



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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“...the line of progress is never straight. For a period, a movement may follow a straight line and then it encounters obstacles and the path bends. It is like curving around a mountain when you’re approaching a city.”

– The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose likeness adorns the wall of our Keck Building on campus, wrote that line and that book, a series of essays on the Civil Rights movement, while holed up by himself, without a phone, in Jamaica, in the mid-1960s. It was a time for him to take stock and reflect upon the drive for equality and social justice that he had led for over a decade. When he emerged and this book was published, Dr. King was energized with purpose, clarity—and most of all, hope—for the all-too-short remainder of his life.

Brilliant as he was and having overcome as much as he had, he doubtless knew that “the line of progress is never straight.” But when we are caught up in the moment of a movement or a drive toward a larger goal, as Dr. King was, we can momentarily lose perspective, especially as we encounter obstacles. We often need to take a step back and recalibrate our approach before moving forward again.

I believe it's likely Dr. King would not have had that level of clarity had he not retreated to reflect upon his life, his mission and the steps he had taken toward eradicating poverty and injustice.

We at CDU find ourselves emerging from a time of reflection. After a period of growth that is rapidly moving us towards nearly 1,000 students with an increasing array of undergraduate programs, we are approaching completion of our Five-Year Strategic Plan. Now, we are recommitting to our Mission and our Vision in the same way that Dr. King returned from Jamaica realizing his cause was just and noble and his path was correct. He knew he had to “stay the course” that he had plotted ... and we realize that we, too, must “stay the course” for now.

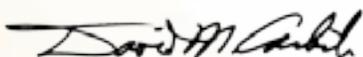
That “course” includes the steps that we've been preparing for, all of which are prudent and completely in line with our Mission:

- We are starting a new strategic planning process.
- We are continuing to expand our degree programs to attract more undergraduates.
- We are building on campus, with a new grand entrance and a new student center already completed, and a new Master Plan.
- We are planning for the achievement of a long-held dream: a four-year, independent CDU medical degree, and a new health professions education school building on campus.

According to Merriam-Webster, “staying the course” means “to continue with a process, effort, etc., even though it is difficult.” It was a phrase often associated with overcoming rough seas on nautical voyages.

We at CDU have overcome many difficult situations in our 53 years, some of which were threats to our very existence. But we have never wavered from the belief that our cause is just and noble, and our path is correct.

Thus, in 2020, we will stay the course. It's the right place for us at this time in our evolution. Please enjoy the many accomplishments of CDU chronicled in this year's annual report.



David M. Carlisle, MD, PhD  
President and CEO

COMMENCEMENT 2019

STAY THE COURSE



Areva Martin, Esq.  
delivered an  
inspiring keynote  
address.





Real Men Cook Foundation founder Fred Parrott presents CDU with a scholarship endowment

CDU held its 35th annual Commencement ceremony at the Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson on June 3, 2019, conferring 320 degrees and certificates upon the Class of 2019. Noted attorney, philanthropist and television commentator Areva Martin, Esq., delivered an inspiring keynote address, sharing her journey of how she catapulted herself from humble beginnings in urban St. Louis, Mo., to becoming a respected force in law, entertainment and special needs advocacy.



Mirion Bowers, MD, receiving the President's Award



Fred Parrott, MD, receiving the President's Award

Jann Tuzon (School of Nursing) was the student speaker at this year's ceremony, encouraging her classmates to have confidence in themselves and the training they've received during their tenure at CDU. "We have been through several lectures, clinicals and simulations related to our profession to the extent that we are confident to say we are ready to do all it takes to ensure that our patients are, in fact, in our capable and good hands," she said.

Mirion Bowers, MD, and Fred D. Parrott, MD, each received the President's Award, which recognizes extraordinary service to CDU by a member of the University community who has performed with excellence in his or her profession. Dr. Bowers was recognized for his efforts in expanding opportunities for minorities to practice otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat specialty), while Dr. Parrott was honored for his efforts in increasing the number of minority health care providers by awarding scholarships to students attending Historically Black College and University medical schools in the United States.



Cornelius Hopper, MD, receiving the an honorary doctoral degree

Cornelius Hopper, MD, was awarded an honorary doctoral degree for his contributions to society as a highly accomplished physician and public health leader, as well as for his service as trustee emeritus on CDU's Board of Trustees. Honorary degrees are awarded to individuals based on their intellectual and humane values that are consistent with the aims of the University's mission and higher education.



Jann Tuzon (Schools of Nursing) was the student speaker

**Historic Partnerships and Agreements** – CDU signed Memoranda of Understanding with West Angeles Church of God in Christ (C.O.G.I.C.), Ross University School of Medicine (RUSM), AltaMed and Green Dot Public Schools California, as part of continued growth efforts. The signings with West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. and RUSM marked CDU's first official agreements with a religious organization and international higher education institution, respectively. With these signings, these institutions join a number of other local school districts, private schools and community colleges that have MOUs with CDU, including: Southwest College, Compton College, LAUSD-West, LAUSD-South, Lynwood Unified, Compton Unified, Verbum Dei High School and West Los Angeles College.



*From left, CDU's Dr. Michael and Dr. Carlisle, with West Angeles C.O.G.I.C. leadership.*

In February 2019, CDU also formalized an agreement with AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA) Health to jointly open and operate a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) clinic on the CDU campus. APLA Health is a nonprofit dedicated to achieving health care equity and well-being for the LGBTQ and other underserved communities and people living with and affected by HIV. The building, slated to open in 2020, will also include a new CDU Wellness Center, where students and faculty can receive medical care.

**Accreditation Achievements** – The **California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals (CCAPP)** renewed CDU as an approved school in November 2018 through its Bachelor of Science in Psychology with an emphasis in Community Counseling degree program. The 120 credit-hour undergraduate degree program provides students the option of completing a field placement in a substance abuse agency, and combined with the coursework, students are eligible to apply for California credentialing as a substance abuse counselor through CCAPP. CCAPP is the largest consortium of community-based treatment agencies and professionals in California. It is recognized by the California Department of Health Care Services as an accredited organization and can register as well as certify alcohol and drug counselors in California.

In June 2019, **WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC)** awarded interim approval for the start of a new Bachelor of Science degree program in Psychology with an emphasis on community counseling.

The **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)** reaffirmed continued accreditation of CDU for it to continue offering graduate medical education programs. The 10-year reaffirmation is in effect until 2029.

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health degree received accreditation through December 2024 from the **Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)**, as part of the Masters of Public Health program.

CDU's Department of Research received full accreditation from the **Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC)**. The accreditation demonstrates CDU's proficiency in the ethical scientific use and research of lab animals, as well as their overall well-being.



*From left, CDU's Dr. Michael and Dr. Carlisle with Ross University School of Medicine leadership.*

## FACULTY/STAFF

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Omolola Ogunyemi, PhD, Director of CDU's Center for Biomedical Informatics was elected President of the Academic Senate at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) for the 2018–2020 term.




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




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Drs. Magda Shaheen and Thomas Magee were honored with the Outstanding Service and Outstanding Teaching awards, respectively, during the sixth annual faculty awards on May 29, 2019. Dr. Jay Vagdama (*not pictured*) also received the Outstanding Faculty Award during the event.




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Nicola (Nikki) Martin was named Director of Human Resources in December 2018.




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Aaron Weathersby was named Chief Information Officer in October 2018.




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Elizabeth Baskerville joined CDU in May 2019 as Chief Financial Officer.





## UNITING STAFF

**Staff Management Council** - The Staff Management Council (SMC) was created in 2014 to unite staff by building school spirit, addressing staff concerns and shaping the future of CDU. The entity regularly conducts staff town hall meetings to address staff concerns and conducts morale-boosting programming such as professional development workshops, monthly birthday celebrations, wellness fairs and holiday events. April Walter-Brown, Post Award Manager, Office of Sponsored Programs; and Brittney Miller, Manager of Alumni Relations and Corporate Giving, Office of Strategic Advancement, serves as co-chairs of the entity and attend Senior Leadership Group Meetings to advocate for staff and elevate concerns when appropriate.

Other members of SMC include Vernon Davis, Accounting Manager, Finance; Shamyia Floyd, Enrollment Specialist; Crystal Knight, Administrative Assistant in the Office of the President; Melanie Rodriguez, Program Manager, Academic Senate; and Jessica Sandoval, Student Success Coordinator in the Division of Student Affairs. The committee will be tasked with proposing and planning morale building activities for staff including training, and making recommendations relative to all new staff policies and procedures by administration. Those interested in joining SMC are encouraged to reach out to April Walter-Brown at (323) 563-5944 or [AprilWalterBrown@cdrewu.edu](mailto:AprilWalterBrown@cdrewu.edu) or Brittney Miller at [brittneymiller@cdrewu.edu](mailto:brittneymiller@cdrewu.edu) or (323) 357-3681.

**Power to Heal** - CDU hosted a screening for 'Power to Heal: Medicare and the Civil Rights Movement,' a documentary by Barbara Berney, on July 31, 2018, in the Keck Auditorium as part of the University's M. Alfred Haynes Lecture Series. The hour-long public television film details the story of the struggle to secure equal and adequate access to healthcare for all Americans. Narrated by Danny Glover, the film illustrates how Civil Rights Movement leaders and grassroots activists advocated for and collaborated with the federal government to achieve justice and fairness for African-Americans via the desegregation of healthcare.



Director Charles Burnett and film's creator Barbara Berney with President Carlisle

The film featured commentary from prominent figures in CDU's history, such as former dean and U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher and Sylvania Drew Ivie, daughter of Dr. Charles Drew and current special assistant to current President Carlisle. A Q&A session moderated by Sylvania immediately followed the screening, and the audience was able to

engage directly with the film's creator, Barbara Berney, and director Charles Burnett.



**State of the University 2018** – With the theme of “Breaking New Ground,” CDU President and CEO David M. Carlisle issued his seventh annual “State of the University” address on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, on the lawn in front of the Keck Building.



Dr. Carlisle's address detailed such high points as the return of Graduate Medical Education to CDU, two new degrees for Fall 2018 (MS-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and BS-Nutrition Science and Food Systems) and the renewal of the University's accreditation for 10 years by the WASC Senior College and University Commission. Progress was a strong theme throughout the spirited 18-minute address, as Dr. Carlisle acknowledged the adversity the University had experienced throughout its history and how those trials enabled it “[to become] stronger and, for the first time in a long

time, we're able to plan for a future that [seems] certain,” he said. Further, he emphasized that though CDU has made many positive strides in the last decade, it was essential to not become complacent. “Academically, financially and physically, this university must once again push the boundaries of what others—and what we ourselves—believe to be possible,” Dr. Carlisle said.

Immediately following his address, key members of the CDU Board of Trustees, Executive Management Team and local officials broke ground on the site that now serves as the University's grand entrance facing 120<sup>th</sup> Street, as well as a dedicated student services facility. CDU worked with construction firm CSA Architects for the Student Center and Anderson Barker Architects for the grand entrance.

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, 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

## ADMINISTRATION



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Administration and Infrastructure. "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."

Said Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, a longtime supporter of the CDU mission: "It's been a tremendous partnership working with [CDU] as they upgrade their facilities to match the quality and caliber of instruction they are providing to students. With this groundbreaking, we're not just moving dirt, but building a new grand entrance that will serve as a true front door to [CDU] and all that it has to offer."



**President's Breakfast** - Julián Castro, 2020 Democratic presidential candidate and former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama, delivered an inspiring keynote address at CDU's fourth annual President's Breakfast on Tuesday, February 19, 2019, at the Marina Del Ray Marriott. Following his address, he joined a panel of leaders from academia, business and healthcare for a dialogue on this year's topic: Diversity in Higher Education: Race Matters.

