



2022 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Connecting Generations of Diverse Health Leaders

Virtual Celebration Event
December 8, 2022

Letter from the Co-Founder and CEO

On behalf of Health Career Connection (HCC) I want to thank you for joining us to celebrate over 30 years of inspiring and empowering the next generation of diverse health leaders and professionals.

Thanks to your support, HCC is providing our students and alumni with invaluable educational, economic and career opportunities and our partners with talented, diverse candidates to meet their workforce, diversity and equity goals. It is more important and urgent than ever that we work together to build a more robust, diverse and empowered health workforce to advance health equity in our communities. Your contributions to our annual celebration and throughout the year have lasting, significant impact. HCC now has 4600 alumni working to improve the health of their communities, to advance policy and systems change and to provide culturally competent clinical services.

To better understand our collective impact HCC conducted a longitudinal evaluation with the generous support of Blue Shield of California. While the more complete study findings will be available early in 2023, I am proud to share some highlights of HCC's impact:

- **99%** of alumni surveyed said that HCC increased their understanding of health career options and 98% said that HCC increased their confidence they could achieve them
- **98%** reported that HCC empowered them to become health leaders
- **86%** increased their professional skills
- **71%** were offered a job or extended internship or secured a job referral through HCC
- **58%** established a relationship with a mentor
- **83%** reported making more well-informed health career decisions by virtue of HCC
- **68%** are serving underserved communities
- **87%** strengthened their professional networks

HCC is committed to working with you to scale and sustain our proven programs and increase our impact. We continue to do this in our 4 California regions (Northern California, Central Valley, Coachella Valley, and Southern California), and our New England, New York/New Jersey, Washington D.C., and North Carolina regions and we will build the new regional programs we launched in Detroit, Chicago and Minneapolis in 2022.

In summer 2023 we are expanding to the Philadelphia area and creating a formal regional program in San Diego. We will also continue to grow remote internships nationally and our virtual national Health Equity Scholars Program, now entering our 4th year. We are particularly excited about increasing the opportunities, projects and programming we offer in public health, behavioral health, primary care and biosciences. We are expanding and replicating our Medical Careers Coalition, piloted in Los Angeles, to increase the number of underrepresented, first generation and low-income HCC alumni becoming doctors and serving the underserved.

HCC is also committed to elevating as an organization by serving as the local, regional, and national connector of health career pathways, health employers and health professions schools, and workforce diversity initiatives. By positioning ourselves as a connector and leveraging the power of our alumni and partners, we can continue to lift up the talent of students and truly build a health workforce that reflects and represents the populations we serve to achieve better health and health equity for all.

HCC needs your partnership, mentorship and investment to succeed and expand our impact in all our regions and programs and to meet partner and community health and workforce needs. Everyone wins by investing in HCC and we hope that you will contribute at our event and going forward.

We commend and are grateful for the incredible organizational, individual and alumni champions we are celebrating on 12/8. We would not be where we are today without them. Please join me in congratulating and thanking them.

We are very grateful for all the sponsors of this event and for all of you for participating. We appreciate your generosity and your investment in HCC. Your support is essential and appreciated!

Thank you for joining us in our annual celebration and supporting our commitment to increasing diversity, equity, and empowerment of our future health workforce and communities. On behalf of the HCC Board and staff, thank you for all you do for HCC and our students and alumni. We are forever grateful and deeply indebted.



Jeff Oxendine

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Agenda

Welcome

Alumni Welcome

CEO Welcome

Networking Breakout Sessions

Organizational Recognitions

Keynote Speakers – *Daniel Dawes, Wright Lassiter, and Dr. Robert Higgins*

Alumni Awards

Health Career Connection Champion Awards

Closing

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Master of Ceremonies



Calvin Wheeler, MD, BS Pharm, FAAP

Regional Medical Director, Undergraduate & Graduate Medical Education

Kaiser Permanente Northern California

Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Science

KP Bernard J Tyson School of Medicine

The Regional Medical Director of Undergraduate & Graduate Medical Education, Dr. Calvin Wheeler also serves on the Regional Community Health Governance and Contributions Committees. In his UME/GME, Community Health and Equity Inclusion & Diversity roles, he leads and supports programs to improve this nation's and local communities' health and the diversity of the physician and healthcare professionals pipeline.

Dr. Wheeler served as the Physician-in-Chief for Kaiser Permanente Medical Centers in Fremont and the Greater Southern Alameda Area for eighteen years. During that time, he served as a member of the Board of Directors and the Operations Management Group of The Permanente Medical Group. Dr. Wheeler joined Kaiser Permanente in 1984 as a staff pediatrician and neurologist in Hayward and Walnut Creek.

