



PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Changing Our Future Together

DAY 1:

Pathways to Health Event

Charles Drew University (CDU)

1731 E. 120th St., Cobb Foyer, LA, CA 90059

2:00pm–4:00pm

The current healthcare workforce does not reflect the nation's diversity. People of color represent more than 25% of the total U.S. population, but only 10% of health professionals. LA County faces a similar challenge. For example, among LA County's population ages 18 or older, Latinos comprise nearly half of this age group (45%), but represent only 7.4% of physicians and surgeons; African-Americans comprise almost 9% of this age group, but make up only 5% of physicians and surgeons.

The Need for a Diverse Workforce

A diverse workforce is essential to accomplish our goal of delivering high quality, culturally responsive services and eliminating inequities in health and healthcare. The benefits of a diverse pool of health professionals extend beyond improving health. The healthcare sector supports more jobs than any other industry in LA County and is expected to add almost 92,000 new jobs in our County between 2015 and 2020.

Pathways to Health

Today, Charles Drew University (CDU), the Departments of Public Health and Mental Health, and community partners will launch Pathways to Health, an academic and community internship initiative aiming to increase the number of high school students of color that complete afterschool and

summer academic enrichment and internship opportunities and are prepared for meaningful health careers. These efforts will increase the number of youth that are engaged in and leading efforts to build healthy communities.

Pathways to Health allows students from surrounding neighborhoods to participate in a peer health leadership academy and community internships. Curricula includes math, literacy, and science courses (including lab experience) along with leadership training, workshops on relevant health topics, emotional well-being, communication skills (using social media effectively) and peer mediation training.

Community organizations in the surrounding neighborhoods that are already engaged in healthy community efforts will host students from the Academy in an internship program focused on community health priorities, peer leadership development, and improving health outcomes for youth. Students are paid a stipend for participating in Pathways to Health.

Come celebrate Public Health Week by attending this event, the first in a series of workshops to finalize a plan for the Pathways to Health initiative!



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