



LOUISIANA
HEALTH EQUITY

2026

LA40 BY 2030

HEALTH SUMMIT

ADVANCING HEALTH IN A NEW ERA

SEPT 24-25

DILLARD UNIVERSITY

2601 Gentilly Blvd, NOLA



DILLARD
UNIVERSITY



LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH
Office of Public Health



new orleans
health
department



LOUISIANA
HEALTH EQUITY

LA40
By **2030**

ABOUT US

The Louisiana Center for Health Equity is dedicated to advancing health equity to improve the overall health and well-being of all Louisianans. LCHE works to eliminate health and healthcare disparities attributed to structural, institutional, or social disadvantages.

Established in January 2010, LCHE is a statewide nonpartisan nonprofit organization with IRS status as a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt public charity.

OUR BOLD VISION

Historically, Louisiana has frequently ranked between 49th and 50th in annual overall state health outcomes. In direct response to these startling statistics, the Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE) and partners launched our BOLD VISION of LA40by2030 in 2020. This vision is to improve health outcomes and the quality of life for Louisiana children and families over the next decade. The goal of LA40by2030 is to improve Louisiana's health ranking to 40th by the year 2030.

LA40BY2030 KEY PILLARS

- ✓ Establish a systematic approach to women's health, such as an Office on Women's Health
- ✓ Prioritize and adopt key America's Health Rankings' health measures as policy
- ✓ Implement trauma-informed approaches and services for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) - in progress
- Set a state minimum wage higher than the federal minimum wage

In furtherance of our goal, LCHE has developed a Health Equity Framework for LA40by2030 that incorporates the social determinants of health domains. The Framework is a systemic change process of transforming data into action.



www.lahealthequity.org



Info@lahealthequity.org



Dear 2026 Health Summit Participants,

It is my sincere honor and privilege to welcome you to the **11th Annual Health Summit: Advancing Health in a New Era.**

Hosted by the Louisiana Center for Health Equity (LCHE), in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, New Orleans Health Department, Dillard University, the Center for Racial Justice, and our many dedicated collaborators, this year's summit brings together leaders, advocates, community partners, and changemakers from across Louisiana and beyond.

For eleven years, the Health Summit has provided a statewide forum for collaboration, innovation, and action. This year, we are especially focused on **Bridging Generations. Building Leaders. Becoming a Healthier Louisiana.** As we advance our **LA40by2030** vision, we recognize that creating a healthier Louisiana requires the wisdom and experience of those who have led before us, the energy and perspective of today's leaders, and the voices and leadership of the next generation.

The 2026 Health Summit creates space to examine the forces shaping health equity, emerging health challenges, and progress toward improving health across our state. Equally important, we will elevate youth and young adult leadership, prepare the next generation to understand and address Louisiana's health challenges, and foster meaningful intergenerational dialogue, civic engagement, policy learning, and action-oriented partnerships.

I encourage each of you to engage openly, share your knowledge and experiences, listen across generations, and build relationships that extend beyond this gathering. Together, we can transform ideas into action and strengthen the leadership needed to advance health equity and move Louisiana closer to **LA40by2030.**

Thank you for being part of this important journey and for your commitment to advancing health in a new era and building a healthier Louisiana for generations to come.

With deepest gratitude and hope,

Alma C. Stewart Allen
Founder and President
Louisiana Center for Health Equity
2026 Health Summit Planning Team Chair



2026

HEALTH SUMMIT

ADVANCING HEALTH IN A NEW ERA

PROGRAM AGENDA

Dillard University, Professional Schools & Sciences Building
September 24-25, 2026 - Opens at 1:00 PM

Goal: Advance the **LA40by2030** initiative by elevating youth and young adult leadership, preparing young leaders to understand and act on Louisiana's health challenges, and creating space for intergenerational dialogue, policy learning, community solutions, and action oriented partnerships

OBJECTIVES:

1. Analyze and Address the Forces That Shape Health Equity, Emerging Health Challenges, and State Health Improvement Plan Progress
2. Elevate Youth Leadership
3. Prepare the Next Generation of Leaders
4. Promote Intergenerational Collaboration
5. Embrace and Promote the Responsibility of Civic Engagement and Participation

Day One - Thursday, September 24th, 1:00 PM-5:30 PM, Georges Auditorium

Theme: Understanding the Landscape: Health Challenges and Structural Forces

Master of Ceremonies

Gregory Rattler Jr., MPH, Executive Director, Silverback Society

1:00 PM INVOCATION

Flitcher R. Bell, JD, Louisiana Center for Health Equity Board Member

SUMMIT OVERVIEW: *ADVANCING HEALTH IN A NEW ERA*

Alma C. Stewart Allen, RN, MS, MA, President and Founder, Louisiana Center for Health Equity

1:30 PM WELCOME AND REMARKS

Dr. Evelyn Griffin, MD, Surgeon General of Louisiana, Louisiana Department of Health

Monique Guillory, PhD, President, Dillard University

Austin Badon, District Director, Office of Governor Jeff Landry

1:45 PM TRIBUTE TO HONORABLE SENATOR LARRY SELTERS



PROGRAM AGENDA

Day One - Thursday, September 24th, 1:00 PM-5:30 PM, Georges Auditorium

2:00 PM OPENING KEYNOTE: FORCES THAT SHAPE HEALTH EQUITY

Alfreda Tillman Bester, Esq., MBA, Tillman Bester & Associates, LLC,
Moderator

Daniel E. Dawes, JD, Founding Dean, Meharry School of Global Health,
Author of *"The Political Determinants of Health"*

3:00 PM 15 MINUTE BREAK

PANEL DISCUSSION: FROM CRISIS TO ACTION:

3:15 PM ADDRESSING LOUISIANA'S EMERGING HEALTH CHALLENGES

Blake Stanfill, Student, St. Aug, Member, Louisiana Youth Advisory
Council, Moderator

Daisy Ellis, MPH, Health Policy Specialist, New Orleans Health and
Human Services

Dr. Stephen Fischer, MD, MPH, FACPM, FACOEM, Owner, Stephen
Fischer MD, Inc.

Meshawn Siddiq, MPH, CLC, HBCE, Doula, Director of Family Health,
New Orleans Health and Human Services

PANEL DISCUSSION: COMMUNITY VOICES

4:20 PM REAL STORIES THAT SHAPE POLICY AND DRIVE CHANGE

Chloe Stewart, Undergraduate Public Health Student, Dillard
University, Moderator

Kaitlyn Joshua, Maternal Health Advocate

Jordan Tabor, CEO, Rain Will Bring Flowers

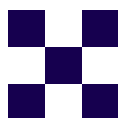
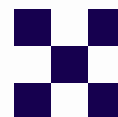
Lady Carlson, Lead Organizer, Westside Sponsoring Committee

Kheri Monks, Founder, The Preemie Mom Coach

Ebonee Craighead Adams, Operation Girls Administrator, Operation
Restoration

5:30 PM RECESS

**6:00 PM RECEPTION AND NETWORKING
DILLARD UNIVERSITY, STUDENT UNION BALLROOM**





PROGRAM AGENDA

Day Two - Friday, September 25th, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, Georges Auditorium

Theme: From Insight to Action: Leadership, Collaboration, and Innovation

8:00 AM VISIT VENDORS & NETWORKING

**8:15 AM YOUR SELF-CARE PRESCRIPTION: A MORNING WELLNESS RESET -
GEORGES AUDITORIUM**

Alisha Reed, PharmD, MBA, Founder, Your Self Care Prescription

9:00 AM DAY TWO OPENING

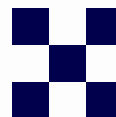
**Alma C. Stewart Allen, RN, MS, MA, President and Founder,
Louisiana Center for Health Equity**

MORNING PLENARY: NAVIGATING THE ROAD AHEAD: TECHNOLOGY, POLICY, AND THE FUTURE OF HEALTH EQUITY

**Kalil Cox, Project Manager, Louisiana Department of Health,
Moderator**

Kwame Terra, MPH, Founder and CEO, bEHR Health Systems

**Andrew Schwarz, PhD, Professor, Stephenson Department of
Entrepreneurship and Information Systems, Louisiana State
University**

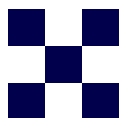


10:05 AM BREAKOUT SESSIONS

A. NAVIGATING MISINFORMATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE ROOM 131-135

**Ahrianna Vicks, Undergraduate Political Science Student, Dillard
University, Moderator**

**Gabriela Wilson, PhD, MSc, FHIMSS, FIAHSI, FAMIA, SNAI, Director,
Louisiana Center for Health Innovation, University of Louisiana at
Lafayette**