Dr. Wheeler graduated from the University of Michigan College of Pharmacy and the University of California-Irvine College of Medicine. Following medical school, he completed a six-month American Hepatic Foundation Fellowship at King's College Hospital in London, England. He then did residency training in Pediatrics at Boston City Hospital and Children's Hospital Los Angeles. His residency was followed by a fellowship in Pediatric Neurology at Boston City Hospital and the Boston University Combined Neurology Program, where he also served as a clinical instructor. He then completed a fellowship in Epilepsy/EEG and the Houston Merritt Fellowship in Cerebral Palsy at the Children's Hospital in Boston and Harvard Medical School, where he also served as a clinical instructor.

After moving to the Bay Area, Dr. Wheeler became a clinical instructor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Division of Neurology at University of California-San Francisco. His research interests are in the areas of anti-epileptic medications and alternative epilepsy treatments. He completed the Advanced Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1997. He completed the California Health Care Foundation Leadership Fellowship between 2003-2005.

Dr. Wheeler has served on the Board of Trustees of the California College of the Arts for twenty years, where he sits on the Committee on Trustees and chairs the Academic Committee. Dr. Wheeler has been a member of the National Medical Fellowship Board of Directors since 2017 and is Chair of the NMF Bay Area Council. Dr. Wheeler has served on the Board of Directors of Health Career Connection since 2019.

Featured Speakers and Honorees



Daniel Dawes, JD

Executive Director

*The Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse
School of Medicine*

Professor Daniel Dawes is a widely respected public health leader and health policy expert. He serves as the executive director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine and as a professor of health law, policy, and management.

He was instrumental in developing and negotiating the Mental Health Parity Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, and key components of the Affordable Care Act.

Professor Dawes serves as an advisor to The White House COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force; as an appointed member of the CDC's Advisory Committee to the Director; and as co-chair of the CDC's Health Equity Working Group. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and an elected fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine.

He is also the author of two groundbreaking books: '150 Years of Obamacare' and 'The Political Determinants of Health'.



Wright Lassiter

Chief Executive Officer

CommonSpirit Health

Wright Lassiter serves as Chief Executive Officer of CommonSpirit Health, an integrated health system comprised of more than 140 hospitals and 1,500 care sites in 21 states.

Prior to joining CommonSpirit, he served as President and CEO of Henry Ford Health in Detroit where he oversaw two successful mergers and opened partner hospitals in Saudi Arabia and India.

The recipient of numerous accolades, he was named “Crain’s Detroit Business Newsmaker” of 2022 and received the Michigan Health & Hospital Association’s “Meritorious Service Award”. His other honors include multiple recognitions as one of the “100 Most Influential People in Healthcare” by Modern Healthcare; and as one of the “20 People Who Make Healthcare Better in the U.S.” by HealthLeaders Magazine.

And... he is the 2022 Chair of the American Hospital Association Board of Trustees.



Robert Higgins, MD

President

Brigham and Women's Hospital

Executive Vice President

Mass General Brigham

A distinguished academic and clinical physician with an intense commitment to training the next generation of exceptional people in healthcare, Dr. Robert Higgins currently serves as president of Brigham and Women's Hospital, and as executive vice president at Mass General Brigham. He joined the Brigham from Johns Hopkins, where he led the Department of Surgery as Surgeon-in-Chief and was honored as the William Stewart Halsted Professor of Surgery.

Dr. Higgins has served in numerous national professional leadership roles, including the President of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the President of the American College of Surgeons Society of Surgical Chairs, and the President of the United Network for Organ Sharing. And he has authored more than 200 scientific articles and book chapters.

Additional Honorees



Luisa Buada, RN BSN MPH

Chief Executive Officer

Ravenswood Family Health Network

Luisa Buada serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the South County Community Health Center and for more than four decades has been a recognized leader in the areas of health care administration, management and organizational development. She was the founding Executive Director of Clinicas de Salud in the Salinas Valley, the Berkeley Primary Care Access Clinic, and was cofounder of LifeLong Medical Care in Berkeley.

The recipient of numerous awards and professional recognitions, she was honored with the 2016 Visionary of the Year Award sponsored by The San Francisco Chronicle, the John W. Gardner Exemplary Leadership Award from the American Leadership Forum of Silicon Valley, the California State Assembly Woman of the Year award for the 24th District and a “Compassion” award from the University of California School of Nursing for her lifelong work in community health.



