



Organizational Prospectus

LEGACY TIMELINE

128 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE!



1898

Dr. Latrobe Motley Nursing School

Establishing early pathways into healthcare education and professional training.



1954

Forest City Hospital

A cornerstone institution expanding access to care within the Cleveland community.



1979

Scholarship Committee Established

Formalizing investment in future healthcare professional through structured support.



2006

Health Legacy of Cleveland Established

A renewed commitment to advancing equity in medicine and dentistry.



2006-

\$500,000+ in Scholarships Awarded

Sustained investment in developing the next generation of physicians and dentists.



2018

Inaugural Benefit Event

Launching a signature fundraising initiative to expand impact and community engagement.



Dr. Charles S. Modlin, MD
Mentoring students with a shadowing experience

Executive Summary

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) is a community-driven nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding opportunity, strengthening the healthcare workforce, and improving the health of our communities by investing in the next generation of healthcare professionals. In addition to its educational mission, HLC actively engages its membership network to partner with and help recruit healthcare providers who participate in community health fairs, food drives, health-related benefit events, health walks, and health education initiatives. HLC also collaborates with faith-based organizations and other nonprofit entities to support and amplify their missions, working collectively to improve the health and well-being of communities throughout Northeast Ohio.

Our mission is to **promote, support, and fund pathways for students from all sectors of society** to pursue careers across a broad spectrum of health professions, **including but not limited to** medicine, dentistry, nursing, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, social work, community health workers, hospital administration, health economics, and healthcare policy leadership. Through scholarships, structured mentorship, and strategic partnerships, we are committed to helping aspiring healthcare leaders successfully achieve their educational and professional goals.

Recognizing the critical need for a strong, well-prepared, and community-connected healthcare workforce, Health Legacy of Cleveland collaborates with practicing physicians, surgeons, and other healthcare professionals to provide students with meaningful

shadowing experiences and research opportunities within their chosen fields. These hands-on experiences are essential to fostering early exposure, professional development, and long-term success.

Our work is grounded in collaboration—with schools, healthcare institutions, community organizations, civic leaders, currently practicing and retired healthcare providers, healthcare researchers, and hospital administrators—to create sustainable pipelines of talent that strengthen both individual opportunity and community health outcomes.

Through this comprehensive approach, Health Legacy of Cleveland is building a model that not only supports student success, but also contributes to a more responsive, accessible, and effective healthcare system for all.

Organizational Overview

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) was established as a nonprofit organization in response to a clear and compelling reality supported by national and regional data: many highly capable and motivated students across our society—who possess the academic ability, drive, and potential to succeed—face significant barriers in accessing educational opportunities and successfully matriculating into health profession programs, particularly in medicine and dentistry.

Recognizing this gap, HLC was founded to create pathways that identify, support, and advance students who aspire to careers in the health professions.

Central to this mission is the provision of **scholarship opportunities**, mentorship, and structured guidance designed to help students successfully navigate the academic and professional journey toward becoming healthcare providers.

HLC places a strong emphasis not only on academic excellence, but also on the development of **character, leadership, and professional values**. Students supported through HLC are encouraged—and expected—to demonstrate an understanding that the practice of healthcare extends beyond clinical knowledge and technical skill. It requires a deep commitment to **empathy, compassion, and patient-centered care**.

Through our scholarship selection process and mentorship framework, HLC prioritizes students who recognize that these core values are essential to building the trust necessary between healthcare providers and the patients and communities they serve. These trusted relationships are fundamental to improving health outcomes, strengthening patient engagement, and ultimately addressing longstanding gaps in care experienced across many communities.

By investing in students who embody both academic excellence and a commitment to compassionate care, Health Legacy of Cleveland is helping to develop a new generation of healthcare professionals equipped not only to deliver high-quality care, but also to foster meaningful connections that contribute to improving the health of all communities.

Mission

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) is dedicated to expanding opportunity and strengthening the healthcare workforce by promoting, supporting, and funding pathways for students from all sectors of society to pursue and successfully enter careers across the full spectrum of health professions.

HLC's mission is to **increase the number of highly trained, compassionate, and community-engaged healthcare professionals**—including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurse midwives, nurses, social workers, community health workers, healthcare administrators, health economists, healthcare policy leaders, and others—serving Cleveland and the greater Northeast Ohio region.

This mission is advanced through a comprehensive, multi-dimensional approach that includes:

1. Scholarship Support

Providing meaningful financial assistance to qualified students with the academic ability, commitment, and character to pursue careers in the health professions, thereby reducing financial barriers that often limit access to these pathways.

2. Early Exposure, Recruitment, and Career Pathway Development

Actively identifying, mentoring, and guiding students—beginning at early educational stages—and helping to inspire and prepare them to pursue careers in the health professions through structured programming, advising, and engagement.

3. Mentorship, Shadowing, and Research Opportunities

Connecting students with practicing physicians, surgeons, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to provide hands-on exposure, clinical shadowing, and research experiences that are critical to academic success, professional development, and competitive advancement.

4. Professional Development Rooted in Character and Compassion

Supporting the development of future healthcare providers who understand that excellence in healthcare requires not only knowledge and technical skill, but also a deep commitment to empathy, compassion, and patient-centered care—qualities essential to building trust and improving health outcomes across all communities.

5. Workforce Retention and Regional Impact

Encouraging and supporting scholarship recipients and program participants to pursue training and practice opportunities within Cleveland and Northeast Ohio, thereby strengthening the regional healthcare workforce and enhancing access to high-quality care.

6. Collaborative Engagement and System Strengthening

Partnering with educational institutions, healthcare systems, community organizations, faith-based institutions, civic leaders, **and actively engaging currently practicing and retired physicians, surgeons, dentists, nurses, other healthcare workers, healthcare researchers, hospital administrators, and allied health professionals** to build sustainable pipelines of talent and create a coordinated, community-centered approach to improving health outcomes.

Our Concern

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) is deeply aware of national and regional data demonstrating a concerning decline in the number of African American students matriculating into U.S. medical and dental schools. This trend is particularly significant given the longstanding need for a strong, well-prepared, and community-connected healthcare workforce.

At the same time, HLC affirms its commitment to ensuring that **students from all sectors of society** have meaningful opportunities to pursue careers in the health professions. This includes continued and intentional support for African American and other underrepresented students, who historically have faced barriers in accessing and successfully navigating pathways into healthcare careers.

A substantial body of research has demonstrated that African American and minority physicians and dentists are more likely to return to serve communities that have historically experienced limited access to care. These providers often play a critical role in strengthening healthcare delivery within underserved and medically vulnerable populations.

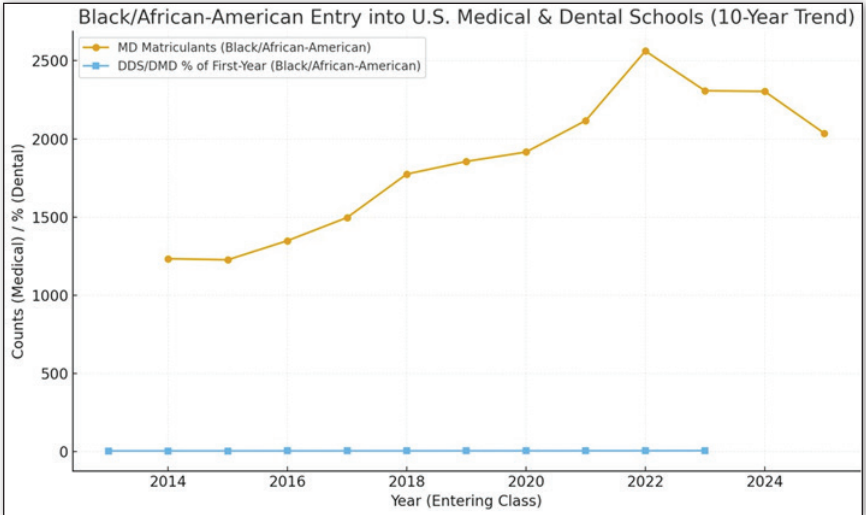
Additionally, research has shown that when there is **racial and cultural concordance** between healthcare

providers and patients, there is often an enhancement in trust, communication, and patient engagement. These strengthened relationships are associated with improved health literacy, increased adherence to medical recommendations, greater participation in preventive care and health screenings, and increased patient self-empowerment.

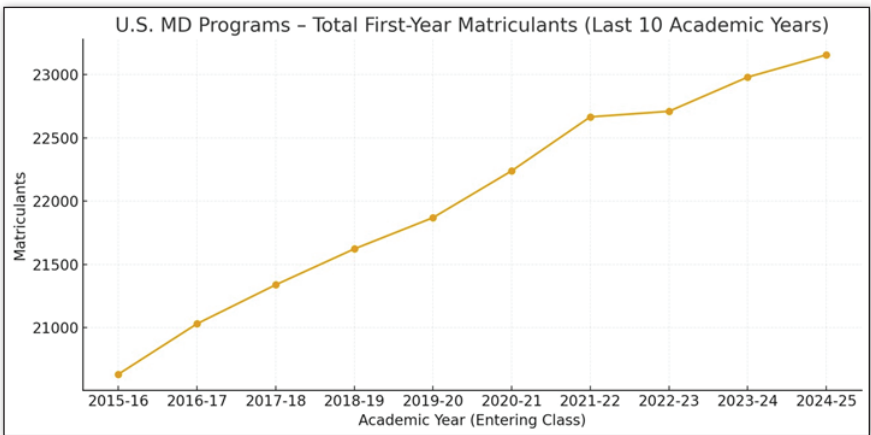
Importantly, these trusted relationships also contribute to **greater awareness, acceptance, and participation of African American and minority populations in clinical research and clinical trials**. Increasing diversity in clinical research participation is essential to ensuring that new therapies, medical innovations, and treatment strategies are safe, effective, and applicable across all populations—ultimately leading to more equitable and improved health outcomes.

Collectively, these factors contribute to improved health outcomes and stronger, healthier communities.

In this context, HLC recognizes that expanding access to healthcare career pathways—while supporting excellence, compassion, and community connection among future providers—is an essential strategy for strengthening the healthcare system and improving the health of all communities.



Compared To,



- The mission reflects the past, present and, hope of the future of those men and women who want to pursue health professions as physicians and dentists in the Greater Cleveland community.
- The mission is a tribute to the long history among Black professionals in Cleveland, whose similar efforts date back to the nineteenth century.

Scholarship Strategy

Increasing our scholarship award levels and renewing awards for academically competent individuals, with the rationale that an upward adjustment would give the awards more impact.

Practice Opportunity

Health Legacy of Cleveland will seek to strengthen relationships with institutions and individuals to offer practice opportunities in the greater Cleveland area to alumni of our scholarship awards.

Recruitment of Youth

Health Legacy of Cleveland will work with pre-college youth to acquaint them with medicine and dentistry and inspire and facilitate their entry into these professions.

Volunteerism

Volunteering serves a strategic purpose, for the accomplishment of certain organizational goals. The force we can bring to bear by our personal involvement in the goal to increase the pool of African American Physicians and Dentists in Cleveland and surrounding areas, the more successful we will be.

Vision

A healthier, more equitable Cleveland where every resident has the opportunity to achieve lifelong wellness.

Community Need & Rationale

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) is grounded in a clear understanding of the healthcare challenges and opportunities facing Cleveland and the greater Northeast Ohio region. The community continues to experience significant burdens related to chronic disease, reduced life expectancy, and preventable health conditions—issues that impact families, neighborhoods, and the overall strength of the regional healthcare system.

These challenges are influenced by multiple factors, including gaps in access to preventive care, economic barriers, and longstanding limitations in healthcare access, education, and workforce distribution. Addressing these issues requires not only direct community engagement, but also long-term investment in building a strong, well-prepared, and community-connected healthcare workforce.

HLC's approach is rooted in the belief that sustainable improvement in community health is achieved through a combination of **education, access, trust, and workforce development**. Through its programs and partnerships, HLC meets individuals and communities where they are—providing health education, outreach, and prevention-focused initiatives that promote health literacy, encourage early detection and screening, and support healthier lifestyle choices.

In addition, HLC recognizes that expanding pathways for students to enter health professions—while fostering providers who are trained in empathy, compassion, and patient-centered care—plays a critical role in

strengthening trust between healthcare providers and the communities they serve. These trusted relationships are essential to improving engagement, increasing participation in preventive care, and enhancing long-term health outcomes.

Through its dual focus on **community engagement and healthcare workforce development**, Health Legacy of Cleveland is uniquely positioned to create meaningful, measurable, and sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of communities throughout Northeast Ohio.



Current Scholar
MEHARRY DENTISTRY



Dr. Andre'K Mickel, DDS
Mentoring students for future dentistry



Alignment with Cleveland Priorities

Health Legacy of Cleveland's (HLC) work directly aligns with the most pressing needs facing individuals, families, and communities throughout Cleveland and the greater Northeast Ohio region. Our strategic priorities are centered on:

- **Improving health outcomes of individuals, families, and communities through community-driven health initiatives**
- **Recruiting, developing, and supporting compassionate, empathetic, community-oriented, and community-facing physicians, surgeons, dentists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals**
- **Strengthening neighborhoods and enhancing overall resident well-being**
- **Supporting prevention-focused strategies and systems-level impact**
- **Leveraging strategic partnerships to maximize community health outcomes**

Our approach emphasizes sustainability, collaboration, and measurable impact—core principles that guide our programming and ensure that our efforts lead to meaningful and lasting improvements in community health.

Anticipated Outcomes & Impact

- Increased health knowledge and preventive behaviors among participants
- Improved access to community-based health resources
- **Strengthened trust between residents and health systems**
- Reduced risk factors associated with chronic illness

Evaluation methods will include participant surveys, attendance tracking, and partner feedback.

Leadership & Governance

- Interim Executive Director: Debbie Mixon
- Board of Directors: Reference below attachment

Leadership is committed to fiscal responsibility, transparency, and community accountability.

