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For Immediate Release

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## **ANGOLAN PRESIDENT HONORED BY CHARLES DREW U AND THE AFRICA SOCIETY**

Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science and the Washington, D.C.-based Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa will honor Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at "Embrace Africa & America," a special program and reception on the university's campus at noon on Friday, Oct. 2.

During the program, Dr. Keith C. Norris, Charles Drew University's Interim President, will confer an honorary doctoral degree on President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. Angolan Ambassador Josefina Pitra Diakit , a featured guest at the reception, will travel from Washington D.C. to accept the honor on behalf of President dos Santos.

In addition to Dr. Norris, the program for the conferring of the degree will be attended by faculty, staff and students of Charles Drew University and other distinguished guests. The public is also welcomed to attend the special program, which will begin promptly at noon on Friday, Oct. 2 in the atrium of the W. Montague Medical Education Building, 1731 East 120<sup>th</sup> Street, Los Angeles, CA 90059.

"President Eduardo dos Santos is a role model for us all," said retired Congressman Mervyn M. Dymally, a former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. "He was an early leader in the national movement to free Angola from oppression and since then he has led his nation on an independent course, both politically and economically. "

Since 2001, Charles Drew University, as part of its mission of service, has worked closely with the Angolan government to help the young nation address problems of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said Dymally, who heads the University's Urban Health Institute.

Charles Drew University's work in Angola has received support from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

Bernadette B. Paolo, ESQ., President and CEO, The Africa Society of National Summit on Africa, said that "Embrace Africa & America" is a way of connecting the historic links between Africa and America.

"By forging this partnership, we strengthen ties for the future and merge two vital missions, that of The Africa Society and Charles Drew University which will have a profound impact on thousands of people's

lives,” she said. “We’re looking to build on a unique collaboration of educating our youth and providing quality health services which will bear fruit both on the continent and right here.”

Angolan Ambassador Josefina Pitra Diakité is the third ambassador to the United States since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1993. She holds a law degree from the Agostinho Neto University in Angola. She began her professional career in the Secretariat of State for Cooperation, rising to become the national director of technical assistance before moving to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Charles Drew University, a private nonprofit medical and health science institution, has provided quality college, graduate and post-graduate education and training to thousands of qualified minority and other students for more than 35 years. As part of its mission, the University provides training and patient care throughout Africa.

The Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa is a non-profit dedicated to educating Americans about Africa’s peoples, diverse cultures, histories and economies. The Society is an outgrowth of the National Summit on Africa, which constituted, from 1997 to 2000, the largest mobilization of Africa-focused individuals and groups in the history of the United States.

For more information on “Embrace Africa & America”, please call (323) 292-3300 or e-mail: [embraceafricaandamerica@gmail.com](mailto:embraceafricaandamerica@gmail.com)

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