The panel discussion was moderated by CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle and included Wendy Garen, President and CEO of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation; Wm. Jahmal Miller, MHA, DHL, Director of Corporate Reputation and Thought Leadership at Blue Shield of California; Francisco Rodríguez, PhD, Chancellor of the Los Angeles Community College District; and Maria Salinas,



President and CEO of the LA Area Chamber of Commerce. In his address, Secretary Castro noted the tremendous competition that the United States faces and the importance of providing access to education to all, beginning at the pre-K ages. "The U.S. needs well-educated people now more than at any time in our history," he said. "If we want to compete in the 21st century, there's not a single person we can waste."



The discussion included a dynamic Q&A session, with panelists fielding questions on how to close the employment gap for younger populations, and how businesses and philanthropic organizations can more effectively collaborate with higher education institutions to ensure the development of a diverse workforce prepared to meet the needs of a changing national landscape.



**CDU Team Travels to State Capitol to Advocate for Increased Support**

- Seven students and alumni made the excursion to the California State Capitol in Sacramento, along with CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle and Senior Vice President of Strategic Advancement and Development Angela Minniefield, on May 9 to appeal for an increase of up to \$15 million in the annual appropriation of general funds to CDU through Senate Bill 1026, or “the Dymally Bill.”

The students were Sana Abbasi (COSH), Dr. Jazmyn Childress (SON), Rasheed Ivey (COM), Maria Kemp (COSH), Abdu Mahmoud (COSH), Adrienne Martinez (SON) and Perla Salvador (COSH).



When SB 1026 was ratified by Governor Ronald Regan in 1973, \$1.2 million was

allocated to the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School (now CDU) from the General Fund to the University of California to develop a program of clinical health sciences education, research and public service initiatives alongside UCLA.

While support from the General Fund to CDU has been ongoing since then, the amount has not kept pace with inflation.

In the nearly five decades since the bill was signed, the University's enrollment and profile has shot up significantly, from approximately 90 students enrolled in 1974 to over 750 students in 2019. Dr. Carlisle noted this fact during the hearing and added that the increase in



funding would be "commensurate with the University's growth and its longstanding ability to increase the diversity of California's health professionals." An increase in capital is pertinent to CDU's continued success as it continues to accomplish the goals set by the growth phase of the University's five-year strategic plan. Contingent upon the state's approval of the increase, the University would begin using the resources to develop new student housing, increase campus development through real estate acquisitions and plan a four year medical education program.



**JAN CHALFANT**

Jan Chalfant was executive assistant to Vice President of Administration and Infrastructure Carl McLaney. She was a member of the CDU Family for just over four years, and was well-liked and well-respected by all who knew her. We appreciate the light she shined during her time here, and she will be missed tremendously.



**LORETTA JONES, THD, MA**

Dr. Loretta Jones, one of the founding members of the CDU community faculty, passed away on Thanksgiving Day 2018. As the founder/CEO of Healthy African American Families, Phase II (HAAF-II) and a noted "community gatekeeper," she dedicated her life to instilling hope and healing in communities and society-at-large, with a career as a civil rights activist, health policy advocate and social architect that spanned more than four decades. In an effort to establish equity for all people, Dr. Jones continued her unyielding commitment as a change agent, working to eliminate disparities in health and improve community development.



**THEODORE QUINCY MILLER, MD**

Dr. Miller was a Professor in the College of Medicine, Department of Radiology, and Associate Dean of Medical Student Affairs. During the 1981-1982 school year, as an Assistant Professor at Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, Dr. Miller was cited for his excellence in management of the Diagnostic Radiology Service and received an Outstanding Teaching Award in Radiology.



**WILLIAM SPEIGHT, MD**

Dr. Speight was an assistant professor in the College of Medicine's Department of Emergency Medicine. He was a pioneer in emergency medicine, having practiced in the specialty for over 45 years. He provided emergency care to the citizens of South Los Angeles long before it was a recognized specialty, and prior to the development of designated trauma centers and a sophisticated EMS system.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### CDU Hosts Gun Violence Forum

In light of the tragic mass shooting that took place in nearby Thousand Oaks in November 2018, Dr. Carlisle, College of Medicine Dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith and others led a discussion in the Keck Auditorium on November 13, 2018, on the implications that mass shootings have on college campuses and the nation as a whole.

Acknowledging the sensitivity of the subject matter, Dr. Carlisle stated that the dialogue was “disheartening but important,” as mass shootings have become “too often an occurrence in our country,” he said. California is uniquely impacted by mass shootings in the United States, as the state leads in the number of victims who have suffered from mass violence.

“Gun violence is a problem in the United States that we don’t have to have, and what we do [policy-wise] matters,” said Dr. Prothrow-Stith, a nationally recognized authority on gun violence as a public health matter. She explained that tragedies such as what happened in Thousand Oaks now occur so frequently that they reinforce the need to improve both our immediate responses and strengthen our firearm policies, and cited the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban (which has since been allowed to expire) for appearing to decrease the number of people killed per episode of a mass shooting.

Armando Estrada, Director of Risk Management and Safety, concluded the discussion with a thorough overview of on-campus safety measures and CDU’s plan for active shooter situations.

### CDUSG Corrals Campus Community to Support Relief Efforts For Members of Migrant Caravan

After seeing the migrant caravan episode unfold in media reports, former CDUSG president Sana Abbasi felt compelled to issue a call to the CDU community to donate products and help assemble hygiene kits for members in the caravan. The CDU community answered, and starting from December 6 to December 9, 2018, students and faculty from all three schools, as well as staff and outside donors assembled nearly 200 hygiene kits consisting of toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, hand sanitizer, towels and wipes. The packages were then shipped to Mexico the following weekend with trusted physicians and medical volunteers to be distributed.

“It is days like this that make me feel like we are living up to our mission and promises of giving back to the underserved,” said Abbasi, a staunch advocate of social justice and equity for all. She expressed her gratitude to all who participated in the effort, adding, “We do not need to agree on politics, religion, sports or perspectives. What we can agree on is humanity, and that cannot be taught or learned.”

### Sylvia Drew Ivie Receives Community Award

Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD, special assistant to the President, was honored with the “Women Warriors Working in Watts” award at the 53rd annual Watts Christmas Parade breakfast on December 8, 2018. The award, formerly called the “Edna Aliewine Award,” is bestowed upon individuals who have devoted their lives to



Congresswoman Maxine Waters with Sylvia Drew Ivie, JD as she receives the “Women Warriors Working in Watts” award

STAY THE COURSE



doing outstanding work in the Watts Community. It is named after the late community legend, who began the Watts Christmas Parade in 1964 and was devoted to “creating focal points of civic pride” in the community.

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

Over 1,200 people came to the campus of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science on January 20, 2019, for



the 27th Annual Empowerment Congress Summit, a civic event designed to “educate, engage and empower” the citizens of LA County. For that day, 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; 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.”

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

The CDU community had the opportunity to march in the 34th 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 90th birthday.

### President & CEO of L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce Makes a Stop at CDU

María Salinas, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, visited the CDU campus on April 3, 2019, for a discussion with CDU President and CEO Dr. David Carlisle on the importance of diversity in business, healthcare and education. Dr. Carlisle spoke on the role of the University, a member of the Chamber, in supporting the growing health workforce pipeline; while Mrs. Salinas discussed the importance of people being equipped with a solid education as they prepare to enter the workforce.



“It is with deep gratitude that I come to CDU today,” said Salinas, who visited the University as part of the Chamber’s yearlong “L.A. Connects: Inspiring and connecting leaders for impact” listening tour across the region. As part of the tour, Salinas has emphasized the Chamber’s interactions with business organizations throughout Los Angeles, particularly in areas

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

not traditionally thought of as “business centers,” such as South Los Angeles.

Dr. Carlisle briefly discussed the correlation between economics and healthcare, before delving into the impact that CDU's growth in recent years has meant to the economic health of the community it serves. “Our students reflect the communities around us,” Dr. Carlisle stated before noting that since 1966, the University has graduated over 7,000 healthcare professionals who are more likely to serve in under-resourced areas and practice in specialties such as primary care. In doing this, CDU directly helps to increase access to professionals that deliver culturally appropriate care and will, in turn, make patients feel more empowered in discussing and managing their health with their provider. “Our chamber is unique in that it views education as an integral part of the business model,” Salinas said. Mrs. Salinas and Dr. Carlisle ruminated on ways that the University and the Chamber could partner to ensure that both organizations were synergistic in their approaches to ensuring access to quality education, before fielding suggestions from attendees on ways to advance economic wellness across the region.

**National HIV Testing Day Event** – The Charles R. Drew University/OASIS Clinic hosted its 18th annual National HIV Testing Day event on Thursday, June 27, 2019. The free outdoor event

featured entertainment with KJLH Radio, food, raffles, health information and confidential HIV testing. As leaders in addressing healthcare disparities in underserved communities, the Charles R. Drew University/OASIS Clinic strives to empower members of the local community to take control of their health through this event by getting tested and educating themselves on the importance of knowing their HIV status.

## Pipeline Programs

### L.A. Parent Magazine

K-12 students from the renowned Saturday Science Academy-II pipeline program were featured on the cover of Education L.A., the annual education guide published by LA Parent magazine, in September 2018. The program was also highlighted in the publication's feature article, “The Many Faces of STEM.”



### Junior White Coat Ceremony

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, CDU's Saturday Science Academy-II (SSA-II) issued 78 future health practitioners their first white coats at the 19th 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.”

Extending the Pipeline: With the ongoing lack of diversity in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences workforces, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU)





is collaborating with high schools in the local community to implement research programs throughout the school year and during the summer in order to increase the number of underrepresented students pursuing careers in these fields through exposure to research training and education.

During the 2017-2018 academic school year, 18 students from King/Drew Medical Magnet High School (KDMHS) participated in the KDMHS Medical Careers Program (MCP), which holds the goal of inspiring students to pursue careers in traditionally underrepresented fields of medicine and science by exposing them to careers and other opportunities within these fields. Students worked alongside CDU faculty to conduct research and met with their research mentors once a week. In May 2018, the students displayed their research projects in a Poster Presentation during the 2018 King/Drew Medical Careers Symposium.

During this time, 11th grade students were also recruited from local schools, including (but not limited to) KDMHS, Verbum Dei High School, New Design Charter School, Dominguez High School, Jordan High School, Synergy Charter Academies and Dymally High School, to participate in the Doris Duke Foundation Project STRIDE I Program and the Urban Health Institute Summer Research Academy. Additionally, two alumni from the Project STRIDE I Program participated in the Project STRIDE II Program for undergraduate students.

At the end of the summer research training, all students submitted an abstract and presented their projects during a Judged Poster Session on Wednesday, August 1, 2018. Additionally, a select group of students were able to present their research projects at the 2018 Summer Research Symposium at CDU.

## Jazz at Drew 2018



Nearly 1,500 jazz aficionados from all over Southern California enjoyed a day of incomparable music, food and networking opportunities at the 2018 Jazz at Drew concert on Saturday, October 6, 2018. The all-day outdoor festival took place on the campus of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) in South Los Angeles and featured exciting performances from the legendary S.O.S. Band, Miki Howard, SoCal favorite DW3, Latin jazz pioneer Pete Escovedo Orchestra, fusion trio Jazz Funk Soul featuring Jeff Lorber, Paul Jackson, Jr., and Everette Harp and The Crusaders – A Tribute featuring Joel Gaines, Reggie Young, Brian Price and Ronald Taylor. Platinum-award winning R&B group After 7 closed the show with an ultimate mix of their most popular tunes as well as popular contemporary music of the decade.

Tickets to Jazz at Drew not only secured customers a seat to the show, but also status as donors and supports of CDU. Proceeds from Jazz at Drew go towards enriching the CDU experience for students by funding University scholarships and pipeline programs, including the renowned Saturday Academy-II.



## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



**Diplomats on Global Health** – Danielle De Bruyn, Consul General for South Africa in Los Angeles, and Cadrin Gill, MD, honorary consul general of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Los Angeles, visited CDU in October 2018 and April 2019, respectively, to share information about their countries and initiate partnerships/linkages with CDU. The purpose of the Diplomats in Global Health Series is to challenge attendees to think globally and act “glocally” as they forge ahead in their journeys in the health profession – that is, to begin thinking about the correlation of local and international communities in addressing health disparities.