Katherine Flores, MD

Director

UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research

Co-Director

California Health Professions Consortium

Dr. Katherine Flores is a former farmworker and an alum of Stanford University and UC Davis School of Medicine. She is an Associate Clinical Professor with the UCSF School of Medicine and Director of the UCSF Fresno Latino Center for Medical Education and Research.

For over 30 years, she has been passionate in developing and advocating for pipeline programs that recruit and retain underserved and underrepresented youth into health careers. In collaboration with health and education partners, she initiated the Doctors Academy in Fresno County, which is a longitudinal, comprehensive health pathway program that serves youth from disadvantaged backgrounds.

She also serves with several organizations that support health workforce development such as the California Endowment Board of Directors, the California Blue Shield Foundation Board of Directors, HCAI's California Health Workforce and Training Council, and she serves as the Co-Director of the California Health Professions Consortium. Additionally, she maintains a bilingual family medicine practice in Fresno, California.



Amy Locklear Hertel

Executive Vice Provost

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Amy Locklear Hertel is a citizen of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina and a descendent with close ties to the Coharie Indian Tribe. She is currently the Executive Vice Provost at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Clinical Assistant Professor at the UNC School of Social Work.

Hertel's research and practice centers indigenous knowledge and values as an asset to inform social and political action, leadership and community development, as well as inclusion and engagement across cultures. Her work is informed by the worldview of the indigenous communities she is from as well as those she has partnered with over the years in North Carolina and beyond.

Formerly serving as Chief of Staff to two chancellors at UNC Chapel Hill, Hertel was appointed as a co-captain to the first strategic initiative in the university's strategic plan, Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good. That strategic initiative, called Build Our Community Together, reflects her experience in bringing people together in community around a common self-determined goal.

Before joining the Chancellor's Office, Dr. Hertel served as the second director of the UNC American Indian Center where she collaborated with faculty across a variety of disciplines to participate in meaningful and reciprocal community engagement as well as research with native nations. Dr. Hertel attended UNC Chapel Hill where she earned a BA in Communication Studies and Washington University in St. Louis where she earned her MSW, JD and PhD in Social Work.



Hector Rodriguez

Professor

UC Berkeley School of Public Health

Dr. Hector Rodriguez is the Kaiser Permanente Endowed Professor of Health Policy and Management, and Director of the Center for Healthcare Organizational and Innovation Research at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, and a recognized expert in the fields of organizational behavior, performance management, and racial and ethnic disparities in health care.

He is the author of more than 130 peer-reviewed publications focused on performance management, organizational change, health care teams, and patient-centered outcomes.

Dr. Rodriguez a recipient of the Thompson Prize from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration, and the Distinguished Investigator Award from the AcademyHealth Disparities Interest Group. And he is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Alumni Honorees



Nicole Cooper DrPH, MPH

Senior Vice President

Health Equity Strategic Partnerships at UnitedHealth Group

Dr. Nicole M. Cooper currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Health Equity Strategic Partnerships at UnitedHealth Group. In this role, she helps to lead the UHG Office of Health Equity while managing various national health equity partnerships and coalitions.

She formerly served as Head of Healthcare Policy at Lyft. In this role, she developed and managed Lyft's federal and state healthcare policy agenda, working to expand Lyft's presence in the healthcare sector. She also led Lyft's healthcare-related strategic partnerships and alliances supporting the company's social impact strategy and ESG priorities.

She previously served as Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility at UnitedHealthcare, where she led national signature partnerships and local and state social investment strategies, under the UHC Empowering Health commitment, to bolster UHC's social impact across the US. Reporting to the UnitedHealthcare Chief Communications Officer, among other responsibilities, Dr. Cooper spearheaded national corporate philanthropic grant-making efforts and large-scale employee volunteerism and community engagement programs that were focused on addressing basic access to care and the social determinants of health for underserved communities. She was also a member of the executive UnitedHealthcare Culture, Inclusion and Diversity Council.

Prior to joining UnitedHealthcare, Dr. Cooper was an Obama administration political appointee, and part of the US Department of Health and Human Services team responsible for implementation of the Affordable Care Act. At HHS, Dr. Cooper served as a policy advisor to key leaders in the agency, including the Chief of Staff at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health.

In 2019, she received both the Modern Healthcare "Top 25 Emerging Leaders (Under 40)" award and Business Insider's "DC Healthcare Power List" recognition, and in 2020 she received the National Minority Quality Forum's "40 Under 40 Leaders in Health" award.

Dr. Cooper holds a bachelor's degree from Spelman College, a master of public health (MPH) degree in Health Management and Policy from the University of Michigan, and a doctor of public health (DrPH) degree in Health Policy from Harvard University. She lives in Washington, DC with her family.



