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BLACK HISTORY MONTH '23



BHM SPOTLIGHT: Dr. Lynne Diggs Medical Director & WSM Board Member

Many children grow up wanting to be doctors, but Lynne’s path to the profession was paved early on – it was truly something she was meant to do. From a young age, she was influenced by the people around her. She comes from a Baltimore-based family of educators and professional caregivers. *“I grew up surrounded by family members who all had jobs caring for people. If you had joined us for Thanksgiving dinner, that’s what you would hear about—people.”*

Her father was a school bus driver and driving instructor and her mother was a school psychologist. Her grandfather, Dr. George Allen—fondly known as “Doc Allen”—had his own general medical practice in Baltimore beginning in 1925. He accomplished much as a young, black man including being appointed as the first black coroner-at-large of Baltimore. Lynne continues to be inspired by her grandfather to this day. His picture is proudly displayed in her office.

Though, her biggest influence was her cousin. At the age of twelve, she shadowed him at his medical practice and walked away knowing definitively that it was for her. *“I fell in love with it. From that point on, I knew I wanted to be a doctor,”* she recalled. She recognizes that she was very fortunate to have that opportunity and turn it into reality. *“We really need to get kids exposed to professions—healthcare or otherwise—at a young age. It has an incredible impact,”* she says.

Upon completing her bachelor’s degree in sociology at the University of Pennsylvania she was accepted at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. She began her internal medicine residency in New York City and returned to Washington, DC to complete it in 1989.

Dr. Diggs is Board-certified in internal medicine and is now in her 34th year of practicing. For seventeen of those years, she had a solo internal medicine practice in Kensington. She has spent most of her career caring for patients in Montgomery County. She’s now the Medical Director at Erickson Living at Riderwood, primarily working with elderly patients.



In addition to her extensive career accomplishments, Dr. Diggs has been very active within the medical community including serving as the first black female President of the Montgomery County Medical Society (from 2016-17). She also served on the Board of Directors at Holy Cross Hospital. She joined the WorkSource Montgomery Board of Directors nearly five years ago and currently serves as the Board Secretary.



When asked why she got involved with workforce development she responded, "Well, my parents always said 'if you're not at the table then you're on the menu.'" She continued, "All people should have access to meaningful work. I believe it's one of our basic needs: food, shelter, education, and ultimately, meaningful work."

Beyond that, she believes there is a lot of great work left to achieve as a Board and an organization. Specifically, to continue building a strong pipeline for healthcare professions when and where we can.

"We need to find a way to tackle this. Maryland is a difficult place to practice medicine for multiple reasons. High costs, low reimbursements. And people need greater access to primary care. It's time to think outside the box. What if we trained more nurses to do home visits? Or mobilized healthcare? The transportation industry could be a part of that growth. Not unlike WSM's Mobile Job Center. This area should be a model for the rest of the country. With the incredible amount of medical minds we have here, we should be able to accomplish anything."

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Dr. Diggs also leaves time for things outside of her medical and board work. She enjoys spending time with her three dogs, is a beekeeper, and is a certified scuba diver. Her most memorable dive? "The Red Sea."

For all Dr. Diggs has accomplished professionally and personally, her family is undoubtedly beaming with pride!

