

# Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute



## Impacting Healthcare in the Face of a Pandemic

Over the past eight years, the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute (BHLI) has oriented, mentored, sponsored and coached a line up of exceptionally talented Scholars into leadership roles across the country. While the BHLI summer program and coordinated internships have been suspended for the year 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19, the mission of the Institute continues to prevail. Our Scholars working today on the front lines in the midst of a national pandemic are perfectly positioned to serve vulnerable communities in the fight to eliminate healthcare disparities. Above (L-R) **Alauna Christian** (2016 cohort) serves as a registered nurse for the Kansas City VA Medical Center and prepared for an influx of patients as cases of the virus began to increase. **Nahshon Deering** (2015 cohort) is a Technical Service Specialist at Atrium Health in Charlotte, NC. During this time, he continues to gather and organize data for sharing proposed aesthetic and infrastructure projects with his leadership team. Deering looks forward to continuing his health career journey by beginning the Executive Master's in Public Health program at The Dartmouth Institute this fall. **Judith Lovince, PharmD** (2015 cohort), PGY1 Health-System Pharmacy Administration and Leadership Resident at UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy in Chapel Hill, NC finds technology to be extremely useful during these times as she utilizes a cloud-based electronic health records (EHR) system to communicate with her patients. At the Medical Center of Trinity in North Tampa, FL, **Raynard Ware** serves as Associate Administrator. Ware works closely with supply chain and nursing staff to monitor and track personal protective equipment (PPE) and has made tough decisions around team staffing. Raynard explained, "*managing the message*" across the hospital system is critical and key during these unprecedented times.

The mission of the BHLI has never been so clear. We proudly stand behind the impeccable work of our front-line Scholars. These tangible experiences gained in the field allow for a greater understanding of the importance in eliminating healthcare disparities among the vulnerable populations of our nation.



# A Note from Our Founder

The Coronavirus epidemic in our country has been a disruptive force far exceeding our nation's consciousness. The impact has been felt heavily in secondary education creating a rush to on-line and distant education more quickly than anyone could have imagined. "Supply Chain" is now recognized in everyday conversation. The U.S. healthcare system has exposed both its strengths and weaknesses. And for the first time I can remember (a long time) social economic disparities are now recognized by main stream media, repeatedly.

COVID-19 has not escaped the BHLI. For the first time in eight (8) years, our better judgment led us to suspend our two week Institute in Kansas City. Our dozen summer work internships were also suspended. Nonetheless, we welcome the fourteen (14) members of the 2020 Cohort into the BHLI network, and we will provide them with half of their anticipated \$1,500 honorarium despite the suspension. Likewise, we will provide our interns with half of the \$5,000 average salary they were expecting. We have scheduled valuable virtual engagement this summer with the selected 2020 Scholars, and they have been offered first choice to join us next summer in Kansas City. We are also pleased to announce that all of our internship sites have agreed to keep their offers available for next summer.

One thing positive that the Coronavirus has done; it has proven the necessity for building a talented diverse workforce to lead our country when the next catastrophe hits... the BHLI has an app for that!



## Increasing Opportunities and Expanding Partnerships



The BHLI recently worked to coordinate three post graduate opportunities involving various levels of scholarship support for its Alumni Scholars. We are proud to announce a partnership with The Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy at **Dartmouth College** as a post graduate degree partner. BHLI Alumni that meet qualification

criteria may be eligible to receive a \$30,000 scholarship toward pursuing a Master's in Public Health (MPH).

**Nahshon Deering** (pictured right corner w/Eugene Woods, Atrium Health) of the BHLI's 2015 cohort has been accepted into the program and will begin his studies in August of this year. Locally, in partnership with the **University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC)**, a \$7,500 scholarship is available for a BHLI alumni Scholar looking to pursue a



Masters in Public Administration or a Masters in Business Administration at UMKC's



Bloch School of Business. Lastly, the Institute now partners with **Rush University's**-Health Systems Management (HSM). **Vanessa Mendoza** (pictured center-middle, Junior Achievement event panelist) 2017 BHLI Scholar and 2019 UMKC graduate has been accepted to Rush University's program and will begin this fall. The nationally-ranked, four-year HSM program is designed to help up-and-coming healthcare leaders accelerate their careers through a combination of valuable work experience and tuition assistance. During the program, Vanessa will work full-time at Rush Medical Center with tuition paid in full.