Karen San

Director of Transformation and Strategic Initiatives

The Permanente Medical Group

Karen San is a northern California regional director of Transformation and Strategic Initiatives with The Permanente Medical Group in TPMG Consulting Services. Karen thrives on being a catalyst for change and improvement and innovating for better health care. She is energized by solving highly complex problems and partnering with all levels of organizations for continuous improvement. She currently leads a talented team that has deep expertise in strategy, innovation, performance improvement, and human-centered design. Karen is passionate about designing exceptional care experiences, fulfill joy and meaning in medicine and achieving operational excellence by engaging those closest to the work and eliciting their ideas. As one of the co-directors for the Kaiser Permanente Northern California Administrative Fellowship program, Karen is also helping to cultivate future generations of health care leaders.

Karen's breadth of experience spans virtual care, preventative care, primary care, specialty care, imaging services, cardiac services, and inpatient care. Prior to joining TPMG, Karen worked for Northern California Kaiser Permanente Patient Care Services. Karen also worked at our Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center collaborating with physician leaders, administration and nursing to help operationalize Kaiser Permanente Northern California's most comprehensive cardiovascular program.

Karen grew up in Oakland, California, graduated from University of California at Berkeley, and earned her Master of Science degree in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. While in graduate school, Karen worked at Stanford Hospital, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Partners Healthcare and the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation



Alyssa Benalfew-Ramos

Associate Director

Boston Public Health Commission

Alyssa Benalfew-Ramos serves as the Associate Director of the Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement at the Boston Public Health Commission.

The daughter of Ethiopian and Jamaican immigrants and an alumna of the Boston university School of Public Health and the University of Massachusetts, she is enthusiastic about addressing the social determinants of health needs and using data to drive systems change.

Partnering with Black, Latino and other youth of color she regularly deals with issues of substance abuse and violence, as well as workforce development training, organizational change and coalition building.

2022 Organization Champions



THE KRAFT CENTER
for Community Health



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALTH



PICTURED: DORIEL (LEFT) AND ELIANA (RIGHT). PHOTO CREDIT: LOURDES SANCHEZ

"IF IT WEREN'T FOR DORIEL, MY DAUGHTER WOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THE TREATMENT SHE NEEDED."

-TANIA, MOTHER OF ELIANA

YOUR GIFT TO RAVENSWOOD HELPS CHILDREN LIKE ELIANA STAY HEALTHY AND HAPPY.





HealthBegins is a national mission-driven consulting and training firm that drives radical improvements in health equity by helping clients and partners address the social and structural drivers of health equity.

Founded in 2012 by physicians and public health experts, we believe that we all can and must take bold action to improve health care and the social and structural conditions that marginalize people and make them sick in the first place. While we are national thought leaders and pioneers in this space, HealthBegins is not a think tank. We are a “learn by doing” operation that helps clients and partners drive continuous improvement, learning, and action at all levels: addressing individual health-related social needs, improving community-wide social determinants of health, and dismantling deeper structural determinants of health inequity.

HealthBegins provides clients and partners with strategic consulting, technical assistance, and training and education solutions. True to our mission, we also work with select partners to reimagine, innovate, and scale solutions to address pressing health equity challenges and systemic barriers. Over the years, we have activated and educated thousands of providers, educators, payers, and community partners around the world—and then equipped them to drive upstream radical transformation for health equity.

With headquarters in Los Angeles and employees based in Oakland, Seattle, and Boston, HealthBegins has helped organizations in over 25 states and supports clients and partners throughout the country.

healthbegins.org

CONNECT WITH US

The journey upstream requires a strong community, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Join us online as we shed light on all the important discussions around the Upstream Movement, from social justice to health equity to public health efforts.

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Where Compliance Happens

*The Administrative and Compliance Operating System
for Federally Qualified Health Centers
and Safety Net Organizations*

**Kudos to Health Career Connection!
We commend HCC for its work in
empowering students of diverse,
under-represented or disadvantaged
backgrounds find health careers for
the past 32 years!**

**HEALTH
CAREER
CONNECTION**



*As an alumni, mentor, former director
and alumni board member, I can attest
to the power and impact that HCC had
in my and countless other lives.*

David Monaghan, MHA
Alumni, Class of '96



The Political Determinants *of* Health



Daniel E. Dawes

Foreword by

DAVID R. WILLIAMS

HEALTH CAREER CONNECTION



Thank you to the HCC community for joining us this evening and for the past 32 years! Your support is essential to our work of promoting a diverse health workforce.