**CDU Welcomes First Lady of Zambia** - Her Excellency, Mrs. Esther Lungu, First Lady of Zambia, visited the CDU campus on Monday, January 28, 2019, 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.





**CDU Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic –**

From June 15-30, 2019, a group of twelve CDU students, faculty and staff traveled throughout the La Romana region of the Dominican Republic on a dynamic medical mission trip with the La Crescenta Presbyterian Church and the Light a Candle Foundation. Each day, the team traveled to new sites to set up a clinic with health education stations in local churches located in barrios (neighborhoods) and bateyes (settlements near sugar mills) that lacked running water and electricity. In 15 days, the medical team were able to serve a total of 1013 patients via 11 mobile clinics and health education stations!

This was CDU's inaugural trip to the Dominican Republic, and the University plans to collaborate with the Light a Candle Foundation for future trips. CDU is committed to supporting their research, as well as their efforts to provide evidence-based preventative care and treatment to the underserved communities living in the Dominican bateyes with dignity, respect and compassion.



*Led by Dr. Lejeune Lockett, CDU students spent 15 days in the Dominican Republic.*

# STAY THE COURSE

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

**Students Awarded \$1.3 Million in Scholarships from L.A. Care Health Plan:** Four incoming CDU students from the College of Medicine were honored and awarded full medical school scholarships totaling over \$1.3 million during L.A. Care's "Elevating the Safety Net" launch event on July 19 in Downtown Los Angeles. Felipe Ocampo, Micaela Torres, Yesenia Calderon Leon and Parris Diaz each received scholarships of just over \$315,000 and were selected based on financial need as well as their expressed desire to serve vulnerable populations. Four UCLA students also received full scholarships during the event.

College of Medicine Dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith spoke of the impact that L.A. Care's investment would have on not only the students, but the CDU community as a whole as it forges ahead on its

mission to provide excellent training to under-resourced populations. Scholarship recipient Felipe Ocampo spoke of how his humble beginnings with family in Central California inspired him to pursue a career in health, and more specifically, to serve as a practitioner in vulnerable communities.

Bolstered by \$31 million in funding from its Board of Governors, L.A. Care launched its "Elevating the Safety Net" initiative to recruit highly-qualified primary care physicians to the Los Angeles County safety net – facilities and practices that serve the uninsured, Medi-Cal members and other populations. The initiative was prompted in part by a University of California San Francisco study stating that California faces a shortage of 8,800 primary care physicians by 2030.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



CDU's scholarship recipients Yesenia Calderon, Parris Diaz, Micaela Torres and Felipe Ocampo with Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and UCLA scholarship recipients.



## STUDENT PROFILE

### Wyatt Smith



Wyatt Smith is a student in the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of Notre Dame in 2015, earning a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Smith is currently completing an evaluation of a

special mobile eye clinic for homeless patients and their related eye care (ophthalmology) issues. He decided to conduct this research after noticing that homeless populations were severely understudied and their issues related to eye care were becoming more prevalent. He will present his findings at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2020 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. He is also conducting an epidemiological study on blindness among African Americans living in California.

Mr. Smith was inspired to pursue medicine very early in his life. A native of New Orleans, he witnessed the devastating impact and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina firsthand at 12 years old. Hurricanes are common in the southern United States, so when the storm initially hit, Smith's family prepared as they normally would by packing supplies and heading to a nearby hospital for shelter. He woke up the next day to discover that they were stuck inside due to severe flooding. "We were trapped in that hospital for five days," he explained. "It was a very formative experience for me. I was extremely inspired by the doctors working double and triple overtime to care for these patients, [using] generators because we'd lost

power. I idolized those physicians in that moment, and I wanted to use my affinity for science to be a leader in communities and have an impact, especially in moments [like Katrina] where things go haywire."

He chose to attend CDU due to its emphasis on working in underserved communities and leveling the playing field when it came to determinants of health. Back home in Louisiana, Smith grew up in a predominantly black community but attended school in wealthier, less diverse districts. "Starting at a young age, I was always curious about the discrepancies between [my two communities] and why there was such a lack of resources in certain areas of New Orleans versus others," he explained. "I began to get answers when I began studying Sociology, and I want to focus my medical career on trying to address those disparities."

On campus, he is very passionate about participating in the Partnerships for Progress mentorship program. "There aren't many people in the healthcare field that look like me, so I would like to be a source of guidance for any young African Americans that are interested in working in health and being community leaders, because there aren't many opportunities for that kind of mentorship."

Upon his graduation from CDU in 2021, Smith hopes to specialize in ophthalmology with a continued emphasis on underserved populations. "Whether I open my own private practice or join a hospital, I want to be an ophthalmologist that is very community driven."



*CDU's Psychiatry and Family Medicine residents with Dr. Ludlow Creary, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas and other CDU officials at City Hall in July 2018.*

**Residency programs begin:** The first residents in the College of Medicine's Psychiatry and Family Medicine residency training programs officially began their training on July 22, 2018, with six and eight students, respectively. Family Medicine expects to expand to 24 students by 2020, and Psychiatry also expects to expand to 24 students by 2021. Family Medicine residents perform their inpatient work at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center and their outpatient rotations at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center. Psychiatry residents perform their inpatient work at Kedren Community Health Center, and their outpatient work at various ambulatory services throughout South Los Angeles.

**Match Day 2019:** 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, 2019. The top residency match for the class of 2019 were in primary care specialties, with 76 percent of students pursuing fields such as family medicine, internal medicine and pediatrics. The remaining 24 percent will pursue sub-specialties such as emergency medicine, psychiatry and general surgery. Of all CDU students matched, 80 percent will complete their residencies in California, and nearly 50 percent 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

"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."



**New BS in Nutrition Science and Food Systems program:** The new Bachelor of Science in Nutrition Science and Food Systems Program matriculated its inaugural class in the Fall 2018 semester. It is a 120-credit-hour undergraduate program that can be completed in eight terms. The program provides a curriculum to prepare undergraduate students for a nutrition workforce role that combines a strong nutrition science background with specialization on community food system environments and the implications for solving nutrition-related health disparities among marginalized communities.

**AAPA National Medical Challenge Bowl:** A team of students in the Physician Assistant Program placed third out of more than 100

teams during the American Association of Physician Assistants (AAPA) National Medical Challenge Bowl in Denver, Colorado on May 20, 2019. The Challenge Bowl is the hallmark student event at AAPA's annual conference in which students participate in high-energy game-show-format competition and answer questions on a variety of clinical topics.

**MPH Cuba Trip:** For the second year in a row, students and alumni of the Master of Public Health (MPH) program were able to study abroad in Havana, Cuba, from March 1-17, 2019, as part of the course MPH 584: Global Health Studies: The Cuban Health Model. The group, which included MPH students and alumni such as Drs. Shanika





Boyce, Sharon Cobb and Cheryl Wisseh, were under the leadership of Dr. Bitá Amani and adjunct assistant professor Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, MPH, for the duration of the trip. Students participated in site visits to clinics, public health homes for aging, and community organizations such as the Cuban National Center for Sex Education (CENESEX). The trip also included interaction with groups of diverse health professionals in the health professions who specialized in fields such as nursing, pediatrics, pathology, social work and more.

**HRSA Grant:** The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP) awarded a five-year \$3,175,407 grant to COSH Dean Hector Balcazar, PhD, and subcontract partner AltaMed Health Services. The

grant provides funding for two structured programs to provide health professions academic and workforce preparation services to 250 high school, undergraduate and graduate students from under-resourced areas of South Los Angeles over the five-year grant period. This project includes scholarship funding for CDU students of \$125,000 per year throughout the five-year project period.

**Mindful Beauty Project:** Cynthia Davis, MPH, received a grant from Kaiser Permanente to underwrite the “Mindful Beauty Project,” a pilot demonstration project that trains hair stylists in Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 of L.A. County to recognize the signs and symptoms of depression so that they can make appropriate referrals of their clients for treatment, care and support.





**New Institute Named In Honor of CDU Pioneer:**

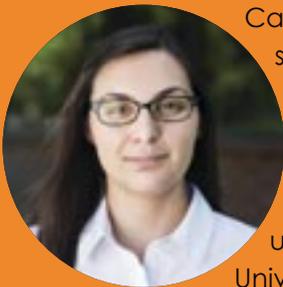
The Cynthia Davis Lifelong Learning Institute for Community Transformation (CD LLICT) was established in the College of Science and Health in November 2018. The Institute is named after assistant professor Cynthia Davis, MPH, in recognition of her exemplary commitment to social justice and health equity, as well as her unwavering tenacity in serving minority communities and families living in South LA. The CD LLICT supports projects for community transformation, as well as student and faculty engagement in community projects, student service learning opportunities, community health education programs, enhanced access to health services and infrastructure within the College of Science and Health to support CD LLICT programs.



Cynthia Davis, MPH

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Carolina Rodriguez-Orozco



Carolina Rodriguez-Orozco is a second-year student in the MPH Urban Health Disparities program who is slated to receive her degree in June 2020. She completed her undergraduate education at University of California, Riverside,

earning a bachelor's degree in Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology. She was familiar with CDU's reputation as a leading institution in creating health equity for all and committed to attending to the University after a campus tour. "As someone who grew up in an under-resourced community and wanted to do that kind of work, [the mission] drew me to the University and I was impressed when I visited," she explained.

Rodriguez-Orozco grew up in nearby Cudahy, Calif., in a tight-knit community of immigrants from Central and South America. It was there that she was first made aware of the glaring disparities and health inequity that come with living in a low-income community, such as poor air quality and lack of city planning. She also watched as her family, friends and neighbors cared for each other as best as they could in their homes in fear of the possible repercussions they'd face from law enforcement if medical attention was sought elsewhere. "That's what draws me to continue to serve communities like mine," she said. "I recognize the lack of support we've historically received from other [larger, more-resource affluent] communities, and think

that it's unjust that we don't have access to healthcare and other services that would be beneficial to long-term health."

Rodriguez-Orozco is heavily involved in extracurricular activities. She mentors fellow students as an Ambassador in the CDU/AltaMed Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), serves as treasurer in the Delta Omega Honor Society, and works with the Frontline Wellness Network, a non-profit organization working to eliminate mass incarceration in Los Angeles County. She also serves as a Quality Improvement Coordinator for BHS Health Center Network, a federally qualified health center in Hawthorne. "In this role, I'm able to apply what I'm learning in the MPH program to address food insecurity among our patient population," she said.

Rodriguez-Orozco is adamant about her own personal mission of providing culturally appropriate care to communities that need it the most. She is currently applying to medical school and plans to pursue a career in pediatric care, specializing in primary care and behavioral health. She has had experience working with children and adults with autism as well as substance abuse, and hopes to be able to combine the two disciplines to better support patients who may be minors and are also afflicted by these conditions. "Many providers don't have that experience and don't know how to communicate with these patients and their families, so I'd like to be able to provide that kind of support on a primary care level," Rodriguez-Orozco said.

**Cancer Survivorship and Caregiver Conference:** In collaboration with the Celebrate Life Cancer Ministry (CLCM), CDU's Cancer Survivorship and Caregiver (CSC) Program hosted the second annual Cancer Survivors and Caregivers Conference on February 16, 2019, in the Keck Lecture Hall.

The conference was well-attended by members of the CDU and CLCM communities and provided tools for attendees to live their "new normal" after receiving a cancer diagnosis. Attendees were able to learn about current breast cancer research, and also discussed strategies to help them cope with the emotional and mental tolls that a cancer diagnosis and its subsequent treatment can take on current in-treatment patients, survivors and their families.

The purpose of the CSC program is to provide in-depth assessment to determine the needs for essential services, education and resources necessary for cancer survivors to thrive and maintain quality of life during and after their treatment; and to provide support for family caregivers to continue to provide care to their loved ones who may or may not suffer from cancer.