# Congratulations, 2020 Graduates!



**Brenda Carrillo**  
2015 Cohort  
St. Luke's College of  
Nursing  
B.S. Nursing



**Russell Cooks**  
2015 Cohort  
Florida A&M University  
B.S. Computer Engineering



**Charles Davis**  
2015 Cohort  
Florida A&M University  
Doctorate PharmD



**Elijah Evans**  
2018 Cohort  
North Carolina A & T  
State University  
B.S. Finance



**Demetri Fisher**  
2016 Cohort  
Arizona State  
University  
B.S. Liberal Studies



**Jasmin Guzman**  
2014 Cohort  
St. Luke's College of  
Nursing  
B.S. Nursing



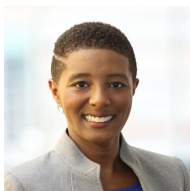
**Myles Harris**  
2018 Cohort  
Fisk University  
B.S. Business Administration



**Emily Laureore**  
2019 Cohort  
Spelman College  
B.A. Political Science



**Kyle Liggins**  
2018 Cohort  
University of Missouri -  
Kansas City  
B.A. Chemistry/Psychology  
& Biology



**Joy Milner**  
2018 Cohort  
Spelman College  
B.S. Health Science



**Alexis Peterson**  
2019 Cohort  
Spelman College  
B.S. Health Science



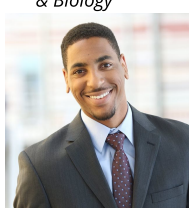
**Kailyn Price**  
2017 Cohort  
North Carolina A & T  
State University  
B.S. Biology



**Gabrielle Quinn**  
2013 Cohort  
Washington University  
Post Baccalaureate  
Certificate-  
Pre-Medicine



**Antiana Richardson**  
2019 Cohort  
Washington University  
B.A. Biology



**Myles Ross**  
2017 Cohort  
North Carolina A & T  
State University  
B.S. Electrical Engineering



**Dominique Sanchez**  
2018 Cohort  
University of Missouri -  
Kansas City  
B.A. Chemistry/Psychology



**Alexandria Stanton**  
2018 Cohort  
North Carolina A & T  
State University  
B.S. Biology



**Sakilae White**  
2018 Cohort  
North Carolina A & T  
State University  
B.S. Chemistry



**Antonio Zamudio-Moore**  
2018 Cohort  
Rockhurst University  
B.S. Business Administration

The BHLI would like to recognize and celebrate nineteen (19) of its alumni Scholars who have earned undergraduate degrees with many moving into the healthcare field. **Brenda Carrillo** and **Jasmin Guzman** earned their R.N., B.S. in Nursing and are working Truman Medical Centers and Children's Mercy Hospital respectively. **Russell Cooks** from Florida A&M University (FAMU) will pursue a role with Microsoft in Seattle, WA. **Charles Davis**, also of FAMU will be working at PUBLIX pharmacy in North Carolina. **Elijah Evans** of North Carolina A & T State University (NC A&T) will serve as a Rotational Development Program Associate with Blue Cross & Blue Shield in Durham, NC. **Demetri Fisher** graduated from Arizona State University and will pursue a Masters of Science degree at the University of California in Los Angeles. **Myles Harris** of Fisk will serve as a Project Manager with HCA Healthcare in Nashville, TN. **Emily Laureore** of Spelman College plans to further her studies in Law this fall. **Kyle Liggins** from the University of Missouri - Kansas City plans to work in research or as a medical scribe before entering medical school. **Joy Milner** and

**Alexis Peterson** both of Spelman College will pursue roles at CulturalLink in Atlanta, GA and Rush Medical Center in Chicago, IL respectively. **Kailyn Price** will pursue a PhD in Genomics/Bioinformatics at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. **Gabrielle Quinn** and **Antiana Richardson** earned degrees in Pre-Medicine and Biology/Healthcare Management respectively at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. **Myles Ross** graduated from NC A&T and will pursue an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering at the university. **Alexandria Stanton** and **Sakilae White** earned B.S. degrees in Biology and Chemistry respectively and plan to attend medical school. **Dominique Sanchez** graduated from UMKC and plans to further her studies in the field of Law and **Antonio Zamudio-Moore**, Rockhurst University graduate currently serves as a Delivery Consultant with Cerner Corporation.

The BHLI congratulates its Scholars for completing these milestone achievements and will mentor and support them as their professional journeys continue!

# Special Series: Success Stories Behind the Inaugural Members of BHLI

Dr. Marcella Riley began working under the directorship of John Bluford at Truman Medical Centers (TMC) in 2010 as an intern during her sophomore year at Fisk University. Bluford mentored Dr. Riley during her role as Special Assistant to the President & CEO of TMC focusing on national and international presentations. Riley also worked in the Quality Resources department on a major project where she analyzed patient admissions and discharge data. In addition to her recent accomplishment of graduating from the UMKC School of Medicine, Dr. Riley has served as a valued Board member of the BHLI since its creation in 2013. BHLI caught up with Dr. Riley to learn more of her story behind settling into the field of healthcare.

