Dimensions in Medicine

On Saturday, November 19, dozens of people convened in the Julian Scheinbucks Sun Room to listen to a symposium of health professionals comment on past, current, and future trends in medicine. Entitled "Dimensions in Medicine: A Celebration of African American Contributions to Medicine and Healthcare," it included distinguished guests Dr. Chudi Okafor, Dr. Thomas Britt, Chair of Health Studies at CSU, Dr. Damon Arnold, Director of Public Health at CSU, and Ms. Margo Crawford, President of the Provident Foundation here in Chicago.

Each speaker brought a uniquely insightful message to the symposium. Drs. Britt and Arnold, (continued on back)

Work for IDLA Hands

The Center for Teaching and Research Excellence is joining the nascent Illinois Distance Learning Association (IDLA), part of the larger United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) network of online learners, teachers, and trainers.

By engaging its mission to serve the distance learning community through “advocacy, information, and networking opportunities,” the USDA works to not just prepare educators for current and upcoming trends in technology, but also to focus on legislation that impacts its growth and adoption. Bills being considered on Capitol Hill that would affect the development of educational technologies are of special interest, of course.

For its part, the IDLA will focus less on lobbying and legislation, and more on fostering a network of educators across the state who are committed to bringing technologies like online learning, SMART Boards, and social media, to the classroom to help students connect to learning in a way that is personally relevant to them. And when students are engaged, the sky’s the limit.
The Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP)

For 20 years, the Leadership Alliance has encouraged students from groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences, engineering, social sciences, and humanities, to pursue research careers in the academic, public, and private sectors. The Summer Research Early Identification Program (SR-EIP), provides undergraduates with training and mentoring in the principles underlying the conduct of research and prepares them to pursue competitive applications to graduate schools. The SR-EIP is a gateway to ongoing resources, mentoring, and professional networks to support all participants along their chosen career path.

Encourage your students to apply to the SR-EIP by going to the Leadership Alliance’s website at [www.theleadershipalliance.org](http://www.theleadershipalliance.org). The deadline is February 1, 2012.

Looking Forward

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Dimensions in Medicine (cont.)

for example, brought to the fore an array of current public health concerns, including obesity, food deserts, smoking, and depression. Each of those concerns, they noted, had distinctive causes and thus required distinctive solutions; however, they emphasized more what they had in common—particularly poverty—than what set them apart. It was a sobering message, with calls for large-scale public health initiatives to comprehensively treat ill health.

Dr. Chudi Okafor had an encouraging message for the doctors of tomorrow, giving them a “Roadmap to Medicine” to help young men and women navigate the waters to becoming a health professional. “Study, be inquisitive, sleep, and learn math, science, and English,” he told the audience.

Dr. Margo Crawford, the final presenter for the morning, looked to the past for inspiration, giving a rousing account of the legacy of “Dr. Dan” Williams, the first African-American cardiologist in the country. With the founding of Chicago’s Provident Hospital in 1891, he created the first training hospital primarily for African American nurses. Today, Provident Hospital has moved to much larger grounds and scope than its humble beginnings at 29th and Dearborn. Many of its original artifacts can be found here in the CSU archives, located on the 3rd floor of the library.