**Ten Years of MMDSON:** In honor of Nurses' Week, Dr. Diane Breckenridge, Dean of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON), updated the CDU community on the future plans for the school as it approaches its ten-year anniversary. Dr. Breckenridge's presentation took place on May 8, 2019, in the Keck Auditorium.





The second annual Cancer Survivors and Caregivers Conference took place on February 16, 2019.



Dr. Carlisle highlighted the overall importance of nurses in healthcare due to a critical shortage across the nation. He characterized the MMDSON as “one of the most important nursing programs in California,” as it was the first comprehensive nursing program to launch in the state in over 25 years at the time of its opening in 2010. “In less than 10 years, I believe we’ve established a historic legacy for our School of Nursing,” said Dr. Carlisle.

Dr. Breckenridge gave a brief overview of the school’s history, noting that the School of Nursing opened at the start of the decade with 40 students enrolled, a number that has increased nearly ten-fold in the past nine years, with enrollment reaching 354 as of spring 2019. Dr. Breckenridge is taking direct aim at the growth initiative outlined in the CDU Strategic Plan by increasing MMDSON enrollment to 500 by 2020 and over 1,000 by 2024.

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Sarah Golshani



Sarah Golshani is an Entry Level Masters student in the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing (MMDSON), slated to graduate in June 2020. Born and raised in Iran, she immigrated to the United States when she was 13 years old and went on to

complete her undergraduate degree in Sociology at University of California, Los Angeles.

Her decision to enter the nursing profession was personally motivated by a strong desire to help others. “It’s my mission to diligently identify opportunities for significant changes in care for underserved communities through research within the practice of nursing,” Golshani said. She chose CDU because she believed she would receive quality education that emphasized challenges related to providing services to under-resourced communities.

She has had prior experience in research, having conducted clinical research at Cedars-Sinai Health Center on re-innervation of the heart after transplant surgery – the experience ultimately led to her being published in the Journal of the American Heart

Association in 2016. During her time at CDU, Ms. Golshani joined the CDU/UCLA Cancer Center Partnership, where she has been involved with research, community outreach, and training programs under the supervision of Jay Vadgama, PhD and Yanyuan Wu, MD. She has also worked closely with COM deans Deborah Prothrow-Stith, MD and Roberto Vargas, MD to conduct research on gun violence in Service Planning Area (SPA) 6.

Golshani also finds time to mentor her fellow peers and community members, having served as an instructor in CDU’s renowned Saturday Science Academy-II and also as a peer tutor to undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Additionally, she serves as vice president of the MMDSON chapter of the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA).

After attending CDU, Golshani hopes to become a Family or Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner and ultimately earn her doctorate degree. She hopes to use her knowledge and skills to promote health and disease prevention for the general population, foster academic and clinical nursing education, and advocate for human rights and improvements in health policy.



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In her second year as dean, Dr. Breckenridge discussed the steps necessary for the school to progress, such as ensuring collaboration across CDU to ensure the establishment of quality programs as enrollment increases. This type of collaboration, Dr. Breckenridge explained, allows CDU “to make evidence-based decisions” when deciding programming.

In the coming years, the School of Nursing has plans to begin programs for those who would like to become Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioners, as well as nurses who would like to pursue their doctorate degrees. A grant from Kaiser Permanente will further allow MMDSON to develop

its faculty in scholarship and research as it prepares to launch a doctorate program.

**Psychiatric/Mental Health NP Programs begin:**

The Fall 2018 semester marked the first offering of new programs (MSN and post-masters certificate) in Psychiatric/Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMNHP). The PMNHP is the advanced practice nurse generalist and graduates assume responsibility for the provision of healthcare in the areas of mental health promotion, disease prevention and clinical management of mental health conditions. The emphasis of this program is on meeting the healthcare needs of underserved populations.



**U.S. News and World Report ranking:** For the first time in the University's history, the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing charted on the US 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.

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."

"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

"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."



ENROLLMENT



**Enrollment reached an all-time high during FY2019: 707 students**

The Office of Enrollment Management conducted three "Discover CDU" open house events throughout the year, attracting nearly 1,000 prospective students to learn more about CDU's program offerings.

Starting in 2018, CDU's Office of Enrollment Management embarked on a nationwide recruiting campaign, attending the Black College Expo in major cities such as New York, Houston, Seattle, Atlanta, and DC/Maryland to recruit students and offer scholarships.





## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### Division of Student Affairs Promotes Engaging Campus Life through Expanded Programming

The Division of Student Affairs (DSA) presented the “Six Weeks to Academic Success” series throughout September and October 2018, a bi-weekly month-and-a-half workshop series that provided students with effective learning skills and techniques to support their academic success.

DSA hosted two inaugural career preparation events.

- The International Career Panel was held on November 13, 2018, featured the US Department of State, FBI and US Public Health to discuss career opportunities abroad.
- The Career, Internship and Volunteer Fair was held on March 14, 2019, and featured 20 employers, volunteer organizations and internships who were available to engage CDU students on opportunities in their fields of interest. Organizations present at the event included the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Cedars-Sinai and the Peace Corps.

DSA hired Nancy Juarez-Fuertes as Student Research Coordinator to provide greater assistance in connecting, preparing and supporting students interested in academic research.



For FY2018-2019, CDU had 99 active awards totaling \$38 million in funding. Of that total, 43 research awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other federal, state and local sources were valued at \$19.8 million.

**Mental Health Pillar** - As CDU's Research Enterprise expands its research into mental health, Dr. Denese Shervington has been selected as the head of the CDU Mental Health Research Pillar.



*Dr. Denese Shervington*

**Increased publications** – In FY 2018-2019, CDU faculty, staff and students have either authored or co-authored 85 publications, a 19% increase from the previous fiscal year.

In collaboration with Ohio University faculty member Dr. Sonia Najjar, Dr. Theodore Friedman was awarded a five-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH) for a project entitled, "Novel Pathways in the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of



*Dr. Theodore Friedman*

NAFLD in Hispanics." The R01 grant is the original and historically oldest grant mechanism used by NIH, and provides support for health-related research and development based on the mission of the NIH. Successful completion of this study will lead to novel therapies to improve the health of the Hispanic population in the US.



**U54 Grant Renewal** – In November 2018, Dr. Jay Vadgama and his team submitted the U54 grant renewal for CDU's Center for Accelerating Excellence in Translational Science (AXIS) to the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), with a proposed project period lasting from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024. The U54 grant allows institutions to advance the science of minority health and health disparities by conducting transdisciplinary, multi-level research in a defined area and by providing research opportunities and support for post-doctoral fellows, junior faculty, and other investigators. AXIS has been essential to CDU's Strategic Plan in becoming a leader in eliminating health disparities by translating scientific discoveries into education, training, clinical care, treatment, and community service in three areas of focus which disproportionately affect Service Planning Area 6: cancer, cardiometabolic disease, and HIV/AIDS.



*Dr. Jay Vadgama*

**CDU/UCLA Cancer Center Partnership** - CDU/UCLA Cancer Center Partnership (U54) hosted the first annual Latino Community Conference on Cancer Prevention, Education, and Care on April 27, 2019, in Bellflower. Over 250 members of the Hispanic/Latino community attended the event and were able to interact with medical experts about the importance of cancer prevention and access to resources in the community.



*2019 Spring Gala honorees and CDU leadership; from left, CDU Board Chair Art Ochoa, JD; Timothy Watkins, Sr., President/CEO, Watts Labor Community Action Committee; June Collison, Dignity Health; Brandon Tiffith, representing Top Dawg Entertainment; CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle; Emcee Toni Guinyard, NBC4; and Angela Minniefield, CDU Senior Vice President of Advancement, Strategic Development & External Affairs*

Along with the Office of the President and the three schools and colleges across campus, the Office of Strategic Advancement has raised over \$6,500,000 from Cedars-Sinai, L.A. Care Health Plan, the Ballmer Group, Northrop Grumman, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, CDU board member Marvin O'Quinn, Ashis Mandal, MD, and Fred D. Parrott, MD. The initial goal for this fundraising period was just over \$4,000,000. The funding will support campus improvements and initiatives such as, the development of the Psychiatry residency program and general operating costs.

### **CDU Honors Community Heavyweights' "Commitment to Service" at 7th Annual Spring Gala**

– The 2019 Legacy Leaders Spring Gala saw the CDU community convene to celebrate the contributions of Anthony Tiffith, CEO of Top Dawg Entertainment (TDE), Timothy Watkins, Sr., President and CEO of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) and Dignity Health, the event's first corporate honoree. The event took place on April 18, 2019, at the Marina Del Rey Marriott and raised funds for student services and scholarships at CDU, whose graduates will go on to become the health care workforce of the future. The Gala was also the launch of the Legacy Leaders Fund, a "text to give" campaign that had earned nearly \$13,000 by the end of the evening, exceeding its initial goal of \$10,000. Gifts made to the fund were matched one to one by the University to endow additional student scholarships.

CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle praised Gala honorees for their contributions to the community and the CDU mission. He reminded attendees that the purpose of the Legacy Leaders Awards is to honor individuals whose life and work embody the legacy of the University's namesake, Dr. Charles R. Drew, through education, patient care, research, community engagement and enrichment.

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The event was emceed for the seventh year in a row by Toni Guinyard, general assignment reporter for NBC4 Southern California. Entertainment was provided by the Legacy Tribute Band, featuring Debra Parsons and David Patterson.

**2019 Mission Maker Mini-Grant Awardees Announced** - The Office of Strategic Advancement announced awards totaling \$28,390 for the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Mission Maker Mini-Grant Program Spring 2019 cycle. Support for these grants has been made possible by contributions from the Annual Mission Maker Campaign, which allows the University to address its most immediate needs, such as support for student-led research, student organizations and upgrades to campus facilities.

This year's grantees are as follows:

**Project Santa Claus**, submitted by Kay Lynn Ceja, COM, Medical Student Affairs Pre Med/Pre Health Information Session submitted by Dr. Ngozi Chukwu, COM, Post-Baccalaureate

**2nd Annual CDU Pre PA Conference**, submitted by Marie Espinal, COSH, Physician Assistant Program

**Partnership for Progress (P4P)**, submitted by Kay Lynn Ceja, COM, Medical Student Affairs

**Celebrate Your Health Wellness Fair**, submitted by Perla Saldivar, Urban Health Institute

**Lambda Nu Induction Ceremony**, submitted by Eugene Hasson, COSH, Radiologic Technology

**CDU Student Ambassador Program**, submitted by Vanessa Riggins, Enrollment Management

**Los Angeles Helping Los Angeles**, submitted by Crystal Padilla, Duyen Tran & Denee Easy COSH, Physician Assistant Program

**Campus Resource Day**, submitted by Rhonda Jones, Division of Student Affairs

**CEAL/ Critical Exploration and Academic Literature**, submitted by Dr. Monica Ferrini, COSH CDU Alumni Association Mentorship Program submitted by Adrienne Martinez, Alumni Association

**Wazobia Dance Fitness for Optimal Health**, submitted by Nneoma Duruhesie, COSH, Master of Public Health in Urban Health Disparities

**Mindful Beauty Project**, submitted by Professor Cynthia Davis, COSH, Master of Public Health in Urban Health Disparities

**Jumpstart in Biomedical Sciences** submitted by Dr. Monica Ferrini, COSH



#### John Baackes, CEO, L.A. Care Health Plan

Prompted by alarming projections of physician shortages in California, particularly among the most vulnerable and diverse populations, L.A. Care, in 2018, launched Elevating the Safety Net, an ambitious initiative designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in Los Angeles County.

"We knew we didn't have enough doctors in the safety net to take care of the Medi-Cal beneficiaries, whose numbers had grown since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and we are a Medi-Cal plan," says L.A. Care's CEO John Baackes. "We also knew we didn't have enough doctors in the safety net who looked like the patients they were taking care of. So our board agreed to set aside five percent of our unassigned reserves and commit to doing it for five years to create a fund of \$155 million to address the problem."