## **BHLI: Dr. Riley, share a little about your background.**

I was born and raised on the beautiful island of Jamaica in Montego Bay. I grew up in Saint Catherine which is just a short drive outside the capital of Kingston. I was raised by a single mother with four other siblings and went to primary school at Waterford Primary School where I was named Valedictorian of my class. I went on to graduate from Wolmer's High School for Girls in 2006 which was one of the highest ranked high schools on the island and was named Valedictorian there also.

**BHLI: What have been the keys of success in your career path?** ·I treat others with respect. Treating others with respect or treating them fairly is a key part of building strong interpersonal relationships. Such relationships are key for getting the job done as well as opening opportunities for career advancement. You never know who may help you make the next connection or to whom you will serve as a connection in their career path. Also, I always do more than is expected of me. I always go above and beyond to seek out opportunities for making positive contributions. I work hard and I am consistent with that! There is no substitute!

**BHLI: Do you foresee any long-term impact of the recent COVID-19 crisis upon the healthcare field?** The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped the way in which healthcare providers interface with patients and how healthcare is delivered. The pandemic has influenced a more widespread use of telemedicine. It will be interesting to see how telemedicine takes shape and how changes to regulatory rules and billing practices evolve.

## **BHLI: Will the pandemic affect your residency assignment?**

To be completely honest, it's business as usual (at Orlando Health). There has been no communication about any changes to date. I have actually had the pleasure of engaging with my co-residents and program administrator via the Zoom video chat platform.

**BHLI: How did your work with the BHLI and Mr. Bluford specifically prepare you for medical school?** What I enjoyed most about working with Mr. Bluford was the fast paced environment and the variation in day to day tasks. This served me well in adapting to the ever-changing demands of medical school. I was no stranger to staying organized, being efficient and working under pressure. I was well prepared for medical school in that regard. ·Mr. Bluford provided me with a strong background and first-hand experience on the interaction between socioeconomic status and health. This experience combined with my personal experience of growing up in a third world country positioned me to serve as an advocate for my patients.

**BHLI: What advice would you give to an up and coming professional?** 1) Treat people kindly. Every person regardless of title, position or assumed level of importance should be respected for who they are and what they bring to the team; 2) make the most of every opportunity; 3) always show up prepared; 4) speak up and don't be afraid to share your thoughts and ideas; and 5) practice self reflection. Celebrate your strengths and be wise enough to acknowledge your weaknesses and consistently seek to improve upon them.



*Dr. Marcella Riley will begin a residency assignment at **Orlando Health** in central Florida working in Obstetrics and Gynecology in July 2020 with full time duties beginning June 2021.*



# News-worthy Notables

The Institute is working to expand its programming to local youth in the Kansas City community. We are proud to announce that in collaboration with a local high school program, the BHLI is developing a high school healthcare career academy pilot program. The curriculum will focus on introducing urban youth to concepts of healthy living, leadership skills development and insights into various healthcare careers. Implementation of the program is scheduled for January 2021.

Recently, the BHLI developed advertisements to be featured in **Modern Healthcare** magazine. The magazine's Publisher and Vice President, Fawn Lopez, released the ads in March and April editions. Modern Healthcare is circulated weekly and has a national audience of 70,000 in the healthcare space.

While the Institute has suspended programming for the summer of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the incoming **Scholars** anticipated to participate in this year's program look forward to joining BHLI next year in Kansas City. Among those selected Scholars are **Douglas Burnett, III** and **Bryant Dean** from Morehouse College, **Lauren Dones** from Spelman College, **Arrington Ervin** from Mississippi State University, **Taylor Hamilton** from the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), **Jihad Miller** from Florida A&M University (FAMU), **Briana Paris** from North Carolina A & T State University (NCA&T), **Daniel Searcy** and **Martin Searcy** from NCA&T, **Mariah Smith** from Hampton University, **Carlos Silva** from UMKC, **Minia Williams** and **Whitney Williams** from Spelman College and **Lauren Winston** from Vanderbilt University. BHLI staff will keep the Scholars virtually engaged during the summer with assignments and discussion through a community forum platform.



**HEALTHCARE  
DESERVES THE BEST**

Give your company the best chance of success in today's challenging healthcare landscape.

At the Blueford Healthcare Leadership Institute we develop culturally competent, underrepresented scholars for future leadership roles. The elimination of long-standing disparities among vulnerable patient populations starts with proper representation. Our highly prepared scholars are ready and eager to join your team and start making a difference.

For more information visit [blufordinstitute.org](http://blufordinstitute.org)



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HEALTHCARE  
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