted in her preparation. “Any student looking to make a medical school choice should look to CDU because you will experience more than you would at UCLA or other schools. You’ll see how to work with the underserved, you’ll learn how to work on your own—you’ll be prepared for the real world. Whatever you take on, you’ll be at the top of your profession.”

Humility is a cornerstone of Harris’ personality. Her greatest achievement is when a patient expresses their gratitude for being of service. “It can be difficult being a black female in the world,” concludes Harris. “Sometimes people don’t appreciate what you do for them. When a patient says ‘thank you,’ it means the world to me.”

Carole Jordan-Harris, MD, MS ‘83 (OB/GYN), received the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the Association of Black Women Physicians at their 32nd Annual Charity and Scholarship Benefit on November 2nd. In July, she was recognized by the Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. Sorority at their Centennial Anniversary, with a Community Impact Award. Both awards represent her years of worldwide medical outreach.

Lillie Hudson, MSPA, PA-C, MPH, ‘08 (College of Science and Health), traveled to La Romana, Dominican Republic on a medical mission trip with a team of 35 people from Los Angeles, California. During the 10-day medical mission trip they served over 1000 Haitian immigrants with medical care in several bateyes (sugarcane villages), one prison and aided in building an elementary school in Kilometer 6. Additionally, because of the generosity of Dolls of Hope, Lillie was able to go with a special gift in hand. Dolls of Hope provided over 30 beautiful, hand-crafted, one of a kind, unique dolls to the Haitian children. These special gifts will serve as a constant reminder that whether near or far there is love and care that extends borders to offer HOPE.

CDU is Proud of the Success and Achievements of our Alumni - We are looking for our next alumnus to feature as our "Alumni Spotlight." If you would like to be featured, send us an email at cdualumniassociation@cdrewu.edu. Is there a classmate you would like us to spotlight? Send us their information or ask them to contact us. We look forward to sharing your success with your CDU family.
Alumni Spotlight

Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth, MSN, ‘13 (School of Nursing), and classmate Meredith Mead, MSN, ’13 awarded a Mission Maker Mini Grant (Spring 2013) to continue their work at the Greater Los Angeles Lactation Outreach Project. The initiative engages 300 pre-and post-partum, Spanish speaking women in Los Angeles by providing dietary education and support prior to delivery and nutritional and health monitoring for the first 6 months of their babies’ lives.

Congratulations to School of Nursing Alumni Stephanie Pavon, MSN, ‘13, Sharon Cobb, MSN, ‘13, and Hafifa Siddiq, MSN, ‘13 admitted to PhD programs this year.

Announcements

Accreditation - In 2011 the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) granted CDU accreditation through 2018. This year WASC recognized CDU specifically for the substantial financial progress we made. WASC commended CDU “for a singularly direct and accurate portrayal of the financial condition of the institution.”

Radiologic Technology Program Receives Maximum Accreditation Term - The Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) granted the College of Science and Health’s Radiologic Technology Program accreditation for a period of eight years. This is the maximum duration that may be awarded by the JRCERT.

CDU Adopts New Vision Statement, Values and Revises Mission Statement

“Excellent health and wellness for all persons, peoples and communities, in a world without health disparities”

After developing a three-year strategic plan, CDU has adopted vision and mission statements and a set of core values that supports CDU’s commitment to strive to improve the health status of underserved communities. The University has—for the first time—developed a Vision Statement: “Excellent health and wellness for all persons, peoples and communities, in a world without health disparities.” The establishment of a set of values featured an extensive representation from multiple stakeholders. Working together, a group of over 72 students, faculty, staff, management, community, and board representatives developed a set of ten values: excellence, compassion, integrity, service, innovation, accountability, diversity, legacy, community and leadership. A revised mission statement, “The University develops a diverse group of health professional leaders who seek social justice, promote wellness, provide care with excellence and compassion, and are uniquely qualified to transform the health of underserved populations through outstanding education, research, and clinical services in the context of community engagement”, underscores the vision and values and further clarifies the University’s commitment and the reason it continues to exist. Commenting on the statements, Dr. Carlisle remarked, “I believe this beautifully encapsulates our ‘why,’” the reason we’re all here.”

