

# NAACP

**"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." Martin Luther King jr.**

## Juneteenth Celebration

NAACP Health Committee members Tehesha Stegall, FNP and Diane Marshall, RN checked blood pressure, educated people on the



benefits of good blood pressure control and talked to youth about healthcare professions. Thanks for the great work on a hot day!

NAACP scholarship recipient Kalee Brown performed "The Face of Emmet Till". Thanks for the chilling reminder that our work is not done.



## Meet Louis Kynard, PharmD, MBA

*What do you do for CoxHealth?*

I am the Systems Director of Pharmacy Services. I have the responsibility for 5 hospital pharmacies (Meyer Orthopedic, Cox North, Cox South, Cox Monett and Cox Branson) as well as 5 retail pharmacies. I have

about 200 full time employees in my department. *How did you end up being a pharmacist?* I always knew I wanted to be in healthcare. Originally I thought that medical school was where I was headed. After four years at Ohio State I met the dean of pharmacy at Toledo University and my course was set. *How did you end up in Springfield Mo?* I worked in Toledo Ohio for 22 years then I moved to Springfield Ohio and was a director of three facilities there. I supervised graduate students in Columbus Ohio and directed a pharmacy program there. I was not feeling like my career was advancing like it should and I ran across the opening here at CoxHealth in 2014.

*Tell us about your family.* My family was part of the great migration from the farms of the South to the industrial North. They came up from Selma Alabama to work in the Detroit automotive industry after WWII. I grew up in a two parent family in the inner city of Toledo Ohio. My dad was a WWII vet, my mom probably would have gone to college had it been a different time. There were five brothers in my family and about 3rd grade, my parents decided I was

## Mercy Supports Efforts to Increase African Americans in Healthcare Professions

Mercy is interested in increasing the numbers of African Americans that are going into healthcare professions. The underrepresentation will be initially addressed through several actions:

- Presentation to the NAACP youth by the Vice President of Human Resources.
- Hospital tour for our youth.
- Compensation of African American professionals such as doctors, nurses and physical therapists as they present to groups of children.

The ongoing work of the Health Committee is also being supported by CoxHealth in a number of ways. They have provided contacts with professionals within their organization and extended invitations to members of the Health Committee to attend an annual diversity event.

Springfield Public Schools has made efforts on a number of fronts to prepare African American youth for the rigorous math and science courses needed to succeed in healthcare training programs.

the one in the family that would go to college. Because resources were scarce, they made sure I would be ready for college. I was the first person in my family to graduate and earn an advanced degree. I have been married twice, currently single. I have three children and three grandchildren. *Who was your hero?* My mother was the voice of reason, she was very spiritual and she was always right. I only disagreed with her once. She thought I should have started college at Toledo University but I insisted on starting at Ohio State. It turns out, I should have started at Toledo University.

*How have your experience been in Springfield?* I like Springfield, the colleges here help attract a diverse student body which tends to make a community more interesting. Some of those students will like the city, put down roots and stay. Diversity is very healthy for a community. If African Americans would have stayed in Springfield after the lynchings at the turn of the century, this could have been a larger and healthier community. I was passed over for promotion in a previous city because of my race but have been given this good opportunity here in Springfield Missouri.

*What are your goals?* I want to grow the pharmacy program. Currently we have 10 graduate pharmacy residents in Springfield and 2 in Branson. Education is a part of what we do. Future goals will be a pharmacist driven focus on wellness instead of sickness. We will focus on improved usage of medications and prevention of illness. I would like to develop a comprehensive medication management program that looks at each Cox patient holistically and all the medications they use (including over-the-counter medications) that may have been prescribed by various doctors. I am also currently in a fellowship program with physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other industry leaders. We are focused on leadership development, my project is the medication management program. *Have you ever experienced racism?* Yes, when I was passed over for promotion in Ohio.

*What advice or guidance would you offer to young people?* You will have bumps in the road but you must stay focused. Learn from all of your problems. Learning is continuous. Keep your options open. Identify your skills beyond sports and music. Use what you are good at to move forward.