Out of that fund came the first three programs that comprise the initiative: the Elevating the Safety Net Scholarship Program, which grants full-ride scholarships to students based on financial need and expressed desire to serve vulnerable populations; the Provider Recruitment Program, which awards grants to clinics and practices for salary subsidies, sign-on bonuses, and/or relocation costs for physicians recruited into the safety net; and the Provider Loan Repayment Program, which helps physicians new to the safety net relieve medical school debt.

CDU has been a beneficiary of the program since its inception, with four CDU College of Medicine students receiving full-ride scholarships in each of the last two years. "We wanted CDU because of their

experience in recruiting and educating physicians of color and their commitment to eliminating health disparities," says Baackes.

The response to the program has been inspiring, with Baackes sharing one of the scholarship recipient's reaction to receiving her award. "The young woman said, 'The day I found out I had been awarded this scholarship, it changed my life. Because now I know that when I'm done with my education, I can go back to my community and serve where I came from. Having the prospect of huge medical school debt would have limited my choices, and I probably couldn't have gone back there.' Hearing that justified the whole program," says Baackes.

Baackes notes that in the first two years of the scholarship program, L.A. Care has helped put 16 new physicians into medical school, and at the end of five years, the Elevating the Safety Net initiative will have paid for 40 scholarships and hundreds of recruitment and loan repayments grants. But L.A. Care is still planning additional enhancements. "For 2020, we'll be funding five primary care residency programs with a total of 14 slots to further build up the supply of local safety net physicians," he says. "We're also adding Psychiatry to the grant and loan repayment programs."

He also sees L.A. Care's partnership with CDU expanding in the future. "CDU will be a beneficiary of residency training program subsidies this year," Baackes says. "And, I'd like to think the CDU model is one we can use with other medical schools and training programs. I would very much like to build on what we've done with CDU."

**L.A. Care Health Plan** is an independent local public agency created by the State of California to provide health coverage to low-income Los Angeles County residents. With nearly 2.2 million members in Los Angeles County, L.A. Care is the largest publicly-operated health plan in the country. As a public entity, L.A. Care's mission is to provide access to quality health care for L.A. County's low-income communities, and to support the safety net required to achieve that purpose. L.A. Care prioritizes quality, access and inclusion, elevating health care for all of L.A. County.



CS  
CEDARS-SINAI

**Arthur J. Ochoa, JD, Senior Vice President of Advancement and Chief Advancement Officer for Cedars-Sinai**

"Cedars-Sinai is an institution with deep roots in Los Angeles, and we believe deeply in serving the community," says Art Ochoa, the hospital system's Senior Vice President of Advancement and Chief Advancement Officer, as well as current Chair of the CDU Board of Trustees. "The notion of health equity is as old as our founding. Ever since we first opened our doors in 1902, Cedars-Sinai was available to everyone and served everyone, including making sure the underserved have access to healthcare, not just on our campus but in the communities where they live," says Ochoa.

The Cedars-Sinai commitment to community is on display throughout Southern California: They've made a series of strategic philanthropic investments in federally qualified health centers to help community clinics build capacity and create a viable career path for community clinic leadership. Their COACH for Kids® mobile medical unit, which provides free primary and preventive healthcare services for low-income and medically underserved children and their families in Los Angeles County, has been on the road since 1994 and seen tens of thousands of patients. Cedars-Sinai also has numerous partnerships with LAUSD delivering mental health services at more than two dozen schools and

provides medical screenings and health education at countless health fairs annually. "Improving the health status of the community is a central part of our mission," says Ochoa.

That commitment to the underserved was a prime motivator in the relationship between CDU and Cedars-Sinai, which goes back many years. The hospital's long-time President and CEO, Tom Priselac is a former CDU board member, and Cedars-Sinai was among CDU's staunchest supporters—and financial backers—during the critical 2007-08 period, when the University's continued existence was in jeopardy. However, Ochoa stresses that "the relationship has always been a two-way street. CDU provides highly trained, highly qualified nurses and other health professionals to Cedars-Sinai and other healthcare institutions. The work that CDU does is such an important part of the healthcare ecosystem and the community."

Another reason the relationship has endured is that CDU checks all the boxes that Cedars-Sinai looks for as a suitable community partner. "First, we look to see if their mission aligns strategically with ours," says Ochoa. "Then, we want to see a management team that's capable of executing on that mission. And finally, we want to see a track record. It's great to have lofty goals, but has the organization really delivered on those over a period of time? We believe that CDU has delivered."

Of his role as CDU Board Chair, Ochoa says, "The thing that I'm proudest of as a board member is the fact that CDU provides a high-value education. The cost to students is much less than most private universities, and the quality of education is very high. Additionally, we're developing culturally competent, highly motivated, socially aware health professionals. Very few institutions can say that. So I'm really proud of the CDU product, and Cedars-Sinai is happy to support CDU, its mission and its students.

"What we like most about our support of CDU is that it's not only a local institution, but it's one that makes a global impact. That's not only impressive, it's compelling."

*Cedars-Sinai is a leader in providing high-quality healthcare encompassing primary care, specialized medicine and research. Since 1902, Cedars-Sinai has evolved to meet the needs of one of the most diverse regions in the nation, setting standards in quality and innovative patient care, research, teaching and community service. Today, Cedars-Sinai is known for its national leadership in transforming healthcare for the benefit of patients. Cedars-Sinai impacts the future of healthcare by developing new approaches to treatment and educating tomorrow's health professionals. Additionally, Cedars-Sinai demonstrates a commitment to the community through programs that improve the health of its most vulnerable residents.*



Liberty Utilities

**Frank Heldman, Director of Operations, Liberty Utilities**

With over three decades in the water utility industry, Frank Heldman, director of operations for Liberty Utilities' local office in Downey is proud of his company's commitment to the communities it serves. As an example, he cites Liberty's partnership with local schools. "We support our public schools by offering internships and career

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advice, he says. "Students get hands-on, real-world work experience that helps them gain a better understanding of the specific skills and education employers are looking for. These experiences better prepare students to enter the workforce following both high school and college graduation." Liberty Utilities has attended numerous job fairs in their local communities and hosted high school and college internships.

About the partnerships Liberty Utilities has established in the Watts and Willowbrook areas, Frank says, "I've seen some of the struggles in the South LA communities we serve, so one of the things I personally look for in organizations we partner with is the ability to put into action plans and processes that will improve the quality of life in the community." That's what led Liberty to CDU in 2018. It was about the time Liberty took on a leading role in helping to solve long-standing water problems in Compton and Willowbrook. "We saw that there wasn't a lot of awareness among high school and college students about how safe water is produced and delivered," he says. "We knew that CDU was a medical school, concerned about health, concerned about the well-being of the community. From our perspective, there's nothing more important to health than safe, clean, potable drinking water. So, we were looking for opportunities to increase awareness of what we do in the community, and at the same time, we wanted to see if there was a way we could help their students become more engaged in the water community."

As a result, Liberty funded a paid internship for CDU. "The public health internship at Liberty Utilities is an opportunity to acquaint and engage students with our company and the work we do," says Frank. Incumbents participate by learning about the water company's role in protecting public health. The students present a research project to Liberty Utilities employees, community leaders, and CDU at the end of the 10-week internship.

Liberty is very active in the community in other ways, too—in the local chambers of the municipalities it serves, as well as service clubs, such as Kiwanis and Rotary. "We're always looking for a way to give back and improve the quality of life in our communities," says Frank. "We promote it as an

organizational value." Liberty employees logged nearly 350 volunteer hours in 2019 and donated more than \$35,000 to local organizations.

**Liberty Utilities** owns and operates regulated water, wastewater, natural gas and electric utilities, providing local utility management, service, and support to small and mid-sized communities across the United States. From their local office in Downey, Liberty Utilities provides water to numerous municipalities throughout Southeast Los Angeles County, including Bellflower, Compton, Lynwood, Norwalk and parts of unincorporated Los Angeles County.



### **Ashis Mandal, MD, and Mina R. Mandal**

Dr. Ashis Mandal and his wife Mrs. Mina Mandal began their relationship with Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School in June 1973. Specifically, Dr. Mandal was a resident of the late Dr. Mitchell Spelman and Dr. Spelman recruited Dr. Mandal to CDU in 1973. Dr. Mandal began his tenure with CDU as an Associate Professor of Surgery and he left CDU in January of 1999 as a Professor of Surgery. During that time, Dr. Mandal was also Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery of MLK Jr. General Hospital from July 1975 – December 1998 and trained over 400 surgery residents.

Dr. Mandal says he agreed to come to CDU because, "I enjoyed and wanted to do something meaningful by serving other human beings." A prolific writer as well as surgeon, Dr. Mandal wrote more than 99 articles on gunshot wounds and published two books.



**Fred D. Parrott, MD, Founder,  
Real Men Cook Foundation**

The community he enjoyed serving returned the appreciation to him in numerous ways. Dr. Mandal recalls that gang members who were also patients at Martin Luther King Hospital gave him great respect. During the LA Riots, gang members escorted him through the neighborhood and to safety.

Mrs. Mina Mandal was quite accomplished herself and worked as Medical Librarian at Orthopedic Hospital in downtown Los Angeles. As Dr. Mandal would work long nights and often get calls at 2:00 a.m.—such is the life of a surgeon—Mrs. Mandal developed relationships with the residents and would even see them during their rotations at Orthopedic Hospital. Mrs. Mandal remembers that, “The residents would say I was tougher than their mother!” Dr. Mandal and Mrs. Mina decided to make a major gift to CDU to support post-baccalaureate students who desire to go into medicine. When asked what motivated them to make such a gift, Dr. Mandal said, “This is my University and I got the money from here, so let me give back to the place that gave me a sense of purpose to even do surgery!”

Dr. Mandal graduated from the Calcutta Medical College, in Calcutta, India, the oldest medical college in Asia, and served residencies at Howard University Hospital and the University of Minnesota at Fairview Medical Center. He is currently Professor Emeritus of Surgery at CDU.

Long-time CDU benefactor Fred D. Parrott, MD, has accumulated an impressive record of personal accomplishment and community philanthropy that few 86-year-olds could hope to match. A native of Houston, Texas, Dr. Parrott graduated from high school at age 16, completed undergraduate studies at Howard by age 19 and moved to Los Angeles and earned a graduate degree in Microbiology from UCLA. During the early 1950s, Parrott entered the Medical Service Corps of the United States Army, where he was stationed in Tokyo, Japan, for two years while he worked as a bacteriologist. After his discharge from the military, he became a sales rep for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, during which time he applied for and was accepted by Meharry Medical College. He was so talented that Wyeth agreed to pay for his medical education. Dr. Parrott moved to Los Angeles upon graduating and did an internship at the Los Angeles County Hospital before becoming a fellow in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Minnesota Medical Center. He then returned to Los Angeles and established a private practice.

Dr. Parrott's affiliations are numerous and just as impressive. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the National Medical Association, the Los Angeles County Medical Association and the Charles R. Drew Medical Society. He is a board member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a founding member of the National Prostate Cancer Coalition. Dr. Parrott is also the recipient of the Black Heritage Award and President's Medal of Honor from Howard University, and was awarded

an honorary doctorate from Meharry Medical College.

But his real legacy began in 1986, when he founded the Real Men Cook Foundation, whose mission was to increase the number of minority health care providers by awarding scholarships to students attending Historically Black College and University medical schools. “We based it on events such as ‘Taste of Los Angeles,’ in which professional chefs from five-star restaurants would cook,” he says. “But we used amateur chefs. We had all kinds of people cooking—doctors, dentists, elected officials, police, ministers and others. And we had five-star executive chefs act as judges.”

Real Men Cook was a standing room only event for ten years and raised about three million dollars. “We started with Meharry, but then added Howard, Morehouse and Charles R. Drew,” he says. Since his affiliation with CDU began, Dr. Parrott has raised over \$400,000 for the University, but he has his eye on an even larger target. “Our goal is to raise a million dollars,” he says, “and have the first free medical school.”