Read full text of Strategic Plan

A Message to CDU Resident Alumni (Residents from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Hospital Training Programs)

As you may be aware, MLK Jr. Hospital was the training site for all our residency programs, but it was not the educational sponsor. You completed your residency training through the CDU College of Medicine Program. A point of fact, all verifications of residency training are provided by the University (not MLK). Accordingly, MLK has no alumni association. As an alumnus of CDU we can assist you with your residency verifications. For more information contact the Graduate Medical Education Office at (323) 357-3671. Or, visit the College of Medicine webpage - click on Graduate Medical Education - on the University’s website.
Join us on December 3rd for #Giving Tuesday. #Giving Tuesday is a national day of giving and will serve as the official launch of the CDU Annual Campaign – “Mission Maker”. Every year, alumni, staff, faculty and friends support our University by giving to the CDU Annual Campaign. Mission Makers are friends and supporters of CDU who believe in our mission and have made a contribution to ensure our success. As a Mission Maker, you too can help CDU to continue to produce well-trained healthcare providers who will serve those in need. As you know CDU is dedicated to offering excellence in health professional education, research, and in training physicians and health care providers to meet the needs of underserved and under-resourced communities.

Donations from the annual campaign support the Mission Maker Mini-Grant Program which provide project support for programs like:
- The Greater Los Angeles Lactation Outreach Project
- Farmers’ Market
- SAT Prep Outreach and Mentorship Program
- Public Health Skills Workshop Series

With your help, we can reach our goal of 100% participation! Also, if your company provides a Matching Gift Program, please let us know. Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes a differences and helps us to continue to train tomorrow’s health care leaders today. Click here to donate today! Thank you.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS - #Giving Tuesday Phone-a-thon. Alumni are needed to help with our #Giving Tuesday Phone-a-thon. The phone-a-thon will be held on December 3rd from 9:00 am –7:00 pm at CDU. Please consider giving one or two hours of your time to encourage others to support our Annual Fund campaign. Click here for more information and to sign up.
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CDU Mission
The University develops a diverse group of health professional leaders who seek social justice, promote wellness, provide care with excellence and compassion, and are uniquely qualified to transform the health of underserved populations through outstanding education, research, and clinical services in the context of community engagement.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
Twitter.com/cdrewu
Also, join the CDU Alumni Association LinkedIn group

If would like to submit an article or information for the Alumni Newsletter, please email: cdualumniassociation@cdrewu.edu

Are You Connected?

Charles Drew University Alumni Association (CDUAA)—All graduates of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (including Residents from the KDMC Training Programs) are members of the CDU Alumni Association. Honorary alumni include honorary degree recipients, former faculty and supporters. Register for chapter membership (College of Medicine, College of Science and Health and Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing) at www.cdrewu.edu - Click on Alumni.

Support for the CDU Alumni Association—As a supporter of the CDU Alumni Association and its affiliate chapters you have the satisfaction of knowing your financial support is making a difference in our ability to enhance the educational experience and promote the institutional advancement of CDU. Visit https://donate.cdrewu.edu/scholarships_2.asp for information on how to make a donation to the College of Medicine Alumni Association’s 1,000 x $1,000 Fund; Albert J. Saunders, Sr. College of Science and Health Scholarship Fund; Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing; Dr. Gloria J. McNeal Founding Dean Fund; The Mrs. Lillian Hankless Mobley Presidential Endowed Scholarship Fund and Mission Maker. Thank you in advance for your support!

CDU has earned designation as a minority-serving institution by the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, and its College of Medicine is recognized by the Department of Education as a Historically Black Graduate Institution. The University is also a charter member of the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools.