

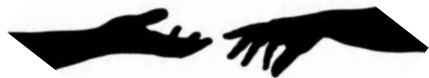
## PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

# VISION

**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
AS A FRAMEWORK  
FOR REDUCING  
HEALTH DISPARITIES IN  
LOCAL AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.**

## MISSION

It is the Touro University California Public Health Program's mission to promote the health and well-being of local and global communities through education, service, and research with an unwavering focus on social justice and underserved populations. This mission is achieved by employing a multidimensional program of study that combines a broad public health base with specific training in two specialty tracks: Community Health and Global Health.



**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH SCIENCES  
TOURO UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA  
1310 CLUB DRIVE  
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA 94592**

## PUBLIC HEALTH

# 2017

# HERO AWARDS

**CEREMONY  
AND DINNER**

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 20, 2017**

**5:30 PM – 8 PM  
FARRAGUT INN  
BALLROOM**

**PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION  
AND HEALTH SCIENCES**



TOURO UNIVERSITY  
CALIFORNIA



## About the Public Health Hero Awards

The Public Health Hero Awards were established in 2007 to honor students, alumni and community members who demonstrate outstanding leadership on public health issues, community service and public health research.

We recognize these individuals for activities which support the TUC Public Health Program's vision for reducing health disparities.

### **Juan Chavez Community Health Student Hero Award**

**DIANA DEVORE,**

Doctor of Pharmacy & Master of Public Health Candidate, 2018

### **Juan Chavez Global Health Student Hero Award**

**MATTHEW MUSSELMAN,**

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & Master of Public Health Candidate, 2020

### **Alumni Hero Award**

**LIEN LE,**

Master of Public Health, 2014

**FELICIA MA,**

Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Public Health, 2014

### **Community Hero Award**

**OBIE ANTHONY,**

Director of Exonerated Nation

**IGNACIO HERNANDEZ ESQ.,**

Founder of Hernández Strategy Group

## Keynote Speaker

### Superior Court Judge Craig J. Mitchell



Craig Mitchell attended UCLA as an undergraduate. During college he conducted field research in North Dakota on the Standing Rock and Turtle Mountain Reservations. He also worked for the United Farmworkers on various boycott efforts. Following college he taught high school for 17 years, primarily in South Los Angeles. Every summer he would drive 10 students across country to visit Washington D.C. in an effort to encourage his students to consider careers in public service.

In his early thirties, Judge Mitchell decided to attend law school, graduating from Southwestern Law School in 1991. In 1994 he was hired by the District Attorney's Office and began his career as a prosecutor where the majority of his cases involved prosecuting sexual abuse, domestic violence and murder. By the end of his career in the District Attorney's Office he was prosecuting more murder cases than any other prosecutor in the office. In 2005 he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Superior Court. He presides over a felony trial court in Los Angeles, handling primarily cases carrying a life sentence.

Throughout his legal career he has remained active in his community. For 24 years Mitchell has coached a high school mock trial team with the Constitutional Rights Mock Trial Program. Many of the students he has coached are now attorneys.

In 2001 Judge Mitchell founded The Midnight Mission Running Club on Skid Row. This program involves training those who are recovering from drug or alcohol addiction to run marathons. He runs 3 days each week with the participants, beginning the runs at 5:30 in the morning. In 2003 he took a group of runners to Ghana to participate in the Accra Marathon. In 2005, 25 members of the running club participated in the Rome Marathon and this coming year he plans to take even more runners for a marathon in Vietnam. This program is vital to the success of those in recovery as it instills discipline, a sense of achievement and provides a support network for each member.

Craig Mitchell is married to Juliet Ingram, who herself is a life-long teacher. They have three children, all of whom are in graduate school.

## Obie Anthony

Obie Anthony, Founder and President of Exonerated Nation, knows all too well the challenges faced by those who have been wrongfully convicted. Anthony was given a life sentence for a murder he did not commit in 1994. He was incarcerated for 17 years.

Upon his exoneration in 2011, he had to learn on his own how to establish his life again, from the seemingly mundane task of securing identification documents and finding a place to live to determining what would be his vocation. Anthony decided that he needed to lend his voice to the wrongful conviction movement.

After successfully winning a lawsuit in the State of California for his wrongful conviction, Anthony's activism was instrumental in the passage of California AB 672 in October 2015, now known as Obie's Law. Obie's Law requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Department of Motor Vehicles to ensure that all eligible exonerees released from the state prison receive up to one year of transitional services including job training, housing assistance, and mental health services. AB 672 also provides a free valid identification card and a free driver's license to eligible exonerees.



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## Ignacio Hernández Esq.

Ignacio Hernández founded Hernández Strategy Group in 2003 after having served as a Chief of Staff in both the California State Assembly and the California State Senate. As an attorney Ignacio represented clients in employment discrimination, wage theft and criminal cases. He has successfully navigated a litany of proposals through the legislative process and has worked to stop hundreds of bills adverse to his clients' interests. Before beginning his career at the State Capitol, Ignacio taught in the Political Science Department at San Jose State University. Currently he sits on the Public Interest Law Board of Santa Clara University School of Law.

