**Compton Native Dr. Leana Wen to Head Planned Parenthood**

Dr. Leana Wen

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**

Dr. Leana Wen has been named president of Planned Parenthood, one of the nation’s largest providers of health care and reproductive services to low-income women.

Wen, 35, graduated summa cum laude from Cal State LA when she was only 18. She is the product of the university’s Early Entrance Program, which allows exceptionally gifted students as young as 13 to enroll as full-time students. Wen was admitted when she was 13 and earned her B.S. in biochemistry.

She exemplifies the potential and promise of many young students who enroll at Cal State LA through the Early Entrance Program, said Honors College Director Trinh Pham. The program is housed in the Honors College and graduates about 20 students each year.

“Wen really stands out about the students is how remarkably brilliant they are—especially considering their ages—and the some of community and connections they make while they’re here,” Pham said.

Most are coming directly from middle school to college and thrive in the company of classmates who challenge and support them. “The students are extremely motivated and driven, and very passionate about learning,” Pham said.

Wen has credited her Cal State LA professors and mentors with equipping her to new ways of thinking about the world. “I feel strongly that I received an excellent, diverse education from Cal State LA,” she said in a 2009 interview with the university magazine.

After graduation, Wen attended medical school at Washington University, trained at Massachusetts General Hospital as a Harvard Medical School Clinical Fellow, and studied public health at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar.

A native of Shanghai, Wen was almost 8 years old when her parents, Chinese dissidents, immigrated to the U.S. and were granted political asylum. They settled in Compton, where her family had to confront the challenges of seeking healthcare with limited resources.

She currently serves as Health Commissioner for the city of Baltimore, where she’s been hailed as a strong advocate for expanding access to health services in vulnerable neighborhoods. Before taking that post in 2015, she was university professor, and emergency room physician.

**Dr. Wen’s family** settled in Compton, where her family had to confront what she describes as “the challenges of seeking healthcare with limited resources.”

Wen is the granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant and is familiar with the struggles of living in oppressive environments and the culture behind border cities. Through this story Bette gives voice to thousands of women and shows their courage, fight and strength. “Women haven’t survived for love by being “weak” and “emotional!” We’re surviving by being a hell of a lot tougher and braver than we’ve been credit for, and I wanted to show that through Reagan’s journey in this play.”

**California Repertory Company** is celebrating 50 years of risk-taking theatre. California Repertory Company (Cal Rep) is the producing arm of the Theatre Arts Department at CSULB. Over the past three decades, Cal Rep has a history of creating new work, derived theatre and adaptations of classics. In its 50th season it showcases the work of local artists and brings a range of World, West Coast, and Southern California Premieres to Long Beach.

**Compton’s Best Returns with Talent Showcase on Friday**

**Date:** September 28, 2018

**Time:** 3:00pm – 6:00pm

**Location:** Little Theatre Compton College, 1111 East Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90221

**Cost:** FREE!