Funding Request & Sustainability

Health Legacy of Cleveland (HLC) is supported by a deeply committed leadership structure, with **100% of its Board of Directors actively supporting the mission through thoughtful personal financial contributions, as well as the generous investment of their time, expertise, and mentorship.** Board members play an integral role in advancing HLC's work by providing strategic guidance, mentoring students, participating in programming, and leveraging their professional networks to expand opportunities for those we serve. This comprehensive level of engagement reflects strong internal alignment, accountability, and confidence in the organization's vision and impact, and serves as a solid foundation for external investment.

Building upon this foundation, HLC respectfully seeks additional support from grant-making organizations, philanthropic partners, corporate sponsors, and individual donors to expand and sustain its programs and initiatives.

External funding will enable HLC to:

- Expand scholarship opportunities for students pursuing careers in the health professions
- Strengthen mentorship, shadowing, and research programming
- Enhance community outreach, health education, and prevention-focused initiatives
- Support program evaluation and measurement of outcomes to ensure accountability and continuous improvement

HLC is committed to a sustainable growth model that combines board leadership and engagement, philanthropic investment, strategic partnerships, and measurable programmatic impact to ensure long-term success and meaningful improvements in community health and healthcare workforce development.

Historical Funding

- 2004–2015: The Health Legacy Award and Scholarship Dinner raised over \$400,000, including \$35,000 from University Hospital Health System.
- 2008–2017: The Cleveland Clinic Lead Gift Program contributed \$100,000 in scholarships, funded by HLC, supporting graduates of the Charles Drew program.
- 2020 – Present: Health Legacy like most organizations has pivoted to re-brand lost programs and focus on raising funding through grants, contributions and dues collected from our Board of Trustees and friends.

Health Legacy of Cleveland Board of Directors

Executive Leadership

Dr. Bessie House Soremekun, PhD

Chairperson & President

Professor, Indiana University

Northwest Chair, Department of
Minority Studies

Full Professor of African American
& African Diaspora Studies

Dr. Charles Modlin, MD, MBA

Vice President, Health Legacy
of Cleveland

Inaugural Medical Director,
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,
MetroHealth Medical Center,
(2021-2023), Cleveland, Ohio

Staff Urologist, MetroHealth
(2021-Present)

Vice President, Chief Health Equity
Officer, MetroHealth (2023-2025)

Cleveland Clinic (1993-1996) Retired
Kidney Transplant Surgeon
& Staff Urologist

Dr. Latina M. Brooks, PhD, CNP, FAANP

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Associate Professor

Dr. Tyffani Monford, PsyD

Monford Consulting
& Psychological Services, LLC

Beachwood, OH

Dr. Cordelia Graves Harris, PhD

Emeritus / Immediate Past Vice
President

Former Director of Health, Physical
Education & Human Resources

Cleveland Metropolitan
School District

Elizabeth K. Hilton, JD, MPA

Jade Consulting Services, LLC

New Haven, CT

Elizabeth Hilton, Inc.

Sagamore Hills, Ohio

Dána M. Langford, M.S., CNM, FACNM

Founder and CEO,
Village of Healing and The Village of
Healing Center

Certified Nurse Midwife

Dr. Charles Martin III, MD

Diagnostic Radiology

Cleveland Clinic Main Campus

Adrianna Midamba

Senior Program Manager
United States Agency for

Board Members

Dr. Roderick Adams, DDS

Treasurer

Cleveland / University Heights, Ohio

Greg Archer

Intervention Specialist

Cleveland Metropolitan
School District

Dr. Billy Brown, MD

Internist, Cleveland / East Cleveland

Former Chief of Staff,
Huron Hospital

Health Legacy of Cleveland Board of Directors

Board Members (cont.)

International Development (USAID)

Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Andre' K. Mickel, DDS,
MSD, MDiv, DMin**

Past President HLC

Board-Certified Microsurgical
Endodontist

President and CEO Mickel
Microsurgical Endodontics Inc.

Tenured Professor, Dept. Chairman
and Postdoctoral
Endodontics Residency

Program Director,
Case Western Reserve University
School of Dental Medicine

Dr. Adaeze Okafor, MD

Internal Medicine Physician

University Hospitals,
Cleveland, Ohio

Dr. Paris Payton, DPM

Podiatrist Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Lateef Saffore, PhD

Immediate Past President

Strategist, Business Owner,
Scientist & Inventor

Dr. Maurice Soremekun, MD

Retired

Your Giving Helps!



With support, Health Legacy of Cleveland will strengthen community health systems, advance equity, and contribute to a healthier future for Cleveland and greater Cleveland areas.

Contact Information

Health Legacy of Cleveland

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