B. BUILDING POWER THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA ADVOCACY GEORGES AUDITORIUM

Malana Joseph Mitchell, VP, Public Relations, Spears Group, Moderator

Alisha Reed, PharmD, MBA, Founder, Your Self Care Prescription

Sabrina Short, Founder and CEO, NOLAvate Black





PROGRAM AGENDA

Day Two - Friday, September 25th, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, Georges Auditorium

11:10 PM YOUTH SPOTLIGHT SESSION

Thuy Vu, Undergraduate Pre-Med student, Louisiana State University, Moderator

Flint Mitchell, Ph.D, Deputy Director for Community Engagement, Performance, and Equity, New Orleans Health Department

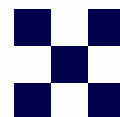
Kayla Osei-Bonsu, Undergraduate Political Science Student, Louisiana State University, Program Assistant and Health Crusader, Louisiana Center for Health Equity, 2026 Health Summit Program Chair

Naomi Fay Dela Pena, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Andrea Aragon-Lopez, Undergraduate Biology Student, Louisiana State University, Adolescent Health Intern and Health Crusader, Louisiana Center for Health Equity

Ahrianna Vicks, Undergraduate Psychology Student, Dillard University, 2026 Health Summit Ambassador

*view the extensive list of youth presenters and poster presentations here
<https://tinyurl.com/4pmw8cv5>



12:25 PM NETWORKING LUNCH STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

1:15 PM EMBRACE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

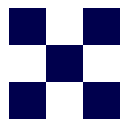
Alfreda Tillman Bester, JD, MBA, Principal Attorney, Tillman Bester and Associates, LLC, Moderator

Raymond Vincent, MPA, Associate Organizer, The Power Coalition

Dauda Sesay, Director/Founder, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants

Dustin Granger, CFP, Former Candidate for Louisiana Treasurer

Sarah Whittington, Esquire, Louisiana American Civil Liberties Union



2:30 PM 15 MINUTE BREAK





PROGRAM AGENDA

Day Two - Friday, September 25th, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM, Georges Auditorium

2:45 PM ACTION LAB: COMMIT TO CHANGE

Michelle Easton, PharmD, MPH, NPhaF, Founder and CEO, Custom MADE Consulting, Lead

Jennifer Caldwell, PhD, Director, Public Health Genomics Lab, Pennington Biomedical Research Center

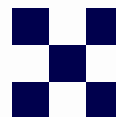
Knesha Rose-Davison, MPH, CPH, Research Administration Service Unit- PHSW, Tulane University

Ayana Ussery, MPH, Program Monitor, Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health

Shriya Dev, MPH, Health Policy Fellow, Louisiana Center for Health Equity

Dean Zuhaira, MPH, Health Policy Fellow, Louisiana Center for Health Equity

Sydney Elliot, MPH Student, Johns Hopkins University, Public Health Intern, Louisiana Center for Health Equity

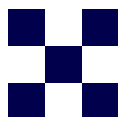


4:00 PM CLOSING PLENARY: THE FUTURE IS OURS

Gary Chambers, Jr., Founder, Civics for the People

4:50 PM CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 PM ADJOURN



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LOUISIANA PUBLIC
HEALTH INSTITUTE

The Louisiana Public Health Institute is a statewide nonprofit organization whose mission is to lead and partner with communities to ensure that everyone has fair and just opportunities to be healthy and well.

To learn more, visit lphi.org.

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ATTENDEE RESOURCES



2026HEALTHSUMMIT.MY.CANVA.SITE/

SCAN TO ACCESS

- AGENDA & SESSION DETAILS
- CEU & EVALUATION FORMS
- SPEAKER & PRESENTER BIOS
- MAPS & VENUE INFORMATION
- SESSION RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES
- AND MORE

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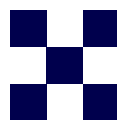
LA40_{BY}2030

DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS



Summit Opening

Alma C. Stewart Allen, RN, MS, MA
President and Founder,
Louisiana Center for Health Equity



LA40BY2030: A HEALTHIER LOUISIANA STARTS WITH ALL OF US

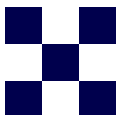
LA40BY2030 is a statewide movement led by the Louisiana Center for Health Equity to move Louisiana into the Top 40 healthiest states by 2030.

