



## CDU Points of Distinction

### History

- The University has a rich legacy of connection to civil rights pioneers, including visits and talks by Winnie Mandela, Rosa Parks, Andrew Young and Coretta Scott King, who remarked, "Thank you for making my husband's dream come true."
- The University's namesake, Charles R. Drew, MD, was a pioneer in blood preservation and banking techniques. He also helped found the American Red Cross.
- Dr. Joseph Alexander, Chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1971, led a team of doctors at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., to perform the Army's first kidney transplant operation.
- Notable former board members:
  - Ralph Bunche, the first African American to win the Nobel Peace Prize (1950), for his work mediating a peace agreement between Arabs and Jews in Palestine after WW II.
  - Claude Hudson, African American dentist and lawyer; co-founder of the NAACP.
- CDU started the first Physician Assistant program approved in the state of California.
- CDU was the first academic institution to be a grantee agency for a Head Start Program, the HHS program that promotes and supports development of school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families.

### Community

- CDU was one of the originators of the "Community Faculty" concept, bringing community researchers and health equity advocates into the education process, which broadens the experience and knowledge base of the University's instruction, curriculum and research.
- In partnership with the Los Angeles County Community Development Commission, CDU founded the nation's first broad-scale deployment of telemedicine to an inner-city community in 1996. The unprecedented Telemedicine Program worked to bridge the healthcare delivery gap for residents in medically underserved areas by allowing doctors at CDU to examine patients who lived miles away in urban public housing communities without ever leaving their offices.
- The University has been a leader in providing HIV/AIDS prevention and services to Los Angeles County.
  - In 1984, Dr. Wilbert Jordan started the AIDS Clinic at King-Drew Medical Center, now known as the Oasis Clinic, which has expanded over the years to include satellite clinics and a full service five-day-a-week clinic. Dr. Jordan received an NAACP Humanitarian Award on May 19, 2016.
  - The CDU HIV Mobile Testing Project has provided over 60,000 individuals throughout Los Angeles County with HIV screenings and counseling since its establishment in 1991.

### International

- The University's International Programs Department provides technical assistance with health education, policy development, care delivery, health systems strengthening and research in these countries: Angola, Rwanda, Jamaica, Belize, Kenya, Philippines, Ghana, Zaire, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Uganda, Peru, Nigeria, Egypt, Cameroon and Peru.

### Research

- CDU's Urban Health Institute is a one-of-a-kind medical research department that increases opportunities for biomedical and behavioral research and its translation into high-quality clinical outcomes, improved community health, and progressive health policy to reduce health disparities in underserved communities worldwide.

### Other

- CDU is the only Title III B Historically Black Graduate Institution in the Western United States (west of Texas).