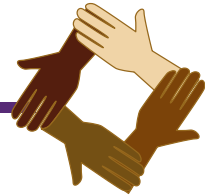


COMMUNITY MATTERS

GOOD NEWS FROM THE FRONTLINES



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
Institute for Community Partnerships



SUMMER 2021



HONOREE SHEILA MARCHBANKS

The National Congress of Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) - Los Angeles Chapter, honored our very own Sheila Marchbanks on August 14th for her exemplary work as a Health Advocate. Many honorees gathered at the awards celebration event. (<https://ncbwincalac.org/>)

Sheila has worked with our LLUH Possibilities team and wrote for the Possibilities magazine in 2017. She remains a strong leader and advocate in our institution and her field.

This past September, during Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Awareness Month, and throughout the year, we would like to commend Sheila's work and invite you to read about her story in her own words (<https://scinfo.org/2016/03/03/sheila-holds-on-to-hope/>).



DISCOVERY PROGRAM 2021

This past July we hosted 67 high school students in our three week Discovery program. This was our first in-person Discovery program since our name change from Summer Gateway but our 16th year operating a pipeline program on our campus.

These pipeline programs aim at bringing high school youth from underserved communities to our campus to learn about healthcare careers, gain resources, and make connections that will help them succeed in the future. This year, students heard from all 8 LLU schools, learned from over 40 speakers who shared their journeys, and visited the Anatomy Lab, Orthotics and Prosthetics Lab, and the Simulation Lab.

Students also learned about the spirit of service by visiting our own Jardín de la Salud in San Bernardino and volunteering while connecting in conversations about food deserts, food apartheid, and food sovereignty. The event culminated in a graduation ceremony with their families and team presentations on research topics such as cultural competency in healthcare and the rates of diabetes among different populations. A lucky handful were invited to shadow clinicians for a third week and were grateful for this experience. We are so proud of our students! These students are now part of our Pipeline Alumni Association where we will continue to support them and learn alongside them.

CHAMPION FOR TB PREVENTION: DR. FAYETTE NGUYEN TRUAX



ICP would like to recognize LLU faculty, staff, and students who are working with communities to address health disparities. School of Nursing assistant professor and practicing Nurse Practitioner

Dr. Fayette Nguyen Truax is dedicated to

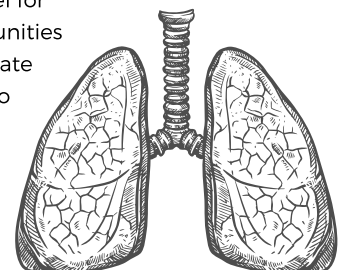
reducing health disparities experienced by immigrant communities, specifically reducing the prevalence of tuberculosis. Her current work focuses on testing and treatment of latent TB in Southern California Vietnamese communities. She was specifically interested in latent TB as 75% of those with active TB are those that had latent TB, but never got treated. There was a gap in awareness, testing, and treatment of latent TB that she knew she could help address.

Her work started while she was completing her doctoral program at UCLA where she was able to channel her passion for the Vietnamese community into her dissertation. As a Vietnamese immigrant herself, she knew that Orange County has the largest population of Vietnamese and that the prevalence of latent TB was high in those that are non-US born. She recognized that over the last decade the rates of TB have shifted so that Asians make up most cases. As part of her dissertation, she partnered with the Orange County Department of Public Health to work on addressing latent TB in the county. Her research began with reviewing 900 past cases to see, of those diagnosed with latent TB, how many accepted, initiated, and completed treatment. Her preliminary results revealed almost one third of the Vietnamese immigrants that knew they had latent TB did not accept treatment. Of those that did accept treatment, she found that less than half completed the treatment. She was curious why this was but there wasn't enough information on the charts to draw any conclusions. Upon completion of her chart review she moved on to collect new qualitative and quantitative data. For the quantitative phase she actively recruited participants who had a positive TB skin test and gave out surveys to try and find predictors for initiating and completing treatment. The goal was 200 but she was only able to recruit 55 patients as many Vietnamese didn't trust the health system or researchers. She shared her algorithm and information with the county so they could use it as a tool to better inform how to initiate and follow through treatment with this population.

Her next move was to go out to the community. She wanted to not only touch individuals but to influence the entire community. She reflected on how she could best reach a greater population so she partnered with the largest Vietnamese community clinic in Orange County, serving over 10,000 patients, to work with providers. She wanted to observe how patients were diagnosed and treated for latent TB to identify needs in the protocol. At the clinic she conducted a retrospective study to see how the clinic was doing with screening, initiating treatment, and following up with latent TB cases. She found that the clinic was not regularly screening foreign born patients or those that had traveled to TB endemic countries. Her data revealed a need for providers to be trained on screening, initiating treatment, and selecting treatment for latent TB patients. To address this gap, Dr. Truax and her team trained all of the providers and health care workers on proper screening, testing, and treatment for latent TB cases. In just 3 months they were able to increase the number of TB assessments from 0 to over 600. Of the 600 assessments conducted over 75% were positive cases. This allowed more community members with latent TB to be initiated on treatment that would have otherwise been missed.

