



*Advancing Health and Health Care through Scholarship and Action*

## **A Tribute to Loretta Jones**

***Kenneth Wells, UCLA***

The National Clinician Scholars Program honors the legacy and memory of Loretta Jones, MA, ThD, PhD (honorary). Dr. Jones was a giant in her field of community engagement for research and services programs for health equity. Of humble origins, she used her talents, knowledge and passion to shape the field of Community Partnered Participatory Research, to promote collaboration in true partnership between community and academic stakeholders—in order to achieve research that would truly benefit and reflect the voice of communities. She was a champion for UCLA, Charles R Drew Medical University, and received high honors from each for her contributions to research and education as well as community benefit.



She helped energize partnership leadership in research across the country and collaborated in mentoring scholars across programs, together with community members across program sites. Many fellows have visited her home for breakfast and advice, or a walk near her office, or attended a community workshop there. She partnered with many UCLA and CDU faculty, and helped found the CDU Community Faculty Program. With Healthy African American Families II, and her talented staff and family members, in a sense the CSP and then NCSP program at UCLA, had a community family – and learned together approaches to use in engaging communities in science and shared capacity building. Loretta impacted the lives of many – as recognized in amazing awards such as the Global Leader of Dignity Award at the United Nations, the Association of Clinical and Translational Research Team Science Award, Campus-Community Partnerships for Health Annual Award, the UCLA Medal – and many other top honors. Her warmth, strength, resilience, passion for justice, gift for words and activities, ability to connect diverse groups, and innovation and charisma – will leave a lasting impression on generations. A gift to us all.

### **I'm a Thriver!**

Written by Loretta Jones  
Christmas, 2008

*No longer a surprise,  
I have become a Thriver!  
Striving to make sure others  
See the special things in their life,  
Showing each of us that  
Thriving moves us past  
Just making it.*

*Enjoying each day;  
Seeing the wonderful gifts  
Left for us on the planet.  
Stopping to look at the sky,  
And seeing what's in it:  
Leaves, trees, people to watch and smile at.  
Knowing you are not just a survivor,  
But a Thriver!*

*What does it mean to be a Thriver?  
You just see the world differently;  
You look for the beauty in the moment;  
You are not in a war any more.  
You are not just a survivor,  
But a Thriver!*

