

Compton Native Dr. Leana Wen to Head Planned Parenthood



Courtesy Baltimore City Mayor's Office
Dr. Leana Wen

COMPTON—Cal State LA alumna 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 was a product of the university's Early Entrance Program, which allows exceptionally gifted students as young as 11 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.

"What really stands out about the students is how remarkably brilliant they are—especially considering their ages—and the sense 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 exposing 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.

(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."

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 a university professor, author and emergency room physician.

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 what she describes as "the challenges of seeking healthcare with limited resources."

As a child, Wen was chronically ill with asthma. She, her younger sister and her mother all "depended on Planned Parenthood for medical care at various times," she said in a statement announcing her new position.

Wen will step into her new role on Nov. 12. She will be Planned Parenthood's sixth president—and only the second physician to lead the organization in its 102-year history.

2 Million U.S. Teens Are Vaping Marijuana

A school-based survey shows nearly 1 in 11 U.S. students have used marijuana in electronic cigarettes, heightening health concerns about the new popularity of vaping among teens.

E-cigarettes typically contain nicotine, but many of the battery-powered devices can vaporize other substances, including marijuana. Results published Monday mean 2.1 million middle and high school students have used them to get high.

Vaping is generally considered less dangerous than smoking, because burning tobacco or marijuana generates chemicals that are harmful to lungs. But there is little research on e-cigarettes' long-term effects, including whether they help smokers quit.

The rise in teenagers using e-cigarettes has alarmed health officials who worry kids will get addicted to nicotine, a stimulant, and be more likely to try cigarettes. Last week, the Food and Drug Administration gave the five largest e-cigarette makers 60 days to produce plans to stop underage use of their products.

Nearly 9 percent of students surveyed

in 2016 said they used an e-cigarette device with marijuana, according to Monday's report in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*. That included one-third of those who ever used e-cigarettes.

The number is worrying "because can-

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nabis use among youth can adversely affect learning and memory and may impair later academic achievement and education," said lead researcher Katrina Trivers of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Students who said they lived with a tobacco user were more likely than others to report vaping marijuana.

It's unclear whether marijuana vaping is increasing among teens or holding steady. The devices have grown into a multi-billion industry, but they are relatively new.

In states where marijuana is legal, shoppers can buy cartridges of liquid contain-

ing THC, the chemical in marijuana that gets people high, that work with a number of devices. Juul, by far the most popular e-cigarette device, does not offer marijuana pods, but users can re-fill cartridges with cannabis oil.

It was the first time a question about marijuana vaping was asked on this particular survey, which uses a nationally representative sample of students in public and private schools. More than 20,000 students took the survey in 2016.

A different survey from the University of Michigan in December found similar results when it asked for the first time about marijuana vaping. In that study, 8 percent of 10th graders said they vaped marijuana in the past year.

"The health risks of vaping reside not only in the vaping devices, but in the social environment that comes with it," said University of Michigan researcher Richard Miech. Kids who vape are more likely to become known as drug users and make friends with drug users, he said, adding that "hanging out with drug users is a substantial risk factor for future drug use."

Compton's Best Returns with Talent Showcase on Friday

Compton's Best is composed of a small group of passionate individuals, donors, business owners, and volunteers, who see the value in supporting and uplifting the residents of Compton. The overall purpose of the event is to focus on providing Compton youth, young adults, and foster youth with an opportunity to showcase their talent, compete for prizes and speak directly with local agents, recruiters, and employers and to expose them to local educational and employment opportunities. The resource fairs and luncheon provide our young adults, families, and entrepreneurs a chance to network and meet with business owners and community leaders in an informal environment.

Director Denise Blasor is the Associate Artistic Director at Bilingual Foundation of the Arts and founding member of LAAFO and KOAN at the Odyssey Theater and East LA Classic Theater. She says "Ghosts... Is a play about what we as human beings do in order to survive. It's a poetic piece about love and what a mother will do to protect her children."

Playwright Hilary Bettis 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 Bettis gives voice to thousands of women and shows their courage, fight and strength. "Women haven't survived for eons by being 'weak' and 'emotional.'" We've survived by being a hell of a lot tougher and braver than we're given credit for, and I wanted to show that through Raquel's journey in this play."

California Repertory Company is celebrating 30 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, devised theatre and adaptations of classics. In its 30th season it showcases the work of local artists and brings a range of World, West Coast, and Southern California Premieres to Long Beach. Jeff Janisheski says, "It's a season that celebrates community; those that are already in our orbit, the new voices we champion and the community partners and artists we want to work with. Cal Rep's 30th Anniversary Season is a celebration of what Cal Rep has been over the years: a destination for adventurous, daring theatre."



Date: Friday, September 21, 2018
Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Location: Little Theatre Compton College,
1111 East Artesia Blvd., Compton, CA 90221.
Cost: FREE!

**There is no Entry Fee for the Competition,
the Resource Fair or the Luncheon**



TALENT SHOW SIGN UP:
www.comptonsbesttalentshowcase.org
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