



December 2012 Commencement Speaker

November 2012

For Immediate Release

Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown Named December 2012 Commencement Speaker

Charlotte, NC – Carolinas College of Health Sciences has secured Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown, vice president of business and community partnerships for Novant Health (Presbyterian Hospital) and a board-certified family practitioner, as our December 2012 commencement speaker. “I can’t think of a better way to send our graduates off into their health care careers than with the advice and wisdom offered by Dr. Garmon-Brown,” states Dr. Ellen Sheppard, president of Carolinas College.

Dr. Garmon-Brown has spent decades caring for others in Charlotte and around the world. Physician, minister, volunteer, and leader are just a few of the titles that represent her contributions to the community. But most of all, Dr. Garmon-Brown is a caregiver and advocate for the health and well-being others having touched the lives of thousands of patients in Charlotte and around the world as a medical missionary.

Dr. Garmon Brown earned a bachelor degree in biology from North Carolina Central University and upon encouragement from one of her faculty members decided to pursue a medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After graduation, she began her residency and internship at Carolinas Medical Center where she was the first African American female resident in family medicine. Dr. Garmon-Brown began her career in family medicine, eventually joining the physician team at the prestigious Nalle Clinic where she first moved into a leadership position as the medical director of the Nalle Clinic Urgent Care. As she continued to excel, she became the medical director for all Presbyterian Urgent Care Centers and in 2007 was promoted to her current position of vice president of business and community partnerships, where she serves on the executive committee of both Presbyterian Hospital as well as Novant Medical Group. Along the way, Dr. Garmon-Brown returned to school to obtain a master’s in divinity from Union Theological Seminary.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Dr. Garmon-Brown has roles in several organizations. She serves on the board of directors of the Mecklenburg County Medical Society, as a trustee for Queens University of Charlotte, on the board of the Charlotte Chamber, and as a member of the Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation board. She has been recognized for her dedication and commitment to the community through numerous awards including the 2009 Women in Business Award from the Charlotte Business Journal, the 2011 Thurgood Marshall Award, the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from Wells Fargo and the Charlotte Business Journal, and the 2012 Charlotte Catalyst Award.

Carolinan College of Health Sciences fall 2012 commencement ceremony is Friday, December 14, 2012 at 3:30pm at Pritchard Memorial Baptist Church. The college will graduate 59 students in nursing.

[Carolinas College of Health Sciences](http://www.CarolinasCollege.edu) (www.CarolinasCollege.edu), ranked the number one two-year college in the nation, offers programs in health care education. Graduates consistently exceed state and national certification testing benchmarks, demonstrating their exceptional preparedness for careers in clinical laboratory sciences, medical imaging, nursing, and surgical technology. The College also offers individual courses in the sciences and liberal arts as well as continuing education programs in professional skills and integrative medicine. Carolinas College offers student access to the Carolinas Simulation Center, a rich collection of high fidelity human patient simulators and procedural task trainers.

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Dr. Ophelia Garmon-Brown