In 1994, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer, Dr. Parrott shifted his focus and founded the Real Men Cook Foundation Center for Early Detection of Prostate Cancer, with a goal of increasing awareness of prostate cancer and the need for preventive services among men in communities of color. While he is justifiably proud of all his community outreach and fundraising efforts on behalf of underserved communities, he believes his prostate cancer education may be the most significant: “We provided free education and screening for 50,000 minority men. We were screening 500 men each month, and many lives were saved. To this day, I still have thankful men come up to me and say, ‘You saved my life.’”

CDU is certainly thankful for the work he has done directly for the University, as well as the University's mission: working to address health disparities.



*CDU Alumni Relations and Corporate Giving Manager Brittney Miller, with Donald A. Kinsey, SVP California Community Affairs and Corporate Communications, Comerica Bank*

The Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Alumni Association proudly supports the traditions and academic excellence of our community-founded University and its more than 4,000 alumni. All graduates of CDU, including former residents from the King-Drew Medical Center, are qualified to be members of the Charles R. Drew University Alumni Association.

For more information about the Alumni Association and University events, please contact Ms. Brittney Miller at (323) 357-3681 or visit our website at <http://www.cdrewu.edu/Alumni>.

**Alumni Relations Unit Conducts Inaugural Professional Development Fair with Comerica and More** - The CDU Alumni Council and Alumni Relations Unit hosted the inaugural Professional Development Fair in the Keck Auditorium on September 8, 2018. The event featured breakout sessions on utilizing social media to build professional networks, building financial literacy, the importance of mentorship and more. Presenters included Donald Kinsey of Comerica Bank, Kristena Hatcher of the Creative Artists Agency, Eric Gooden of The Gooden Group, and alumni council chair Adrienne Martinez of Gateways Hospitals and Mental Health Center.



AltaMed, MLK Department of Public Health, U.S. Department of Foreign Affairs, U.S. Army, Mount Saint Mary's University, Health Staffing Professionals, MagnusCare and Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) were on-site to provide information about health career opportunities.

**CDU Homecoming Weekend features Metta World Peace** – CDU alumni and faculty enjoyed a variety of activities for the Homecoming Reunion Weekend on October 5 and 6. On Friday, October 5, the College of Medicine, Drew C.A.R.E.S. and the Urban Health Institute hosted the South Los Angeles HIV Hepatitis C Update, a day-long conference aimed at primary care physicians and other healthcare professionals responsible for the diagnosis and management of treatment for HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. The conference included the inaugural Drs. Ludlow and Ruth Creary Distinguished Lecture that featured David Satcher, MD, former U.S. Surgeon General, who previously served as Interim Dean of the Drew Postgraduate Medical School, the predecessor institution of CDU.

Later that evening, alumni enjoyed a reunion banquet keynoted by Metta World Peace, NBA G League player development coach and author of the autobiography *No Malice: My Life in Basketball*, co-written by Ryan Dempster. World Peace, a strong advocate for mental health awareness, spoke about mental health services offered in underserved communities.

Homecoming Weekend has become an integral part of the University's commitment to public outreach and civil discourse, as it provides an opportunity for alumni and community leaders to participate in the University's mission. Activities concluded with the CDU community enjoying a day of "great music for a greater mission" at Jazz at Drew on October 6.



*Pictured left, College of Medicine Dean Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Metta World Peace, CDU President and CEO Dr. David Carlisle*



**College of Science and Health Alumni Profile | Lisa Patrick Mudd, MPH**

Lisa Patrick Mudd, MPH '15, is a graduate of the College of Science and Health's Master of Public Health program in Urban Disparities. She currently serves as an Emergency Planning Analyst with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), where she writes plans for the department to serve and engage with the community before, during and after a disaster.

She is a second-generation Angeleno with roots in the community, which also influenced her decision to attend CDU. "The [former Martin Luther King, Jr.-Drew Medical Center] was the facility that served my grandparents, as well as my mother," she said, explaining that her grandmother had emigrated from Mexico and established a life and home in South Los Angeles. "I feel a very close connection with Los Angeles, and as someone with roots here I feel a tremendous sense of obligation and desire to serve the communities and families that have been here for multiple generations," she said.

She recalled her time at CDU fondly, noting that its mission of training professionals to serve the needs of their communities prepared her well for the work she does today. "I valued [...] the equity lens used to teach public health. It's highly applicable to the work that I do now with the Department, engaging communities, working alongside communities and learning from them."

Patrick Mudd stressed the importance of current students seeking out internships and making connections while in school. "Find out what you're passionate about and be sure to expose yourself to different sectors," she said. "Use this time while you're in school to see what you may want to do, and start to build those connections now."

Additionally, she would like to see more CDU graduates working with LACDPH, noting that CDU alumni bring a unique perspective to their workplaces. "CDU develops professionals with the skillsets that are really needed in public health, especially within the Department of Public Health," she concluded.



**College of Medicine Alumni Profile | Steven Rad, MD**

Steven Rad, MD '08, specializes in high risk maternal-fetal health (also known as perinatology), monitoring the health of both the mother and the fetus throughout pregnancy. He is a graduate of the Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program and currently serves as medical director of his own practice at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center called the Los Angeles Fetal Maternal Center, a center for high-risk pregnancies. He also works at the California Hospital Medical Center, Providence Saint John's Health Center, Providence Tarzana Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica. Through his practice at Cedars-Sinai, Dr. Rad also serves as founder and president of the Nirvana

Foundation, a non-profit organization which provides financial assistance and other services to underserved patients with high-risk pregnancies to ensure that they receive appropriate care.

Throughout his career, Dr. Rad has received extensive training abroad. He's travelled to the United Kingdom, Israel and Africa to learn about advanced fetal ultrasound technology, and credits his international experience with informing how he practices in this country: "Unfortunately, when it comes to pre-natal diagnosis in the United States, we are behind in comparison to other countries. The training I was able to receive in these other countries put me on the cutting edge of fetal medicine in the United States."

Dr. Rad was a hospital volunteer at the former King-Drew Medical Center as well as in CDU's Office of Pipeline Programs for several years before applying to CDU for medical school at the urging of his beloved mentors, former residency program director Dr. Patrick Aguilera and former director of the Saturday Science Academy-Il Lorraine Grey. He always had intentions of attending medical school, but CDU resonated with him in a special way. "People often ask me why I chose CDU, but the truth is, they chose me," he admitted. "It's a very special program that I was privileged to be a part of. You felt like you were making a difference and part of a special mission." His message to current CDU students was one of resilience and hope, acknowledging that many who attend the University are from similar communities. "Follow your heart, and never give up," he said. "Even though you may come from a disadvantaged background, that should not stop you from reaching whatever your goals may be. Nothing is impossible."



**Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing Alumni Profile | Izunna Vincent Ewudo, NP**

Izunna V. Ewudo, ELM '14, FNP '15 is a two-time graduate of the Mervyn M. Dymally School of Nursing whose unique life experiences, both domestically and abroad, have shaped how he chooses to serve his community. He currently is the lead provider at St. John's Well Child and Family Center at Compton College and also serves patients at the St. John's Williams Health Center in Los Angeles. He is pursuing his Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) with a second specialty in Mental Health and is slated to receive his degree from Brandman University in August 2020.

Ewudo was born in South Los Angeles and lived in Nigeria during his middle and high school years. He had been exposed to health disparities while living abroad, but he hadn't realized how they affected the care delivery systems until he learned more about them in college and began reflecting on his own experiences. "Access to care in Nigeria was awful and certainly less sophisticated than what we have in the United States," he recalled, mentioning that many often died from preventable diseases. His own aunt perished in this

manner, which ultimately motivated him to pursue healthcare as a career.

After completing his bachelor's degree in Health Science with an emphasis in Community Health at California State University, Los Angeles, he began to set his sights on his next path in life and found himself at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. Ewudo's passion for community health and education aligned with the University's vision of improving community health and its location in the heart of South Los Angeles ensured that he would be serving his own community. During his time at the University, he served as vice president of the CDU Student Government, president of the Mervyn M. Dymally Honor Society, and class president of his respective nursing cohorts.

He advised current students to be proactive with relationship building throughout their academic careers as well as making connections wherever possible. "Meet with people in the fields that you might want to work in, and build relationships with them," he said.

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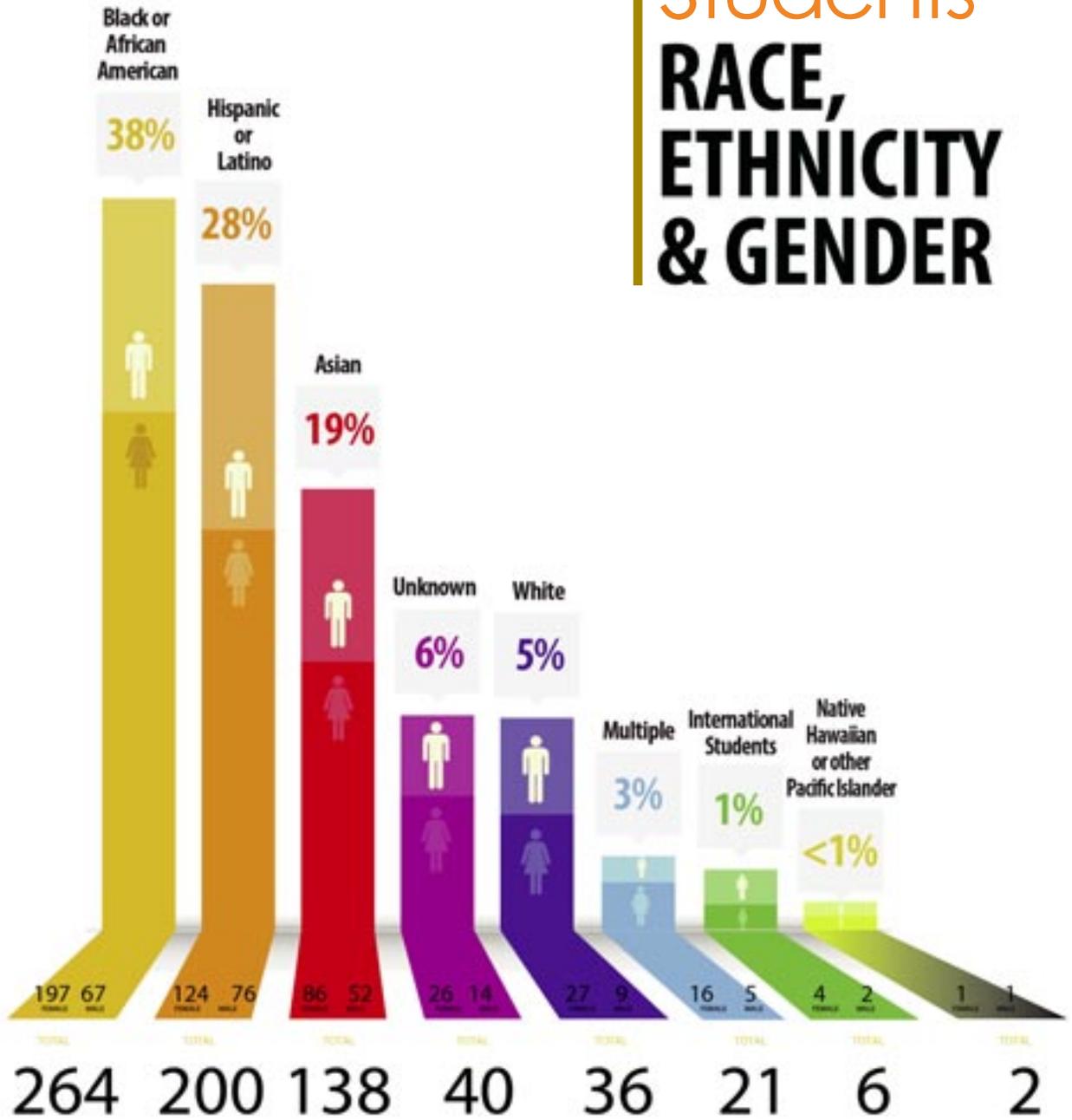
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Bruce W. Johnson  
Crystal Johnson  
Eric Johnson  
Esther Johnson  
Gloria Johnson  
Jacqueline Johnson  
Janice Johnson  
Dr. Karlon H. Johnson  
Sharon Johnson  
Vernard Johnson  
Perrilla Johnson Woodard

