



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY *of* LOUISIANA

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CVS Health Chooses Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy as Partner of the Year

New Orleans LA - Representatives from CVS Health, America's largest pharmacy innovation company recognized Xavier University of Louisiana's flagship program, the College of Pharmacy as Partner of the Year for 2016 and presented a \$25,000 check for student scholarships and program activities in an auditorium nearly filled to capacity with future pharmacists.

"We are pleased to receive this recognition as Partner of the Year by CVS Health," said Dr. Kathleen Kennedy, Dean of the Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy. "Our relationship with the company goes back a long way. It's a partnership that has provided scholarships, internships, and employment for our students in the past, and one that we hope to build on in the future."

Xavier's College of Pharmacy was chosen from among 138 pharmacy schools in the country based on the school's relationship and joint efforts to create clinicians, managers and leaders for the pharmacy profession.

"When Hurricane Katrina shut down the school in 2005, school officials reached out to CVS and asked how we could help their P4 students finish on time," said Scott Lason, CVS Health's Manager of Professional and College Relations. "They needed to place pharmacy students at rotation sites. With that partnership, we were able to place many of the students around the country and that class all graduated on time that year. It's been a pleasure to think back on that day."

Leslie Harvey Sparks, a 2008 Xavier alumnae and pharmacy supervisor for CVS Health in New Orleans, was one of those students who experienced that difficult time, but credits her school and the company for much of her success today.

"I just think that CVS is such a good partnership because getting involved with them opens the college of pharmacy up to so many different avenues of which I took full advantage," said Sparks.

For several years now, CVS Health has also provided funding for the incoming freshman class or P1s to purchase their white coats which are required. "We know how important it is for those students to have that professional image," said Lason. The students will be sporting those coveted coats at the next white coat ceremony scheduled for Sept. 8.

The company also understands the importance of Xavier's up and coming pharmacists to get practical, hands-on experience. The proof is in the company's track record. CVS Health hired 35 Xavier graduates from the class of 2016 and currently has 85 of Xavier's pharmacy students interning. In years past, the statistics have been similar.

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