Getting there takes more than healthcare. It takes communities, young people, advocates, educators, policymakers, businesses, healthcare leaders, and everyday Louisianans working together to address the conditions that shape our health and turn ideas into action.



Master of Ceremonies

Gregory Rattler Jr.,
CEO/ Executive Director,
The Silverback Society



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DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKERS

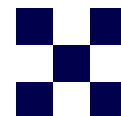
Keynote Speakers



Daniel E. Dawes, JD,
Founding Dean,
Meharry School of Global Health,
Author of “The Political
Determinants of Health”



Gary Chambers, Jr.,
Founder,
Civics for the People



Welcome Remarks



Monique Guillory, PhD,
President,
Dillard University



Austin Badon,
District Director,
Office of Gov. Jeff Landry



Dr. Evelyn Griffin, MD
Louisiana Surgeon General



THANK YOU 2026 HEALTH SUMMIT PLANNING TEAM

Alexis Williams, MPH

Environmental Health Scientist Coordinator
Environmental Public Health Tracking,
Section of Environmental Epidemiology
and Toxicology
Office of Public Health, Louisiana
Department of Health

Alfreda Tillman Bester JD, MBA,

Principal Attorney, Tillman Bester and
Associates, LLC

Alma C. Stewart Allen, RN, MS, MA

President and Founder
Louisiana Center for Health Equity
2026 Health Summit Planning Team Chair

Ashraf Esmail, PhD

Associate Professor Director
Center for Racial Justice
Barron Hilton Criminal Justice Endowed
Professor
Dillard University

Ayana Ussery, MPH

Program Monitor, Bureau of Planning and
Performance, Office of Public Health
Louisiana Department of Health

Flint D. Mitchell, PhD

Public Health Advisor
Bureau of planning and Performance
New Orleans Health Department

Flitcher R. Bell, JD

Community Advocate, Louisiana Center for
Health Equity Board Member

Jennifer L. Caldwell, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor & Director, Public Health
Genomics Lab, Pennington Biomedical
Research Center

Kalil Cox

Project Coordinator, Office of Public Health,
Louisiana Department of Health

Kayla Osei-Bonsu

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Louisiana Center for Health Equity
2026 Health Summit Program Chair

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Health, Bureau of Planning Performance

Knesha N. Rose-Davison, MPH, CPH

Pre-Award Specialist II
Research Administration Service Unit-Public
Health and Social Work, Tulane University

Michelle R. Easton, PharmD, MPH, NPhaF

Founder and CEO, Custom MADE Consulting

Valerie Huntley, BA

Senior Communications Manager, Louisiana
Public Health Institute

Victoria Cavallino MSPH

Medical Student at LSU Health Science Center,
New Orleans, LA, Health Policy Fellow for LCHE

Regenia Faye Taylor, MS

National Congress of Black Women, Inc.

THANK YOU

2026 HEALTH SUMMIT

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Ahrianna Vicks

Undergraduate Psychology Student, Dillard University

Chloe Stewart

Undergraduate Political Science Student, Dillard University

Jayla Walker

Undergraduate Health Science Student, Dillard University

Roxanne Mosley

JD Candidate '27, Southern University Law Center

DILLARD UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

The CRJ values revolve around promoting empathy, cultural understanding, and advocacy to effect positive change in society

Professional Development
Committed to dismantling racial inequities and promoting inclusivity, this center offers a range of educational programs designed to empower students to become advocates for social justice.

Internship Program
We partner with a variety of organizations and businesses through our paid internship program to provide our Dillard Students with the hands on experience and mentorship that will guarantee success after college.

Student Travel
We empower students to present their research projects at conferences and become global citizens and advocates for racial justice, broadening their horizons while inspiring meaningful change.

DONATE ❤️

Dillard University's Center for Racial Justice is committed to nurturing the next generation of Youth Activists, uniting our community to illuminate and combat social injustices. Our mission is to provide a transformative experience through a paid internship program that not only aids students in building professional resumes but also grants them the opportunity to showcase their research projects at prominent conferences. With a focus on education, activism, and community engagement, we strive to create socially conscious leaders who champion equity and drive positive change in society.

Follow us on Instagram and Youtube for more updates @CRJ_DU



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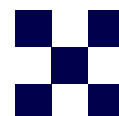
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