Hernandez was integral in shepherding Obie's Law through the California Legislature in conjunction with Anthony and the California Attorneys for Criminal Justice.

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## OPENING RECEPTION

Music provided by Midtown Jazz



## WELCOME

**Elena Lingas**

Public Health Program Assistant Director & Associate Professor

## PRAYER

**Rabbi Elchonon Tenenbaum**

## OPENING REMARKS

**Shelley Berkley**

Touro University Western

Division Chief Executive Officer & Senior Provost

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Judge Craig J. Mitchell**

## AWARDS CEREMONY

- Community Health Student Hero Award
- Global Health Student Hero Award
  - Alumni Hero Awards
  - Community Hero Awards

## CLOSING REMARKS

**Gayle Cummings**

College of Education and Health Sciences Assistant Dean,  
Public Health Program Director & Associate Professor

**DIANA DEVORE**, Doctor of Pharmacy & Mater of Public Health Candidate, 2018

At the age of ten, Diana witnessed injured, malnourished children in El Salvador with no hope for medical care. That was the beginning of her goal to give back to her community. She started her undergraduate studies at Cañada Community College later transferring to UC Davis where she received her degree in Chemistry. While at UC Davis, Diana volunteered at the student run free clinic Clinica Tepati, serving uninsured Latinos of Sacramento. Each step of the way she has found ways to give back to the community that raised her. She has been working at UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital since 2008, doing clinical research in Diabetes.

Diana is currently pursuing her Doctor of Pharmacy and Masters in Public Health from Touro University California. She is doing her MPH field work and Capstone project at San Francisco General Hospital and clinical rotations at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.



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**MATTHEW MUSSELMAN**, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine & Master of Public Health Candidate, 2020

Matthew grew up in San Francisco, where he learned to appreciate diversity through his attendance at public schools and his engagement in community service. While earning his undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and Neuroscience at UC Santa Cruz, he directed the CARE Project, a student-run mobile clinic providing health services to underserved populations in Santa Cruz County.



At Touro, Matthew has collaborated with peers on a number of community-oriented projects, including the Teen Life Conference, the California Health Professional Student Alliance, White Coats 4 Black Lives, the SGA Committee on Diversity & Inclusion, the Rainbow Health Coalition, the Black & Latino Health Outreach Coalition, and the Public Health Club. He has volunteered with Touro Tackles Diabetes, the Widenmann Pediatrics Clinic and the Student Run Free Clinic. These activities all reflect his passion for health equity, which he believes should be guaranteed to all as a primary purpose of government.

He looks forward to beginning clinical rotations at Natividad Medical Center in Salinas, CA. And he can't wait to conduct his Global Health field study in Chiapas, Mexico, as well as complete a Global Health Capstone Project regarding access to potable drinking water.

**LIEN LE**, Master of Public Health, 2014

Lien Le graduated from UC Berkeley with a BA in Public Health in 2007. Her interest in the field led her to Touro University, where she received a Master in Public Health degree. While at Touro University, she worked with Dr. Aalborg and Professor Cummings as a Research Assistant on the Oral Health Research Project at Widenmann School Health Center. This experience was key in leading her to LifeLong Medical Care where she worked as an Adolescent Services Coordinator.



In October 2016, Lien and former Touro classmate, Felicia Ma opened the 29<sup>th</sup> School Based Health Center in Alameda County. Currently, Lien is the Clinic Supervisor at Emeryville Health Center, operated by LifeLong Medical Care. She works side-by-side with Medical Provider Felicia Ma to provide medical and dental services as well as preventative care through school-wide screenings and health education to all students grades TK – 12<sup>th</sup> attending Emery Unified School District.

Due to Lien's experience as a teenage mother, she is very passionate about Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health issues. Lien would like to pursue a Doctor of Public Health degree in the near future and hopes to be able to teach at Touro University someday.

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**FELICIA MA**, Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, Master of Public Health, 2014

Felicia Ma completed her undergraduate studies at Loyola Marymount University in 2010 where she was a volunteer and advocate for underserved communities and social justice. As a Touro student, she was the community outreach officer for CEHS and the clinic director of the Student Run Free Clinic.

Felicia joined Lifelong Medical Care in 2016 and currently works alongside fellow TUC alumna Lien Le. In October 2016, with Lifelong, they opened a school based health center to serve the students and community of Emeryville. In her capacity as the medical provider, she is able to utilize her public health skills to bridge the gap between education and healthcare. Felicia is interested in adolescent behavioral healthcare and identifying at-risk adolescents to provide services for this population.

Felicia recently precepted two Touro students for their public health field study in which they developed and implemented health education programs for the high school students; focusing on prevention, nutrition counseling and sexual health education. She hopes to continue to expand services and improve access to quality care and health education for the students in Emeryville.