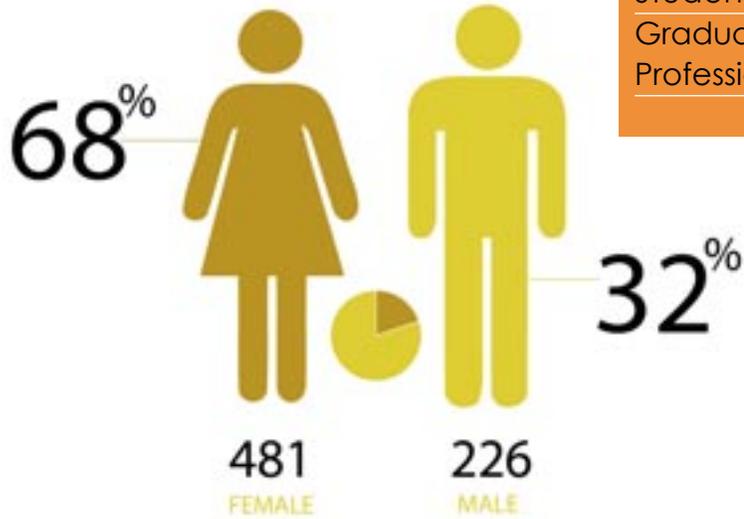
Felica Jones  
Sharon Jones  
Dr. Ambrisha Joshi  
Maxie Juzang  
Keith Kajiya  
Renee Katz  
Elizabeth Kensey  
Rose Kimble  
Precious King  
Tyrone King  
Everett Kline  
Dr. Chulhwe H. Koo  
Cheryl Lacey  
Dr. Khadijah L. Lang  
Damion Lasley  
Ravel Lattier  
Colletta Leatherwood  
David Lee  
Andrew Leeka  
Debra Levine Burton  
Darlene Lewis  
Regina Lewis  
Vicki Lewis  
Cheryl Lindsey  
Ellen Love  
Toni Love  
Anna A. Lucas Wright  
Lois Luster  
Chela Madere  
Dr. Thomas R. Magee  
John Martin Del Campo  
Adrienne S. Martinez Hollingsworth  
Douglas Matthews  
Dr. Sharon E. McBeth  
Charles Mcelroy  
Lois McFarland  
Dr. Wendy L. Mednick  
Patricia Mendes  
Phil Meyer  
Brittney S. Miller  
Mary Minor  
Dr. Hezla Mohamed  
Beverly Monroe  
Wilfred Montague  
Vanessa Moore  
Arianna Moreno  
Michelle Morris  
Cheryl Mullins  
Denise Muschett  
Hanan Najeeullah  
Anthony Neal  
Rachquel Nesbit  
Network for Good  
Vonyetta D. Nickerson  
Dr. Junko Nishitani  
Arthur Ochoa  
Mosi Odom  
Augustine Odume  
Dr. Jinny Oh  
Dr. Charles Ojielo  
Dionisio Ong  
James Oofen  
Twyman Owens  
Sheri Packnett  
Darlene Parker Kelly  
Keosha Partlow  
Pasadena Community Foundation  
Lenwood Patterson  
Paypal Charitable Giving Fund  
Dorinda Perry  
Isidra Person Lynn  
Jaaye Person Lynn  
David Pinedo  
Howard Plummer  
Dr. Cheryl Powell  
June Raiford  
Stephen J. Randle  
Jennifer Richmond  
Bradley Ridgell

Vanessa Riggins  
Paulette Rinehart  
Joseph Robbins  
Alireza Roshanaei  
Nicolla Ross  
Vanessa Roux  
Albert K. Ruiz  
Dr. Katherine Russell  
Farnaz Saadat  
Aneasha Saleem  
LaTanya Sallie  
Eric Sanders  
Robin Schiff  
Dr. Steven Schroeder  
Yolanda Scott  
Dr. Tyisha L. Seymour  
Candace Shamkani  
Rochelle Shaw  
Dr. William Shay  
Reginald Sheffield  
Regina Shelby  
Naomi Sherfield  
Barbara Shields  
Marcus G. Shields  
Margaret Short  
Benjamin Shuler  
Gigi Simmons  
Dr. Rajan Singh  
Dr. Amiya P. Sinha Hikim  
Karen E. Slade  
Ernie A. Smith  
Dr. James Smith  
Janice Smith  
Lauretta Smith  
C.J. Spears  
Mary Springs  
Jessye Stafford  
Kimberly Stallings  
Rudy Stallworth  
Cathy Stamps  
Wendy Stevenson  
Dr. Karen J. Streeter  
Daryl Swan  
Jason Taylor  
Cheryl Thomas  
Marsha Thompson  
Rosemary Tilmon Kellum  
Paul Umbach  
Benita Umoja  
Linda Ursery Fleming  
Hugh Vaughan  
Lucia Vides  
Gilford Vincent  
Dr. Greta Vines Douglas  
Wade & Associates LLC  
Brenda Wade  
Karen Wade  
Susan Wakefield  
Ronald Wallace  
Wendell Walters  
Dr. Betti Jo Warren  
Shorrona Warren  
Dr. Michael C. Washington  
Ingra Watkins  
Louise Webb  
Wendell Street Psychiatric LLC  
Dr. David Werdegard  
LaTonya White  
Eric Wilder  
Alberta Williams  
Caterina Williams  
Lisa Williams  
Dr. Darryl A. Willoughby  
Clarise Wilson  
Leslie Windsor  
Dr. Artis Woodard  
Gerald Wren  
Dr. Thomas T. Yoshikawa

# Students RACE, ETHNICITY & GENDER

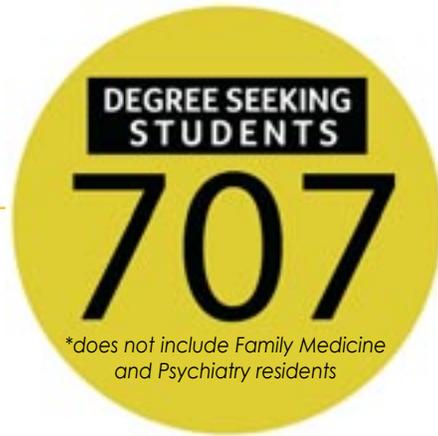


## OVERALL GENDER



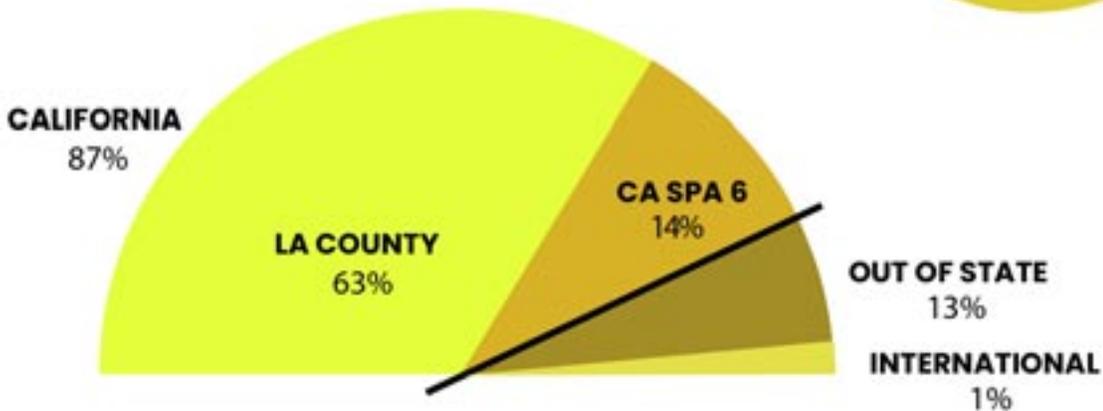
### Average Age:

Undergraduate Students:	30
Graduate & Professional Students:	34



## WHERE

CDU STUDENTS COME FROM

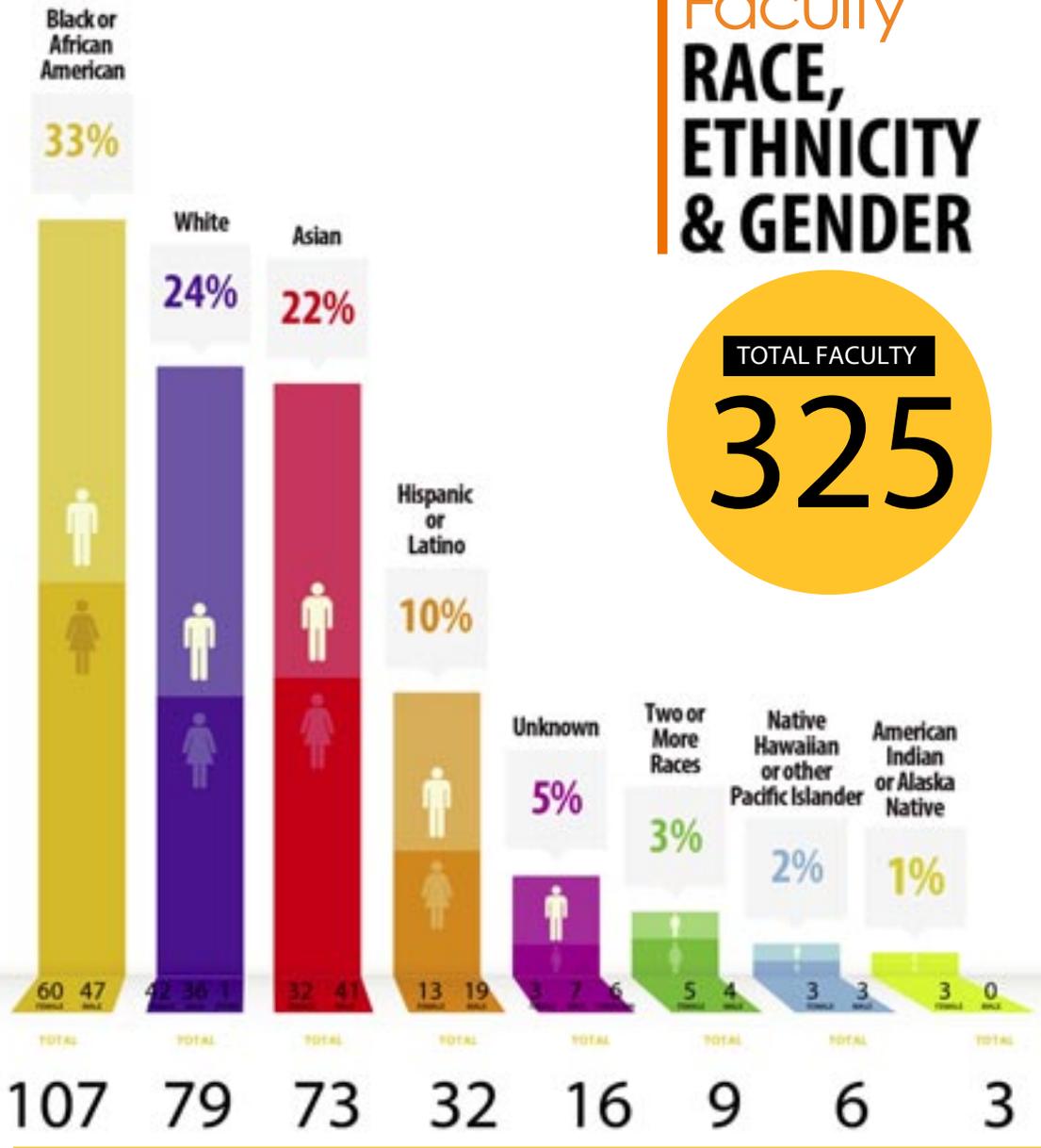


## ENROLLMENT BY DEGREE LEVEL

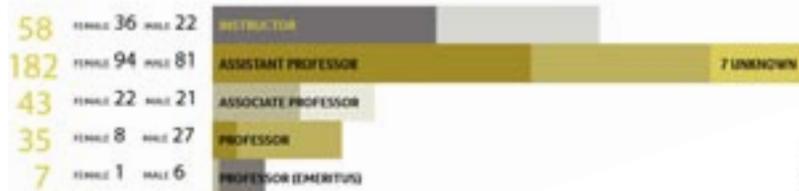


# Faculty RACE, ETHNICITY & GENDER

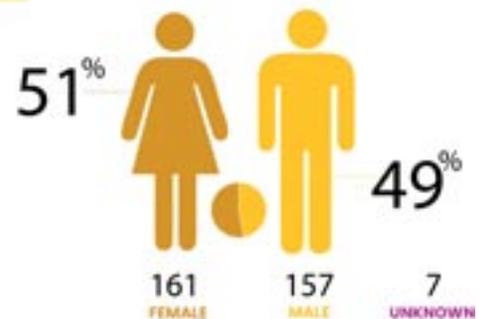
TOTAL FACULTY  
**325**



## BY RANK AND GENDER

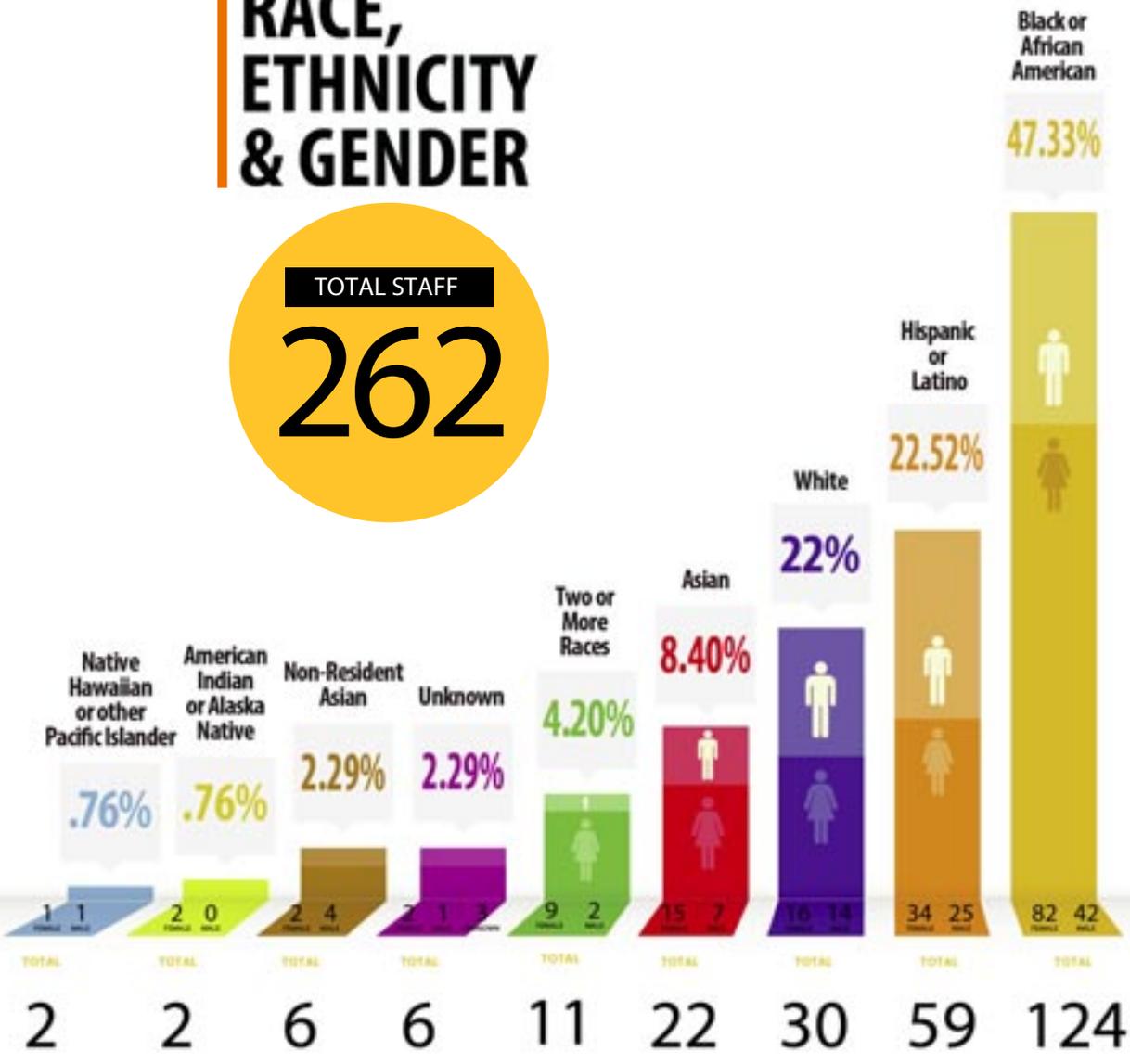


## OVERALL GENDER

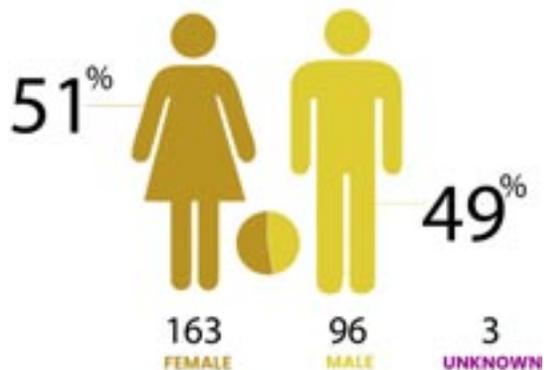


# Staff RACE, ETHNICITY & GENDER

TOTAL STAFF  
**262**

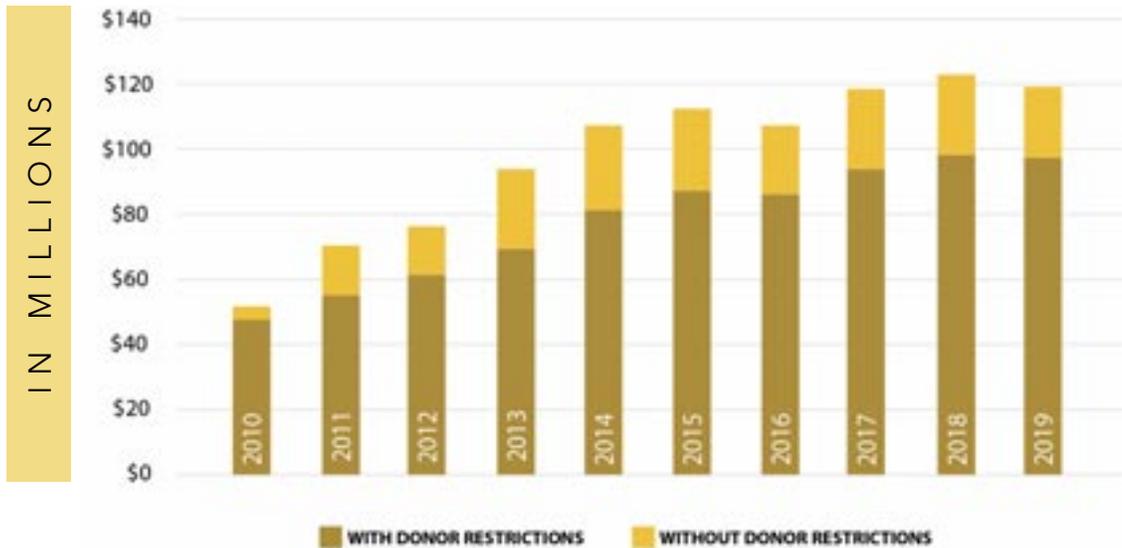


## OVERALL GENDER



## FINANCIAL DATA

### Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science Financial Results as of June 30, 2019



The University Total Net Assets have increased from \$50 million in FY2010 to \$118 million in FY2011, or an increase of 134% over 10 years.

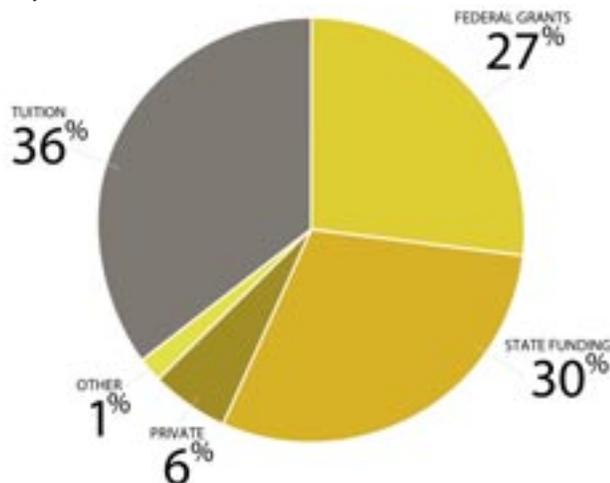
#### Fiscal Year 2019:

The Net Assets decreased in FY2019 primarily due to unrealized investment losses on an interest rate SWAP agreement.

#### With Donor Restrictions:

The \$96 million balance is primarily due to a Federal grant from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to support research infrastructure.

### The University Total Revenue for Fiscal Year 2019 was \$54.4 million.



TOTAL REVENUE  
FISCAL YEAR 2019

**\$54.4  
MILLION**

#### Revenue FY2019 (\$000's)

Tuition	\$ 19,458	36%
Federal Grants	14,791	27%
State Funding	16,152	30%
Private	3,188	6%
Other	810	1%

**Total Revenue \$ 54,399 100%**



## Vision Statement

Excellent health and wellness for all in a world without health disparities.

## Mission Statement

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science is a private, non-profit, student-centered University that is committed to cultivating diverse health professional leaders who are dedicated to social justice and health equity for underserved populations through outstanding education, research, clinical service and community engagement.

## Values

### COMMUNITY

At CDU, community encompasses historically underserved, underresourced and underrepresented groups such as those in South Los Angeles and around the world that are impacted by health disparities. As a value, “community” is the binding spirit that inspires and drives our unique approach in preparing health professionals dedicated to social justice and health equity.

### LEADERSHIP

At CDU, we hold ourselves accountable and define our collective and individual responsibility as a catalyst for change necessary to reduce and eliminate health disparities. As a value, “leadership” means we embrace our role as a pioneer in health education and research.

### EXCELLENCE

At CDU, excellence is the highest quality performance in our operations, interactions, activities and service to our community. Excellence invokes the desire to challenge and transcend the status quo. As a value, “excellence” represents the transformation we seek in ourselves and in our students, faculty and staff.

### DIVERSITY

At CDU, diversity is defined by the multiple perspectives and ideas, plurality of cultures, variety of ethnicities and differences in individuals within our communities. As a value, “diversity” represents a quintessential element of humanity and social justice for all.

### INTEGRITY

At CDU, integrity is the strength of character necessary to remain true to our values even in the face of adversity. As a value, “integrity” is conducting trustworthy, ethical and respectful education, research, clinical and other services in our committed engagement with underserved communities.

### COMPASSION

At CDU, compassion is empathy for the plights and predicaments of disadvantaged populations. As a value, “compassion” propels us to hear the voiceless, compels us to advocate for the oppressed and obliges us to seek relief for the deprived.



Charles R. Drew University  
of Medicine and Science

*A Private University with a Public Mission*

1731 East 120th Street | Los Angeles, California 90059 | (323) 357-3669 | (323) 568-3339 Fax



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