Throughout her work with the community clinic, Dr. Truax noticed a barrier for testing as patients had to go to a private lab to have their blood drawn, and the test was expensive. To increase access to screening she arranged for the lab to train the staff at the community clinic to draw the labs and even got them to reduce the cost. She also developed an educational video on latent TB diagnosis and treatment for the Vietnamese community. The video depicts a man being diagnosed with latent TB and, although he is hesitant at first, ultimately accepts and completes treatment after he is reassured by his doctor. The goal was for this video to be shown to those who denied treatment to provide them with additional information and support before making a final decision. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic this project has not yet been able to be implemented.

Dr. Truax now partners with TB Elimination Alliance (TEA) and the Vietnamese American Cancer Foundation on Latent TB projects throughout Orange County. She hopes this work will expand and hopefully develop a community-based model for other immigrant communities across the US. We celebrate leaders like Dr. Truax who are able to recognize a need in their community and use their skills to address health disparities.





A COMMITMENT TO COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY

Across the country, Black and Latino people are less likely to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and more likely to get seriously ill and die from COVID-19. Structural racism and existing disparities in wealth, education, job access, health care access, working conditions, transportation access, and neighborhood conditions contribute to these COVID-19 disparities.

Since February 2021, LLU has teamed up with trusted organizational partners to offer COVID-19 vaccines in Black and Brown communities that have been hardest hit by the pandemic. Together these partners have conducted more than **30 pop-up vaccine clinics**, providing more than **2,700 vaccinations** in communities across San Bernardino county.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DON GAMUNDROY

Throughout the pandemic the Institute for Community Partnerships has relied on not only LLU students but also community members to help support COVID-19 vaccination efforts. We have continued to be in awe at the commitment and generosity of our community member volunteers who have supported over 80,000 people being vaccinated. One volunteer that has continued to go above and beyond to serve his community is Don Gamundoy. Don has always had a passion for volunteering but felt especially compelled to give back to his community when his church sent out the call for volunteers to respond to Loma Linda University Health COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Since January 2021, Don has been a dedicated volunteer having served over 350 hours with LLUH. He became a well-known face at the Drayson Center COVID-19 vaccination clinic, community pop-up vaccination clinics, and other community events. Reflecting on his experience, Don shared that he saw a lot of anxiety and apprehension in the community, so he wanted to get out there to not only support vaccination efforts but also make sure people were getting the right information and support. When asked what kept him coming back to serve, he said that it was not only a nice opportunity to get out of the house and interact with others, but also to serve the community in this time of crisis. We are extremely grateful for community volunteers like Don that answer the call to serve and are passionate about giving back to the community.

ANNOUNCING THE 2021 LLUH-ICP CALL FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH INVESTMENT AWARD APPLICATIONS!

LLUH Institute for Community Partnerships is now accepting applications for the Community Health Investment Award. Non-profits in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties are encouraged to apply. The application can be found at https://llu.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_610F6D1a40fCg4u or by scanning the QR code. Submissions must be received electronically by 11:59pm on October 31st, 2021. For questions please email Mark Camarena at MACamarena@llu.edu.





PIPELINE STUDENT SUCCESES: BRIANA RAMIREZ

For Briana, Loma Linda University has always been a place to look up to. Growing up in Moreno Valley, she knew LLU as the school where healthcare workers

were made, it felt like home and there was a presence she couldn't deny. She always knew she wanted to go into the medical field but was unsure which profession would be her best fit. The summer after her senior year in high school Briana got the opportunity to participate in the Summer Gateway program (now the Discovery program) where she was introduced to an array of health care professions and topics. When reflecting on her experience, Briana expressed that Summer Gateway opened her up to the possibilities in the health field and taught her that we need everyone for a successful healthcare system. She went on to study chemistry at the University of Redlands and became particularly interested in pharmaceuticals. Towards the end of her undergraduate degree, she recalled being told about the Mi Mentor app and the mentorship opportunities available. This resource allowed her to attend a panel for pre-pharmacy students and realize her path to pharmacy school. The pipeline alumni network helped her stay connected to events and she was touched to receive a phone call from the network at the start of the pandemic to make sure she had everything she needed. When it came time to apply to pharmacy programs, she felt a calling for Loma Linda University. **LLU was the one school she applied to, and she was soon granted acceptance into the School of Pharmacy class of 2025.** Briana reflected that she is thankful to LLU and the pipeline programs for helping her realize her passion and future career. She is joining the Community Academic Partners in Service (CAPS) team in the fall as student staff and will soon be a mentor to the next generation of pipeline students. We are extremely proud of Briana and look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes at the School of Pharmacy.



CAPS NEWS

Big changes coming to our CAPS website!

We are moving platforms to make it even easier to be a volunteer with us! Click the image below or visit llu.ivolunteer.com to check it out!



Pipeline workshops speakers needed!

Are you passionate about connecting to youth and helping them succeed? Come share your knowledge with our pipeline alumni! Workshops are every first Wednesday evening of the month and we need YOU to help invest in our community's youth.

Past topics include:

- Resume writing
- Mental Health
- Personal Statements



Think you can provide helpful information and knowledge?

E-mail
llupipelines@llu.edu
today!



LISTEN



RESPECT

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ENGAGE



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