Drew C.A.R.E.S. Partners With Transgender Service Organization to Offer Expanded Resources to Transgender Community

The Unique Woman's Coalition (UWC), the first Los Angeles-based organization for and led by transgender people of color, in partnership with Drew C.A.R.E.S., CDU's HIV/AIDS research cluster, held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its first physical office space on Friday, August 16. The partnership enables UWC to offer an array of services including, but not limited to, health education and HIV testing and mental health services. It also enables UWC access to research data and funding opportunities to expand organizational reach. The UWC's new office is located in Building M.

"We're excited about this partnership because it gives our students an opportunity to learn how to learn to care for transgender patients," said David Lee, CDU community faculty member and PATH PrEP project director at OASIS Clinic.

Established in 1997 by Chela Demuir, The Unique Woman's Coalition seeks to enhance and add to the quality of life of transgender people of color by creating safe spaces and platforms to elevate and empower their voices and narratives. The UWC curates several programs and events throughout the year, including TransGiving Dinner, Our Honors Awards, Trans-Unity Pride and Chela & the #GirlsNextDoor, an internet talk show.

CDU Signs MOU With Nationally Renowned Service Organization to Expand STEAM Education

CDU signed a memorandum of understanding with The Links, Incorporated on Thursday, August 22, in the Cobb Board Room. The Links, Inc. is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations committed to enriching, sustaining and ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans and other persons of African ancestry.

Some goals and aspirations of The Links, Incorporated include closing the achievement gap between Pre-K and college to ensure youth preparedness for a global workforce, developing training modules for Pre-K to college level mentoring programs, ascertaining high levels of support for local youth, expanding STEM education and promoting the integration of the arts, as well as promoting and supporting HBCUs and HBGI to ensure their sustainability.

"We are here today because, much like our CDU counterparts, we realize that together we can prepare our children for their futures," said Pamela Perkins Dwyer, president of The Links, Inc.

"I am looking forward to the expanded relationship with The Links, Inc. because our missions are harmonious," said CDU President/CEO Dr. David M. Carlisle. "I am certain that when we join forces, the sky will be the limit."

CDU Opens New Grand Entrance at 2019 State of the University Address

CDU President/CEO Dr. David Carlisle issued his eighth annual "State of the University" address on Wednesday, August 28, on the lawn in front of the Keck Building.

"Staying the course" was the recurring theme throughout Dr. Carlisle's remarks as he began by acknowledging that the University faced an unexpected, but not insurmountable, challenge: CDU had ended the previous fiscal year with a $1.8 million deficit. However, he assured those in attendance that the appropriate measures were being taken to "make certain [the University doesn't] carry this debt into the future and that it does not happen again." He committed to resolving the budget deficit by the end of the current fiscal year, and reiterated his commitment to ensuring CDU's growth overall. "When we convene next year, I have no doubt that I will be able to report that the state of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science will be stronger than ever," he stated.

Noting that the University had experienced "many more high points and accomplishments over the past year than setbacks," Dr. Carlisle detailed the University's highlights, such as increased fundraising and philanthropy, a 30% increase in undergraduate enrollment for the fall semester and program rankings within nationally renowned publications such as the U.S. News & World Report. Dr. Carlisle also issued updates on plans for the University's four-year medical education program and upcoming plans for new programs of study, such as Psychology.

During his address, Dr. Carlisle also granted the first-ever CDU Champion Medals to the legislators who were integral in helping CDU secure $7.5 million in appropriations for FY2019-2020 in the state's budget. "This year, we received a state budget augmentation that we have not received since we embarked on establishing the Mervyn M. Dymally Grand Entrance to the public.

"Last year, we ended this address by putting shovels in the ground to symbolize that we were sinking our roots even deeper into the South Los Angeles community from which we came and to which we are so committed," he stated. "The next logical step after you break ground for a project is to build on it, and that's what we've done this year. We've built on this ground, and we've completed our new entrance.

Photos from the event, including the ribbon cutting ceremony, can be found here or on the CDU SmugMug website.